

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )  
BLACK HILLS POWER, INC. FOR AUTHORITY )  
TO INCREASE ITS ELECTRIC RATES )  
)**

**ORDER GRANTING  
INTERVENTION  
  
EL06-019**

On June 30, 2006, Black Hills Power, Inc. (BHP), filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an application to increase rates for electric service to customers in its service territory by \$9,593,688 annually or approximately 9.5% based on BHP's 2005 test year. The company states the proposed increase for a residential customer would be \$5.16 per month based on usage of 600 kwh. The proposed rates may potentially affect approximately 60,434 customers in BHP's service territory. On July 28, 2006, the Commission received a Petition to Intervene from Merillat Industries, LLC, Pope & Talbot, Inc. and GCC Dacotah, Inc. (collectively Black Hills Intervenors).

At its regularly scheduled August 8, 2006, meeting, the Commission considered the Petition for Intervention. The Commission finds that pursuant to its authority under SDCL 1-26-17.1 and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02 and .03, the petition of the Black Hills Intervenors was timely filed and demonstrates good cause for granting intervention. The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, specifically 1-26-17.1, 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-12, 49-34A-13.1 and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02 and .03. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Black Hills Intervenors shall be granted intervention.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2006.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
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 Kolbo          </u>
Date: <u>          8/25/06          </u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

          Robert K. Sahr            
ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

          Dustin M. Johnson            
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner

          Gary Hanson            
GARY HANSON, Commissioner