

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF	)	ORDER DENYING MOTION TO
BLACK HILLS POWER, INC. DBA BLACK	)	ADOPT PROTECTIVE ORDER
HILLS ENERGY FOR AUTHORITY TO	)	
INCREASE RATES FOR ITS UTILITY	)	EL26-003
SERVICE IN SOUTH DAKOTA	)	

On February 19, 2026, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application by Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy (BHP) for approval to increase rates for electric service to customers in its South Dakota service territory by approximately \$50.6 million annually or approximately 25.1% based on BHP's test year ending September 30, 2025. The Company states a typical residential electric customer using 650 kWh per month would see an increase of \$25.13 per month. The proposed changes may potentially affect approximately 75,000 customers in BHP's South Dakota service territory.

On February 26, 2026, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of April 17, 2026, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filing electronic listserv. On April 8, 2026, John D. McKee Sr. was granted intervention. On May 13, 2026, Dakota Panel, Fischer Furniture, Inc., Forest Products Distributors, Inc., GCC Dacotah, Inc., Monument Health Rapid City Hospital, Inc., Pete Lien & Sons, Inc., the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority, and Spearfish Forest Products Inc., collectively referred to as the South Dakota Large Customer Group, were each granted intervention.

On May 11, 2026, Staff filed a Motion for Approval of Procedural Schedule. On May 18, 2026, BHP filed a Response to Staff's Motion for Procedural Schedule supporting Staff's proposed schedule conditioned on a request that a BHP witness be permitted to participate and provide testimony virtually. On May 19, 2026, Mr. John D. McKee Sr. filed an Objection to BHP's Conditional Acceptance of the Procedural Schedule. On June 8, 2026, Intervenor McKee filed a Motion to Adopt Protective Order. On June 16, 2026, BHP Filed a Letter regarding Response to McKee's Motion to Adopt Protective Order and on June 17, 2026, Mr. McKee filed a Reply. On June 30, 2026, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission heard from the parties and deferred this matter to the July 14, 2026, Commission meeting. On July 13, 2026, Mr. McKee filed a Motion to Withdraw as an intervenor in the docket.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 15-6, and 49-34A and ARSD Chapter 20:10:01, specifically 20:10:01:43, and Chapter 20:10:13.

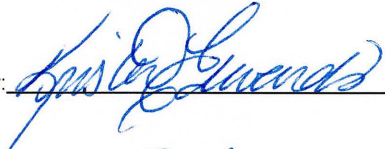
At its regularly scheduled meeting on July 14, 2026, the Commission considered this matter. Mr. McKee appeared telephonically and stated that he and BHP have resolved their differences, and he no longer wishes to participate in this docket. The other parties have not requested the Commission enter a protective order. Finding that Mr. McKee's request to withdraw as an intervenor made the issue moot. The Commission voted unanimously to deny the Motion to Adopt Protective Order. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Motion to Adopt Protective Order is denied.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 15th day of July 2026.

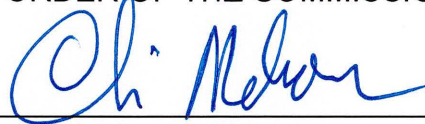
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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.

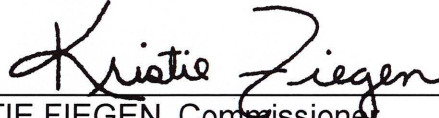
By: 

Date: 15 July 2024

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



CHRIS NELSON, Chairman



KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner



GARY HANSON, Commissioner