

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF BLACK HILLS POWER, INC. DBA)
BLACK HILLS ENERGY FOR AUTHORITY)
TO INCREASE RATES FOR ITS UTILITY)
SERVICE IN SOUTH DAKOTA)
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**ORDER SUSPENDING
OPERATION OF PROPOSED
RATES; ORDER ASSESSING
FILING FEE; ORDER
AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO
CONSULTING CONTRACTS**

EL26-003

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 persons and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. As of the date of this order, no petitions to intervene have been filed. Comments were received from a number of persons, all of which are available for review on the Commission's web site for this docket.

SDCL 49-34A-14 authorizes the Commission to suspend the operation of the proposed rates for 180 days following the date on which the proposed rates were filed. SDCL 49-1A-8 authorizes the Commission to require a deposit of up to \$500,000 in the Commission's Regulatory Assessment Fee fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon an application to increase rates as part of a general rate case.

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

At its regularly scheduled meeting on March 10, 2026, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to suspend the operation of the schedule of rates proposed by BHP for 180 days after the Application filing date of February 19, 2026. The Commission further voted unanimously to assess BHP a filing fee up to the statutory limit of \$500,000 for actual expenses related to the general rate case and to give the executive director authority to enter into consulting contracts. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the proposed schedule of rates shall be suspended for 180 days after the Application filing date of February 19, 2026. It is further

ORDERED, that BHP shall be assessed a filing fee in an amount up to the statutory limit of \$500,000 for actual expenses related to the general rate case, with payments made to the Commission's Regulatory Assessment Fee fund as periodically billed by the Commission. It is

further

ORDERED, that the executive director shall have the authority to enter into necessary consulting contracts.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 13th day of March 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:	<u>Kristie Fiegen</u>
Date:	<u>13 March 2026</u>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner