

BLACK HILLS POWER, INC.  
d/b/a BLACK HILLS ENERGY  
EL25-008

REQUEST DATE : 03/14/25

RESPONSE DATE : 04/01/25

REQUESTING PARTY: Staff

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**SDPUC Request No. 1.1:**

Explain how BHE's membership in the South Dakota Mineral Industries Association helps the economic development in the region. Explain how this membership doesn't help fund the lobbying activities performed by this association.

**Response to SDPUC Request No. 1.1:**

South Dakota Mineral Industries Association ("SDMIA") provides education to our communities and stakeholders around responsible mining in South Dakota and how it is essential to our way of life and key industries targeted for recruitment and growth by many of our economic development organizations.

Black Hills Power does not provide direct support for lobbying activity through its SDMIA membership. Black Hills Power supports SDMIA from a customer business, retention, and expansion perspective as some of our key customers are Coeur Warf, Simon, Butler (Caterpillar), Pete Lein, and Knife River. These Black Hills Power customers are large employers in our region and provide well-paying jobs with great benefits having a positive impact on our workforce. SDMIA also partners with our local educational institutions to strengthen industry connections between mining related programming and students, helping to attract and retain young people to the industry and the area.

**Responder:** Lynn Kendall

**Attachments:** None