

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT ) ORDER GRANTING APPROVAL  
REQUEST FOR SERVICE RIGHTS ) OF AN ELECTRIC SERVICE  
EXCEPTION BETWEEN WEST RIVER ) RIGHTS EXCEPTION  
ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC. AND )  
BLACK HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, ) EL16-010  
INC. )**

On March 9, 2016, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Joint Request for Approval of an Electric Service Rights Exception (Joint Request) from West River Electric Association, Inc. (WREA) and Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BHEC). With this Joint Request BHEC would provide rural residential electrical service to a planned residence located within the SE ¼, Section 15, T01S, R09E, Pennington County. The Joint Request includes a Consent signed by the affected landowner.

On March 9, 2016, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of March 25, 2016, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. WREA responded to Commission staff's data request on March 15, 2016.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-42 through 49-34A-44 and 49-34A-55.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on March 30, 2016, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended approval of the Joint Request. Finding that BHEC's provision of rural residential electrical service to a planned residence located within the WREA service territory will avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities, provide adequate electric service to the customer affected at lesser cost, promote the efficient and economical use and development of BHEC's and WREA's electric systems, and that the exception is in the public interest, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Joint Request. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Joint Request for Approval of an Electric Service Rights Exception between WREA and BHEC is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 4th day of April, 2016.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
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>Karen E. Cremer</u>
Date: <u>04/04/2016</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner