

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF BLACK HILLS POWER, INC. FOR)
APPROVAL TO EXTEND THE FILING)
DATE OF ITS 2015 VEGETATION)
MANAGEMENT REPORT PERTAINING)
TO THE 2016-2018 BUDGET)

ORDER APPROVING REQUEST
FOR EXTENSION OF FILING
DATE OF 2015 VEGETATION
MANAGEMENT REPORT

EL15-050

On December 10, 2015, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application from Black Hills Power, Inc. (BHP) requesting approval for an extension until March 31, 2016, to update the vegetation management budget for 2016 through 2018 based on actual progress to date. Per the Settlement Stipulation in EL12-061, BHP is required to provide an annual report by December 31 of each year to outline the progress made on the overall five-year plan and update the forecast for the remaining years based on actual progress to date. BHP will report on the actual vegetation management activities from December 2014 through November 2015, and the Vegetation Management Regulatory Asset balance as of November 30, 2015, in its 2015 Vegetation Management Report by December 31, 2015. However, BHP requests an extension to provide the vegetation management forecast for 2016 through 2018. BHP states the extension is necessary to allow BHP additional time to evaluate the activities necessary to achieve its goal of trimming the entire distribution system during the five year plan period.

On December 17, 2015, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of December 21, 2015, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A. At its regularly scheduled meeting on December 22, 2015, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff had no objection to BHP's request. The Commission voted unanimously to approve BHP's request for an extension until March 31, 2016, to update the vegetation management budget for 2016 through 2018 based on actual progress to date. It is therefore

ORDERED, that BHP's request for an extension until March 31, 2016, to update the vegetation management budget for 2016 through 2018 is approved.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 29th day of December, 2015.

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>Karone E. Bremer</u>
Date: <u>12/29/2015</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner