

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED) BY BRAD AND DIANN MOREHOUSE AGAINST) LAKE REGION ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION FOR) STRAY VOLTAGE.)	ORDER FINDING NO) PROBABLE CAUSE AND) CLOSING DOCKET) EL95-005)
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On February 8, 1995, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a complaint filed by Brad and Diann Morehouse (Morehouse), Andover, South Dakota, against Lake Region Electric Association, Inc. (Lake Region). Morehouses alleged the presence of stray voltage on their farm which caused nervous milk cows, mastitis, low production, longer calving intervals and poor health in cows and calves. Morehouses contacted Lake Region to see if they could help locate the source of the stray voltage. Lake Region came out several times to investigate and Morehouses requested that a blocker be put on the line, which the Respondent did, and within a few days the cows were reportedly more content. As requested relief, Morehouses asked that the Commission "make the electric company check regularly for stray voltage, put blockers up in problem areas, and to make them liable for damages caused by their stray voltage." At its regularly scheduled meeting of February 23, 1995, the Commission deferred action on this matter pending a Commission Staff investigation. At its regularly scheduled meeting of May 2, 1995, the Commission again deferred action on this matter pending a second investigation to be performed by Commission Staff and Lake Region. Commission Staff and Lake Region have conducted numerous tests and Lake Region has initiated various corrective actions in an attempt to resolve this matter.

Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:08:01 and 20:10:01:09, if a complaint cannot be settled without formal action, the Commission shall determine if the complaint shows probable cause of an unlawful or unreasonable act, rate, practice or omission to go forward with the complaint.

On January 4, 1996, at a regularly scheduled Commission meeting, the Commission considered this complaint along with presentations by Morehouses, their expert John Bass, and representatives of Lake Region Jim Mammega, Tom Lundborg and attorney Leon Vander Linden and Commission Staff.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-58, and ARSD 20:10:01:08:01 and 20:10:01:09. The Commission unanimously voted not to find probable cause of an unlawful or unreasonable act, rate, practice, or omission on the part of Lake Region and ordered that the docket be closed. It is therefore

ORDERED that pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:09, the Commission finds that there is no probable cause of an unlawful or unreasonable act, rate, practice, or omission and it further

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ORDERED that this docket shall be closed.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 7 day of January, 1996.

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 [Signature]

Date [Signature]

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

[Signature]
KENNETH STOFFERAHN, Chairman

[Signature]
JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner

[Signature]
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner