BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY BLACK HILLS POWER & LIGHT COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF ITS 1996 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT AND ITS 1997 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN	))))))	**ORDER APPROVING 1996 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT AND 1997 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN EL97-002**

On February 12, 1997, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received Black Hills Power & Light Company's (BHP&L's) 1996 Economic Development Annual Report. On March 12, 1997, the Commission received BHP&L's proposed Economic Development Plan for 1997. The report and proposed plan were filed in accordance with the settlement agreement reached between BHP&L and Commission Staff, and approved by the Commission in the company's most recent rate case filing, Docket EL95-003. The Commission approved BHP&L's Economic Development Plan for 1996 on December 5, 1995.

For 1997, BHP&L's proposed economic development plan budget is $279,000. The actual expenditures for the 1996 economic development plan were $34,147.11.

At its regularly scheduled April 15, 1997, meeting, the Commission reviewed BHP&L's 1996 Economic Development Annual Report and Economic Development Plan for 1997. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A. After review of the report and plan, the Commission found that they are just and reasonable and voted to approve them. It is therefore

ORDERED, that BHP&L's 1996 Economic Development Annual Report and Economic Development Plan for 1997 are approved as filed.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 28th day of April, 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: Delaine Kolbo

Date: 4/28/97

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg

JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson

PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder

LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner