

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	AMENDED
BLACK HILLS POWER AND LIGHT FOR)	NOTICE OF PROCEDURAL
AUTHORITY TO MAKE CERTAIN CHANGES IN)	SCHEDULE
ITS CHARGES FOR RETAIL ELECTRIC)	
SERVICE PROVIDED TO SOUTH DAKOTA)	EL95-003
CUSTOMERS)	

On February 1, 1995, Black Hills Power and Light Company (BHP&L) filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an application for approval to increase its rates for electric service.

BHP&L proposes a total increase, if approved, of \$8,388,650 BHP&L wrote: "The proposed changes to the rate schedules is an increase of 9.96% in annual charges to South Dakota jurisdictional customers. The effective date of these proposed changes to the rate schedules is the in service date of the Company's 80 MW coal-fired power plant, Neil Simpson Unit #2, expected later this year. The proposed changes to the rate schedules would increase revenues from South Dakota jurisdictional customers \$8,388,650 based on the billings issued for sales of electric energy for the twelve months ended September 30, 1994. The proposed changes would affect the billings of approximately 52,240 customers located in South Dakota. The additional revenue requested in the application is needed to offset the increased costs incurred by the company in providing electric service to its customers, and the known changes to costs resulting from the completion and operation of Neil Simpson Unit #2 later this year."

On February 23, 1995, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission reviewed BHP&L's filing. The Commission found that it had jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically, SDCL 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-10, 49-34A-11, 49-34A-12, 49-34A-13, 49-34A-17, 49-34A-19, 49-34A-19.2, and 49-34A-21. On March 7, 1995, the Commission ordered that any individual or entity may file a petition to intervene pursuant to SDCL 1-26-17.1, 49-34A-13.1, and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02 and 20:10:01:15.03, or may comment on the merits of BHP&L's filing on or before March 31, 1995 and further ordered that BHP&L deposit up to \$125,00.00 in the SDPUC rate case fund when requested by the executive director.

On March 22, 1995, a Petition to Intervene was filed by the Black Hills Industrial Consumer Group ("BHIC Group"), which group consists of the South Dakota Cement Plant ("Dacotah Cement"), Homestake Mining Company of California ("Homestake"), Wharf Resources USA, Inc. ("Wharf"), Pope & Talbot, and the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Fort Meade ("VA Hospital"). On March 30, 1995, a Petition to Intervene was filed by the State of South Dakota, Bureau of Administration ("BOA").

At a duly noticed ad hoc meeting of April 6, 1995, Staff proposed the following procedural schedule: June 9, 1995, staff and intervenors prefiled testimony due; June 30, 1995, BHP&L prefiled rebuttal testimony due (optional); and July 17, 18 and 19, 1995, Hearing beginning at 1:30 p.m. at a location to be announced.

The Commission unanimously voted to grant BHIC Group and BOA's Petition to Intervene. The procedural schedule for briefing and a hearing on this matter shall be as follows:

DATE
June 16, 1995
June 30, 1995
July 17, 18, 19, 1995

PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
Staff and Intervenors's Prefiled Testimony
BHP&L Prefiled Rebuttal Testimony
(Optional)
Hearing at a site to be determined

It is therefore

ORDERED that the procedural schedule set forth above shall be followed by all parties to these proceedings.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 6 day of June, 1995.

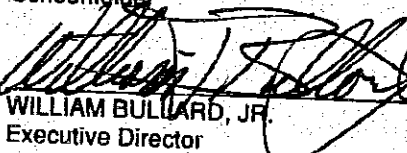
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.

By Harold E. Bremer

Date June 16, 1995

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:
Commissioners Stofferahn, Burg,
Schoenfelder

WILLIAM BULLARD, JR.
Executive Director