

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REQUEST)	ORDER GRANTING
FOR APPROVAL OF AN ELECTRIC SERVICE)	APPROVAL OF ELECTRIC
TERRITORY EXCHANGE AGREEMENT)	SERVICE TERRITORY
BETWEEN WEST RIVER ELECTRIC)	EXCHANGE AGREEMENT
ASSOCIATION, INC. AND BLACK HILLS)	
POWER, INC. DBA BLACK HILLS ENERGY)	EL24-035

On November 22, 2024, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a joint request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Exchange Agreement between West River Electric Association, Inc. (West River Electric) and Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy (Black Hills). The Joint Request asks the Commission to approve an agreement to exchange territory in Sections 4 and 22 of Township 2 North, Range 7 East, in Meade County and Pennington County, South Dakota, respectively. There are currently two customers of Black Hills that will be in the new territory for West River Electric. Those 2 customers will be grandfathered in and continue to be served by Black Hills.

On November 27, 2024, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of December 13, 2024, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission’s PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. On December 20, 2024, Black Hills filed a Revised Exhibit A – Legal Description. On January 2, 2025, Black Hills and West River Electric filed responses to staff’s first data request.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically, 49-34A-42, 49-34A-43, and 49-34A-55.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on January 14, 2025, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended approval of the Agreement. Finding that the Agreement will avoid the unnecessary duplication of facilities, provide adequate electric service to the affected customers, and promote the efficient and economical use and development of the electric systems of the utilities, and, further finding that the Agreement is in the public interest, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Agreement. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Joint Request for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Exchange Agreement between West River Electric Association, Inc. and Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy is hereby approved.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 22nd day of January 2025.

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, electronically or by mail.

By: *Kristie Fiegen*

Date: *22 January 2025*

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner