

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF) BLACK HILLS POWER, INC. DBA BLACK) HILLS ENERGY FOR APPROVAL OF 2016) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT) ADJUSTMENT	ORDER ASSESSING FILING FEE EL16-006
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On February 16, 2016, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy (BHE) for Approval of its 2016 Environmental Improvement Adjustment (EIA). BHE is proposing to include costs related to the Neil Simpson II ESP Upgrade Project, the Gillette Energy Complex Compressed Air System Upgrade Project, and the Amended Silicates Silo Projects. BHE proposes a June 1, 2016, effective date. Approximately 68,000 South Dakota retail customers are affected by the EIA rate change. The annual net increase in the cost of service as proposed by BHE is approximately \$117,000. The average bill impact for a typical residential electric customer using 650 kWh is approximately 0.05%.

On February 18, 2016, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of March 4, 2016, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8 and 49-34A-97 through 49-34A-100.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on February 26, 2016, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff requested that the Commission assess a filing fee of up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) as authorized by SDCL 49-1A-8 to defray expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon this type of filing. The Commission voted unanimously to assess a filing fee for actual expenses incurred in the review of this filing up to the statutory limit of \$50,000. It is therefore

ORDERED, that BHE shall be assessed a filing fee pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8 for actual expenses incurred by the Commission not to exceed \$50,000.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 1st day of March, 2016.

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 or by mail.
By: <u><i>Polayna West</i></u>
Date: <u>3-1-16</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner