

**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 APPROVAL)
TO AMEND ITS PHASE IN PLAN RATE)
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**ORDER ASSESSING
FILING FEE; ORDER
AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO
CONSULTING CONTRACTS**

EL26-024

On August 5, 2026, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application by Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy (BHP) for approval to amend its Phase In Plan Rate (PIPR). Black Hills Power makes this filing pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-73 through 49-34A-78. In this filing, Black Hills Power requests approval to recover, through the PIPR, both actual and forecasted costs associated with the Lange II Project. This request would increase rates for electric service to customers in its South Dakota service territory by approximately \$39.5 million annually. Black Hills Power states a typical residential electric customer using an average of approximately 650 kWh per month will see an increase of \$19.70 per month. Black Hills Power proposes an effective date of December 1, 2026.

On August 6, 2026, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of August 21, 2026, to interested persons and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On August 21, 2026, Dakota Panel, Fischer Furniture, Inc., Forest Product Distributors, Inc., GCC Dacotah, Inc., Monument Health Rapid City Hospital, Inc., Pete Lien and Sons, Inc., South Dakota Science and Technology Authority, Spearfish Forest Products, Inc., and Wharf Resources (USA), Inc., collectively referred to as the South Dakota Large Customer Group (SDLCG), filed a joint Petition to Intervene. Comments were received, all of which are available for review on the Commission's web site for this docket.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically SDCL 49-34A-73 through 49-34A-78.

SDCL 49-34A-77 requires an electric utility filing an application for a phase-in rate plan to pay a filing fee to be determined by the Commission in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on August 25, 2026, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to assess a filing fee as requested by Commission staff up to the statutory limit of \$250,000 to account for actual expenses incurred in review of this filing commencing from the filing date and to give the executive director authority to enter into consulting contracts. It is therefore

ORDERED, that BHP shall be assessed a filing fee pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-77 for actual expenses incurred by the Commission commencing from the filing date not to exceed \$250,000. It is further

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

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 20th day of August 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: Kristie Fiegen

Date: 20 Aug 2026

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner