

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST FOR AN) ELECTRIC SERVICE TERRITORY) BOUNDARY CHANGE BETWEEN BLACK) HILLS POWER, INC. AND BLACK HILLS) ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.)	ORDER GRANTING) APPROVAL OF ELECTRIC) SERVICE TERRITORY) BOUNDARY CHANGE) EL06-024
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On August 30, 2006, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a joint filing by Black Hills Power, Inc. (BHP) and Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BHEC) for approval to change a service territory boundary line in Section 19, Township 4N, Range 3E, Black Hills Meridian in Lawrence County. The existing territory line bisects a small development and this filing eliminates duplication of service within the development. The request would result in the transfer of six future customers from the development from BHEC to BHP which BHP has agreed to offset in another area with a similar territory exception agreement with BHEC by 2011.

On September 26, 2006, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered the request for approval of the boundary change. Commission Staff recommended approval.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over the matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically, 49-34A-4, 49-34A-42, and 49-34A-55. Further, the Commission finds that the boundary change will avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities and help minimize operational challenges. The Commission concludes that the change in the service territory boundary is in the public interest and it shall be granted. As the Commission's final decision in this matter (Chairman Sahr abstained), it is therefore

ORDERED, that the request seeking approval of an electric service territory boundary change between BHP and BHEC is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 3rd day of October, 2006.

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 Kolbo </u>
Date:	<u> 10/4/06 </u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman, abstaining

 Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner

 Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner