

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REQUEST) FOR THE EXCHANGE OF RETAIL) ELECTRIC SERVICE RIGHTS EXCEPTION) BETWEEN WEST RIVER ELECTRIC) ASSOCIATION AND BLACK HILLS POWER,) INC.)	ORDER GRANTING APPROVAL OF ASSIGNED ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDER EXCHANGE EL12-041
--	--

On May 25, 2012, West River Electric Association (WREA) and Black Hills Power, Inc. (BHP) jointly filed a request for approval by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) of an exchange of electric service territory rights. If approved, WREA would henceforth provide electrical service to Steven Lawler, a customer located in rural Meade County east of Black Hawk within WREA's electric service territory but currently served by BHP under the grandfather provision of SDCL 49-34A-42. The request states that due to the necessity for BHP to relocate the line serving the customer to accommodate road construction, the resulting cost, the isolated nature of the service to the customer, and the customer's location within WREA's assigned service territory near its distribution facilities, the exchange of service rights will benefit all concerned. Mr. Lawler consented to the change in service providers.

On May 31, 2012, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the request and the intervention deadline of June 4, 2012, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-42 and 49-34A-55.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on June 5, 2012, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff recommended approval of the joint request. Finding that the exchange of electric service rights from BHP to the assigned utility, WREA, will eliminate unnecessary duplication of facilities, promote efficient use of both utilities' systems, and serve the public interest, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the request for exchange of electric service rights. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the request seeking approval of an exchange of electric service provision rights is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 6 day of June, 2012.

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: <u>Joy Baum</u>
Date: <u>June 11, 2012</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commission

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commission