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October 3, 2014

Mr. Steve Vadney
10130 W. Hwy 44
Rapid City, SD 57702

RE: Teckla – Osage – Rapid City 230kV Transmission Line

Dear Mr. Vadney;

Black Hills Power received the comments you submitted to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission and is able to provide the following information in response to your inquiries.

1. On October 2, 2014, Black Hills Power filed a final route with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission. Maps depicting the final route are available on the Commission's website in Docket No. 14-061. The Hwy 44 crossing will be designed using single pole double circuit steel structures with the existing 69kV circuit on one side, the new 230kV circuit on the opposite. As the line moves east, it will parallel the existing 69kV line. There will be no buffer space between the rights of way for each line.
2. During the routing process with the United States Forest Service, an alternative Hwy 44 crossing route (which is similar to the Hwy 44 route crossing depicted on your Map 1 Route A) was considered. This alternative route is also depicted on Figure 1. The Forest Service solicited comments from local landowners near the original proposed route and the alternative depicted in Figure 1. Based on the public input received, the Forest Service decided that the alternative was less desirable than the original proposed route and elected to not carry forward that Hwy 44 alternative crossing. The planned Hwy 44 crossing keeps the 230kV line route parallel to the existing 69kV line corridor in this area versus creating another line corridor. Based upon conversations with the United States Forest Service, it is Black Hills Power's belief that the United States Forest Service would also not agree to the additional route changes (A & B) that you proposed.
3. The 230kV transmission line will be constructed in accordance with industry and Black Hills Power standards. These standards are designed to minimize the effects of electric and magnetic fields that are inherently present at the edge of a power line right of way. The magnetic field levels at the edge of the right of way for the proposed transmission line will be significantly less than many of the magnetic fields associated with appliances used in a home or office. Black Hills Power does not expect any objectionable interference with

television or radio broadcast signals because it utilizes industry guidelines in its transmission line designs. Black Hills Power's studies also indicate that the noise levels at the edge of the right of way will be in conformation with industry standards and therefore it does not anticipate noise complaints.

4. The 230kV ROW will require timber removal within the ROW. The United States Forest Service has requirements for reclamation and erosion control. Black Hills Power will meet those requirements.

Sincerely,



Mark Carda

Enclosures