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 OF ASSESSMENT OF ADDITIONAL FILING FEE EL09-018
)	

On September 30, 2009, Black Hills Power, Inc. (BHP or Company), 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. The Company states a typical residential electric customer using 600 kWh per month would see a net increase of \$17.99 per month. The proposed rates may potentially affect approximately 64,100 customers in BHP's service territory.

SDCL 49-1A-8 authorizes the Commission to require a deposit of up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's (SDPUC) regulatory assessment fee fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon this type of filing. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1A, 49-34A and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02 and 20:10:01:15.03.

On October 20, 2009, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission found that pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8, BHP shall be assessed a filing fee as requested by the Commission up to the statutory limit of \$100,000. Further, an intervention deadline of November 20, 2009, has been established. Pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14, the Commission suspended the operation of the schedule of rates proposed by BHP for 180 days beyond September 30, 2009.

On January 14, 2010, pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8, Commission Staff requested an additional \$25,000 for expenses related to the review of an integrated resource plan. At its regularly scheduled meeting of January 19, 2010, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission found that pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8, BHP shall, if needed, be assessed an additional \$25,000 doe expenses related to the review of an integrated resource plan. It is therefore

ORDERED, that BHP shall deposit an additional filing fee of \$25,000, in the SDPUC regulatory assessment fee fund, if needed.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this ______ day of January, 2010.

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/electronically.	BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:
pate: 1/28/10	DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Chairman
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner
	GARY HANSON, Commissioner