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August 26, 2013

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol Building
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

**Re: APPLICATION OF BLACK HILLS POWER, INC., FOR AUTHORITY
TO INCREASE ITS ELECTRIC RATES
Docket EL12-061
Our File No. 520487.0003**

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Black Hills Power, Inc., submitted its application to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for authority to increase rates for electric service in South Dakota on December 17, 2012. The Commission issued its ORDER FOR AND NOTICE OF PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE AND NOTICE OF HEARING ("Order") in this matter on May 2, 2013.

One modification to the procedural schedule has been stipulated to by the parties to allow for settlement discussions to proceed without simultaneously having to contend with testimony deadlines. The Company and Commission Staff, the Black Hills Industrial Intervenors (BHII) and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. and Sam's West, Inc. (Wal-Mart) now have settlement agreements in principle. The Company requests that the procedural schedule in this case be suspended while the parties finalize the settlement documents for submission.

The Company has discussed this proposal with Commission Staff, BHII and Wal-Mart and it is our understanding that they support our requested suspension. Should you have any questions regarding our request, please contact me at (605) 978-5200.

Sincerely,

LINDQUIST & VENNUM LLP

TAL RD for:

Lee A. Magnuson
LAM:pmh