BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF BLACK HILLS POWER, INC. FOR A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT A 230-KV TRANSMISSION LINE FROM NORTHEASTERN WYOMING TO THE RAPID CITY AREA IN SOUTH DAKOTA NOTICE OF APPLICATION; ORDER FOR AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING; NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR PARTY STATUS

EL14-061

On June 30, 2014, Black Hills Power, Inc. (BHP or Applicant), a South Dakota corporation, filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. for a 230-kV Transmission Line and Associated Substation Modification Facility Permit (Application). The Application requests Commission approval of a permit to construct the South Dakota portion of an approximately 144-mile long 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to connect the Teckla Substation in Campbell County, Wyoming to the Osage Substation in Weston County, Wyoming and the Lange Substation in Pennington County, South Dakota near Rapid City. The South Dakota portion of the project (Project) consists of approximately 45.4 miles of 230-kV transmission line from the Wyoming/South Dakota border in Pennington County to the Lange Substation near Rapid City and modifications to the Lange Substation to accommodate the new transmission facility. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-41B and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16, the Commission will hold a public input hearing on the Application on Monday, August 25, 2014, at 6:30 P.M. MDT at the Ramkota Conference Center in Rapid City, 2111 N. LaCrosse St., located north of I-90 at the LaCrosse Street, Exit 59 exit.

The purpose of this public input hearing will be to hear public comment regarding the transmission line permit Application and the Project. At the hearing, the Applicant will present a brief description of the Project, following which interested persons may appear and present their views, comments, and questions regarding the Application and Project. A copy of the Application is on file with the Pennington County Auditor pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15(5) and at the Commission's office in Pierre. The Application and all other documents in the case may be accessed on the Commission's web site at <u>www.puc.sd.gov</u> under Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Electric Dockets, 2014 Electric Dockets, EL14-061.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, the parties to this proceeding are currently BHP and the Commission. Any person residing in the area of the Project; each municipality, county, and governmental agency in the area where the Project is proposed to be sited; any non-profit organization formed in whole or in part to promote conservation or natural beauty, to protect the environment, personal health, or other biological values, to preserve historical sites, to promote consumer interests, to represent commercial and industrial groups, or to promote the orderly development of the area in which the Project is to be sited; or any interested person, may be granted party status in this proceeding by making written application to the Commission. Applications for party status will be available at the public input hearing or may be obtained from the Commission's web site or by contacting the Commission. Applications for party status must be received by the Commission on or before August 29, 2014.

Following the public input hearing, the Commission may schedule a formal evidentiary hearing conforming to SDCL Chapter 1-26 to consider any issues raised by any intervening party, Commission Staff, or the Commission itself. At such formal hearing, all parties will have the opportunity to appear, present evidence, and cross-examine the other parties' witnesses and exercise all other rights afforded by SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1, and 49-41B and ARSD Chapters 20:10:01 and 20:10:22, including rights of appeal to the courts. Absent a contested issue, the Commission will schedule the matter for decision at a regular or special meeting of the Commission.

As provided in SDCL 49-41B-22, for approval, the Applicants must show that the proposed transmission Project will comply with all applicable laws and rules, will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment nor to the social and economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area, will not substantially impair the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants, and will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of governing bodies of affected local units of government. Based upon these factors, the Commission will decide whether the permit should be granted, denied, or granted upon such terms, conditions, or modifications of the construction, operation, or maintenance of the Project as the Commission finds appropriate. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission will hold a public input hearing on the Application and Project on Monday, August 25, 2014, at 6:30 P.M. MDT at the Ramkota Conference Center in Rapid City, 2111 N. LaCrosse St., located north of I-90 at the LaCrosse Street, Exit 59 exit. It is further

ORDERED, that pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, applications for party status must be filed on or before August 29, 2014, and that pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17.1, a party who wishes to receive personal service of all material filed in this matter shall make a specific request to the Commission for personal service, which may be included in the application for party status.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, these hearings will be held in physically accessible locations. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at 1-800-332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this $\frac{2n^d}{day}$ day of July, 2014.

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: Time Douglas
Date: 7-2-14
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

GARY HANSON, Chairman

CHRIS NELSÓN, Commissioner

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner