

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	NOTICE OF APPLICATION;
BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE)	ORDER FOR AND NOTICE
FOR A CONSTRUCTION PERMIT FOR 23)	OF PUBLIC INPUT
MILES OF 230 KV ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION)	HEARING; NOTICE OF
LINE AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES)	OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY
)	FOR PARTY STATUS
)	EL01-025

On October 11, 2001, Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric) submitted to the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an application for a permit to construct transmission facilities as defined at SDCL 49-41B-2.1(2). According to the application, these facilities consist of an asynchronous tie that would connect the eastern and western transmission grids near Rapid City, South Dakota. The rating of the tie would be in the range of 100 to 300 million volt-amperes, depending on the capabilities of the associated transmission system. The project is known as the Rapid City Tie Project and includes: approximately 23 miles of 230 kilovolt transmission line; a line terminal at the western edge of the project referred to as the South Rapid City Substation; an asynchronous tie converter station four miles southeast of the South Rapid City Substation; and a line terminal bay at the existing New Underwood Substation, at the eastern edge of the project. The project is located completely in Pennington County, South Dakota.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-1, 49-41B-2, 49-41B-2.1, 49-41B-4, 49-41B-11, 49-41B-12, 49-41B-13, 49-41B-15, 49-41B-16, 49-41B-17, 49-41B-17.1, 49-41B-21, 49-41B-22, 49-41B-25, 49-41B-26, 49-41B-33, 49-41B-38, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

The Commission finds that good cause exists to schedule a public input hearing pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16. The purpose of the hearing shall be to hear public comment regarding Basin Electric's application. At the public input hearing, interested persons may appear and present their views and comments regarding the application. A copy of the application is on file with the Pennington County Auditor pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15(5).

The Commission further finds that pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, the parties to this proceeding are Basin Electric and the Commission. Further, each municipality, county, and governmental agency in the area where the facility is proposed to be sited; any non-profit organization, formed in whole or in part to promote conservation or natural beauty, to protect the environment, personal health or other biological values, to preserve historical sites, to promote consumer interests, to represent commercial and industrial groups, or to promote the orderly development of the area in which the facility is to be sited; or any interested person, may be granted party status in this proceeding by making written application to the Commission. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the application by Basin Electric shall be and the same is, incorporated as if set forth in full herein; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17.1, a party may receive all material filed in this matter by making a specific request to the Commission for personal service of the material. Absent such a specific request, the County Auditor for Pennington County is the designated agent for service of process upon all other parties to this proceeding; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission shall hold a public input hearing on Wednesday, November 28, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. MST, in the 1st Floor Community Room, City School Administration Building, 300 6th Street, Rapid City, South Dakota; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, that applications for party status be filed within 60 days from the date Basin Electric's application was filed with the Commission. Therefore, an application for party status must be filed with the Commission on or before December 10, 2001.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at 1-800-332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 1st day of November, 2001.

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>Melaine Kalbs</u>
Date:	<u>11/1/01</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner