

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY BLACK)
HILLS POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY FOR)
APPROVAL OF AN EXCHANGE OF)
CUSTOMERS AND TERRITORY WITH BLACK)
HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.)

ORDER GRANTING
APPROVAL

EL95-033

On November 6, 1995, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing by Black Hills Power and Light Company (BHP&L) for approval of an exchange of customers and territory between BHP&L and Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BHEC). All affected consumers and landowners have signed statements in which they have agreed to this exchange. Both utilities believe this exchange will lower line extension costs to new customers, reduce service duplication and reduce the number of frozen customers within assigned territories of other utilities.

On December 12, 1995, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered the request for approval of the exchange. Commission staff recommended approval.

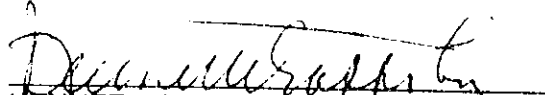
The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically, 49-34A-4, 49-34A-42, and 49-34A-55. Further, the Commission finds that the exchange of customers and service territory will lower the costs of line extensions to new customers, reduce service duplication allowing for the orderly and efficient development within assigned territories, and reduce the number of frozen customers within assigned territories of other utilities. The Commission therefore concludes that the exchange of customers and service territories is in the public interest and the request shall be granted. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

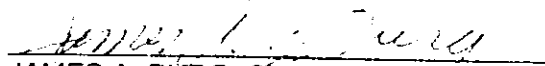
ORDERED that the request seeking approval of an exchange of customers and service territory is hereby granted.

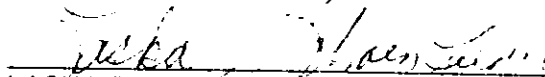
Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this _____ day of December, 1995.

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: _____	
Date: _____	
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


KENNETH STOFFERAHN, Chairman


JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner


LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner