

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PUC STAFF'S)
COMPLAINT AGAINST BLACK HILLS)
POWER, INC. DBA BLACK HILLS ENERGY)
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)
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**ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT
STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT**

PS25-003

On November 4, 2025, Staff of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) filed a Complaint against Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy (Respondent) alleging violations of SDCL Chapters 49-34B and 49-41B, as well as associated administrative rules.

On November 6, 2025, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On November 25, 2025, Respondent filed a Motion to Dismiss and Answer to Complaint (Motion to Dismiss). The Parties agreed to a procedural schedule on the Motion and the Commission issued an Order for and Notice of Hearing on December 11, 2025. On January 2, 2026, staff filed a Brief in Opposition to the Motion to Dismiss Answer to Complaint. On January 29, 2026, the Commission issued an Order Denying Motion to Dismiss. On February 25, 2026, staff filed a Settlement Stipulation and Agreement.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-34B, and 49-41B.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of March 10, 2026, the Commission considered this matter. Having thoroughly reviewed the filings in the docket and after making further inquiry of the parties, and finding the settlement to be just and reasonable, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Settlement Stipulation and Agreement. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Settlement Stipulation is hereby adopted and shall be incorporated by reference into this Order the same as if it had been set forth in its entirety herein. It is further

ORDERED, that BHP shall deposit with the Commission \$40,000 as set forth herein within 90 days of the approval by the Commission of this Settlement Stipulation and Agreement.

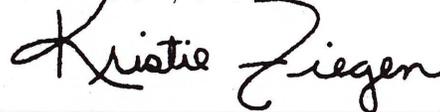
Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 11th day of March 2026.

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></u>
Date: <u>11 March 2026</u>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



CHRIS NELSON, Chairman



KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner