

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

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

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 \$125,000 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 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: July 1, 1995.

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, a hearing beginning at 1:30 p.m. at a location to be announced.

The Commission unanimously voted to grant BHIC Group and BOA's Petitions to Intervene at the April 6, 1995, meeting. The procedural schedule on this matter shall be as follows:

DATE	PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
June 9, 1995	Staff and Intervenors's Prefiled Testimony
June 30, 1995	BHP&L Prefiled Rebuttal Testimony (Optional)
July 17, 18, and 19, 1995	Hearing at a site to be determined

It is therefore

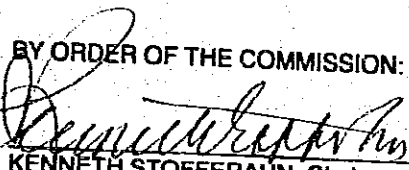
ORDERED that BHIC Group and BOA 's Petitions to Intervene are granted; and it is

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 27th day of April, 1995.

<p>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>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.</p> <p>by <u>Ken R. Waldner</u></p> <p>Date <u>April 28, 1995</u></p> <p>(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


KENNETH STOFFERAHN, Chairman


JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner


LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner

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HUBBARD MILLING COMPANY

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