

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
BLACK HILLS POWER AND LIGHT FOR)
AUTHORITY TO MAKE CERTAIN CHANGES IN)
ITS CHARGES FOR RETAIL ELECTRIC)
SERVICE PROVIDED TO SOUTH DAKOTA)
CUSTOMERS)** **ORDER FOR AND NOTICE
OF OPPORTUNITY TO
INTERVENE OR COMMENT
AND ASSESSMENT OF A
FILING FEE
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 finds that it has 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.

The Commission finds 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.

The Commission further finds that pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8, BHP&L is required to deposit up to one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) in the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SDPUC) rate case fund to defray hearing expenses incident to the application. The deposit is to be paid in installments when requested by the Executive Director. It is therefore

ORDERED that any individual or entity may file with the Commission a petition to intervene or comment in this matter on or before March 31, 1995; and it is

ORDERED that any individual or entity may file with the Commission a petition to intervene or comment in this matter on or before March 31, 1995; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED that BHP&L deposit up to one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) in the SDPUC rate case fund when requested by the Executive Director.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 7th day of March, 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: Lori G. Whedner

Date: 3-8-95

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kenneth Stofferahn
KENNETH STOFFERAHN, Chairman

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner