

**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**

EL09-018

On September 30, 2009, Black Hills Power, Inc. (BHP), filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for approval to increase rates for electric service to customers in its South Dakota service territory. BHP states that it proposes to increase rates by approximately \$32 million annually or approximately 26.6% based on BHP's test year ending June 30, 2009.

On September 30, 2009, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of November 20, 2009, to interested individuals and entities. On November 5, 2009, the Commission received a Petition to Intervene from Countertops, Inc., d/b/a Dakota Panel South Dakota, GCC Dacotah, Inc., Rushmore Forest Products, Inc., Sanford Underground Laboratory and Spearfish Forest Products, Inc. (collectively, Black Hills Industrial Intervenors). On November 19, 2009, the Commission received a Petition to Intervene from Liliias Jarding, Bobbie Handley, Carla Kock, and the South Dakota Peace and Justice Center (collectively Residential Consumers Coalition). On November 20, 2009, the Commission received a Petition to Intervene and join with Black Hills Industrial Intervenors from Rapid City Regional Hospital, Inc. (Regional Hospital).

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A and ARSD 20:10:01:15.05.

At a regularly scheduled meeting of November 24, 2009, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission found that the Petitions to Intervene demonstrated good cause to grant intervention. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Petitions to Intervene of Black Hills Industrial Intervenors, Regional Hospital and Residential Consumers Coalition are hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 3rd day of December, 2009.

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>Demaris Axthelm</u>
Date: <u>12-3-09</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Chairman ^{PA}

Steve Kolbeck
STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner