

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING FOR)	ORDER APPROVING
APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO ASSIGNED)	TERRITORIAL TRANSFER
SERVICE AREAS OF INTERCOUNTY)	
ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC. AND TRI-)	EL99-017
COUNTY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.)	

On October 14, 1999, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a joint request from Intercounty Electric Association, Inc. (Intercounty) and Tri-County Electric Association, Inc. (Tri-County) for approval of the consolidation of the two cooperatives. According to the request, on March 20, 1999, Intercounty membership voted to approve the consolidation. On April 8, 1999, Tri-County membership voted to approve the consolidation of the two cooperatives. The new organization will be formed on January 1, 2000, and will be known as Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. Tri-County and Intercounty are requesting approval to transfer the existing territorial Agreements of the two existing entities to Central Electric Cooperative, Inc., effective on January 1, 2000. According to the filing, "[w]e believe this request meets all the requirements as outlined in SDCL 49-34A-55 pertaining to the following items:

elimination or avoidance of unnecessary duplication of facilities;
providing adequate electric service to all areas and customers affected and,
the promotion of the efficient and economical use and development of the electric system."

On November 15, 1999, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered the matter. Commission Staff recommended approval.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-42 and 49-34A-55. Further, the Commission finds that the proposed territorial transfer will avoid the unnecessary duplication of facilities, provide adequate electric service to the customer, and promote the efficient and economical use and development of the electric systems of Intercounty and Tri-County. Finally the Commission finds that the approval of the joint request is in the public interest and the request shall be granted. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that the request for approval of the territorial transfer is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 8th day of December, 1999.

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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: <u><i>Debbie Kalbo</i></u>
Date: <u>12/8/99</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner