

BLACK HILLS POWER, INC. d/b/a BLACK HILLS ENERGY
EL26-004
SDPUC STAFF SECOND SET OF DATA REQUESTS

REQUEST DATE: 05/26/26

RESPONSE DATE: 06/09/26

REQUESTING PARTY: South Dakota Public Service Commission Staff

Staff Request No. 2.1:

Refer to page 2 of the application where the Company states: “As in previous year, no funds were used for lobbying activities in 2025 or will be in 2026.” Provide documentation supporting this statement.

Response to Staff Request No. 2.1:

Black Hills Power affirms that no Economic Development funds were used for lobbying activities in 2025, and no such expenditures are anticipated in 2026.

Specifically, the Economic Development Grant application requires each applicant to certify that grant funds will not be used for lobbying activities. This certification is expressly included in the application (Page 2, Form field #5 in Attachment Staff 2.2b) and is a condition of funding.

Respondent:

Eric Wolff

Attachments:

None

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Staff Request No. 2.2:

Provide a list of all organizations found on Exhibit A and B that have supported political advertisements in 2025 and/or 2026. Provide any documentation indicating whether or not the funds Black Hills provides as part of its Economic Development Plan are used by these organizations to fund political advertisements.

Response to Staff Request No. 2.2:

As part of the grant program application process, all applicants must identify and request funding for a specific economic development activity. Each application is reviewed to ensure the prudent allocation of funds and that the proposed use is directly applicable to qualifying economic development purposes.

To verify compliance regarding the use of grant funds in 2025, Black Hills Power requested written confirmation from all grant recipients that no funds provided under the Economic Development Plan were used to support political advertisements. These responses were collected via email and are provided in Confidential Attachment Staff 2.2a –Political Advertising Verification.

Additionally, Black Hills Power has revised its grant application form, as shown in Attachment Staff 2.2b – Updated Grant Application Form, to expand its existing lobbying activities question to include any form of political advertising.

Respondent:

Eric Wolff

Attachments:

- Confidential Attachment Staff 2.2a – Political Advertising Verification

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- Attachment Staff 2.2b – Updated Grant Application Form

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Staff Request No. 2.3:

Refer to the Company's response to Staff Request No. 1.1. Please explain why in the 2024 plan (EL24-006) and 2025 plan (EL25-008) \$250 was reflected in the economic development cost category, but the remainder was funded through a separate internal budget.

Response to Staff Request No. 2.3:

Membership to the South Dakota Chamber was being paid for and tracked through another Black Hills Power department. To better account for and demonstrate our investment in economic development activities, we have shifted that membership expense to our economic development account and program.

Respondent:

Lynn Kendall

Attachments:

None

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Staff Request No. 2.4:

Refer to the Company's response to Staff Request No. 1.2.b. The response states: "The 2025 Governor's Conference on Economic Development was invoiced in November 2024 and paid January 9, 2026. The 2026 Governor's Conference on Economic Development was invoiced September 2025 and paid November 24, 2025." (highlight added). Should the highlighted portion be January 9, 2025?

Response to Staff Request No. 2.4:

The response should have said: The 2025 Governor's Conference on Economic Development was invoiced in November 2024 and paid January 9, 2025. The 2026 Governor's Conference on Economic Development was invoiced September 2025 and paid November 24, 2025.

Respondent:

Eric Wolff

Attachments:

None

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify on this 9th day of June, 2026, the foregoing document was served by email on
the following:

Leah Mohr
Brittany Mehlhaff
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Catherine Sabers