

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY BUTTE)	ORDER GRANTING
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. AND THE)	APPROVAL OF THE TRADE
BLACK HILLS POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY)	AGREEMENT
FOR APPROVAL OF A TRADE AGREEMENT)	EL97-004

On February 11, 1997, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a joint filing by Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BEC) and Black Hills Power and Light Company (BHP&L) for approval of a territory trade. According to the filing, the Trade Agreement "is in response to a request from Norris Rovere to allow BEC to be the sole electric provider to the land he owns north of Sturgis. This was easily accomplished since the property owner just west of Mr. Rovere agreed to the concept of the trade, which then allowed both utilities to honor the desired request." The filing included the written approval of the affected landowners.

The Trade Agreement listed the property at issue as follows:

1. Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc. agrees to trade to the territory of Black Hills Power and Light Company:
 - a. Butte Electric portion of the NE 1/4, Section 22, T6N, R5E. See Exhibit E.

2. Black Hills Power and Light Company agrees to trade to the territory of Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc.:
 - a. Black Hills Power and Light portion of the NW 1/4, Section 23, T6N, R5E. See Exhibit E.

On March 4, 1997, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered the Trade Agreement. Commission Staff recommended granting approval of the Trade Agreement.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically, SDCL 49-34A-4, 49-34A-42, and 49-34A-55. Further, the Commission finds that this agreement will promote the efficient use and development of the electric systems of the contracting electric utilities. The Commission therefore concludes that the Trade Agreement is in the public interest and that it shall be approved. The approval of this Trade Agreement is separate and distinct from the approval sought by the parties in docket EL96-021. It is therefore

ORDERED that the request for approval of the Trade Agreement as described herein is hereby granted and is effective for service rendered on and after the date of this order.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 11th day of March, 1997.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.	
By:	<u>Maureen Kelbo</u>
Date:	<u>3/12/97</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

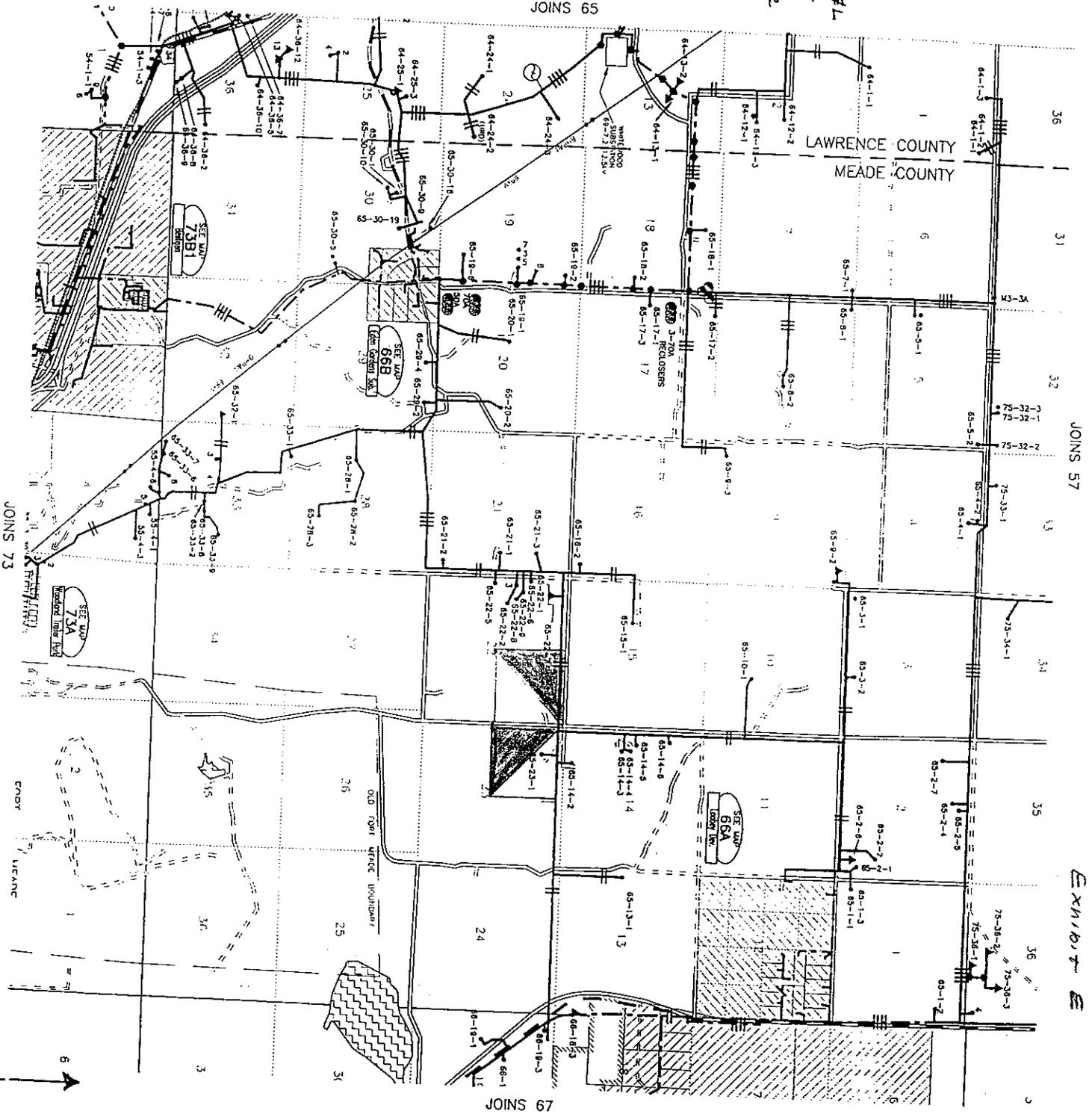
BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner

Red Shaded Area to BHP&L
 Blue Shaded Area to Butte Electric



DETAIL		BUTTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.		DRAWN BY: D.L. Zesiger, ET II	
COMPILED FROM USGS & DOT MAPS		NEWELL, SOUTH DAKOTA		LAST WOI: 1396	
COUNTY MEADE		SOUTH DAKOTA 15 BUTTE		LAST REV: January 13, 1995	
TOWNSHIP 6N				FILE NAME: BEB110V.DWG	
RANGE 5E				RUSHMORE ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT 1715 Cambell Street Rapid City, South Dakota	
MAP # 66		 SCALE MILES			

