

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR
SWEETMAN CONST. CO. D/B/A KNIFE
RIVER, TO HAVE XCEL ENERGY
ASSIGNED AS ITS ELECTRIC
PROVIDER IN THE SERVICE AREA OF
SIOUX VALLEY ELECTRIC

EL-25-032

**PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF BASIN
ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE**

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF BENJAMIN HERTZ, MANAGER OF POWER SUPPLY PLANNING,
BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE

February 17th, 2026

1 Q. **Please state your name.**

2 A. My name is Benjamin Hertz.

3 Q. **State your employer and business address.**

4 A. I am employed by Basin Electric Power Cooperative (“Basin Electric”). My business
5 address is 1717 East Interstate Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota. Basin Electric Power
6 Cooperative

7 Q. **State your current position with Basin Electric Power Cooperative (“Basin Electric”).**

8 A. I am the Manager of Power Supply Planning. My team is responsible for forecasting our
9 members’ electric consumption, identifying the need for new resources, evaluating the various
10 alternatives, and providing recommendations for new resources to align with Basin Electric’s
11 forecasted obligations.

12 Q. **What is your educational and professional background?**

13 A. I received a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Mechanical Engineering from
14 North Dakota State University in 2006. I am a registered Professional Engineer in North Dakota.
15 I have worked for Basin Electric since 2014 in engineering and resource planning roles.

16 Q. **On whose behalf was this testimony prepared?**

17 A. Basin Electric.

18 Q. **What documents did you review in preparation for providing this testimony?**

19 A. I reviewed Knife River’s Petition, Basin Electric Power Cooperative’s responses to Staff’s
20 First Set of Data Requests, and the Summer Season Resource Adequacy Report for the Southwest
21 Power Pool.

22 Q: **What is the relationship between Basin Electric, East River Electric Power
23 Cooperative, Inc. (“East River”) and Sioux Valley-Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc.
24 (“Sioux Valley Energy”)?**

25 A: Basin Electric has Class A and Class C Members in nine states. Basin Electric generates
26 electric power and sells and transmits it to its Class A Members. Every Class A Member has a
27 long-term wholesale power contract with Basin Electric. Those Class A Members resell the
28 electric power to Basin’s Class C Members.

29 East River is a Class A Member of Basin Electric. Sioux Valley Energy is a Class C Member of
30 Basin Electric. Basin Electric has power supply and transmission capacity/services contracts with
31 East River. East River purchases energy and capacity from Basin and then resells it to Basin’s
32 Class C Members.

33 **Q: To your knowledge, does Sioux Valley Energy have existing distribution**
34 **infrastructure that will allow it to provide power to Knife River?**

35 A: Yes. Knife River’s proposed site for its rock crushing facility is located within Sioux
36 Valley Energy’s assigned service territory. East River has an existing transmission system near
37 the proposed Knife River site. East River maintains a substation near Corson that Sioux Valley
38 Energy currently uses to serve Knife River via its distribution system.

39 **Q: Do you believe Basin Electric has an adequate power supply for Knife River’s**
40 **anticipated load of 11 Megawatts?**

41 A: Yes.

42 **Q: On what do you base your opinion that an adequate power supply exists?**

43 A: Basin Electric is a member of the Southwest Power Pool (“SPP”). The SPP is a regional
44 transmission organization that manages the electric grid in this part of the country. The SPP’s
45 region includes South Dakota and North Dakota, among other states.

46 The SPP prepares and publishes reports detailing the availability of power in the region. According
47 to the Southwest Power Pool, as specifically set forth in the 2025 SPP Summer Season Resource
48 Adequacy Report, Basin Electric has a 355 MW surplus in 2025. *See* BEPC Exhibit 1.

49 In 2024, Basin Electric also filed a Ten Year Plan with this Commission that sets out its existing
50 and proposed energy conversion and transmission facilities, as well as its regional plans, and
51 projected electric demand. *See* BEPC Exhibit 2.

52 **Q: In addition to its current available power supply, has Basin Electric undertaken any**
53 **efforts to address its Members’ and their customers’ future electric needs?**

54 A: Yes. For future resources to meet forecasted load, Basin is currently building the Bison
55 Generation Station in North Dakota. Once complete, it will have capacity for additional power
56 supply of approximately 1,490 MW in SPP. *See* BEPC Exhibit 2 at § 20:10:21:05, p. 4.

57

58 Dated this 17th day of February, 2026

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60 /s/Benjamin Hertz