

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY WEST)	ORDER GRANTING
RIVER ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC. FOR)	APPROVAL OF ELECTRIC
APPROVAL OF AN ELECTRIC SERVICE)	SERVICE TERRITORY
TERRITORY AGREEMENT WITH BLACK)	AGREEMENT
HILLS POWER & LIGHT COMPANY)	EL01-004

On February 22, 2001, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing by West River Electric Association, Inc. (WREA) for approval of an electric service territory agreement. The agreement is between Black Hills Power & Light Company (BHP&L) and WREA. The application states that a trade agreement was reached between WREA and BHP&L wherein WREA authorized BHP&L to serve two "frozen customers" in exchange for kilowatt-hours and BHP&L authorized WREA to serve one "frozen customer" in exchange for kilowatt-hours. Both companies believe this agreement will improve future reliability while eliminating duplication of facilities. The affected customers agreed to the exchange and signed a consent form so stating.

The specifics related to the accounts are:

WREA "frozen customers" transferred to BHP&L:

Gerald Sieveke Account #1327247701
(Sieveke Taxidermy)

Lee Koenen Account #1327247601
(Lee's Towing)

BHP&L "frozen customer" transferred to WREA:

Knecht Home Center Account #10 01 29310 02
(Discount Lumber fka Big K Lumber Account #11 18 2020 1)

On April 17, 2001, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered the request for approval of the exchange. Commission Staff recommended approval.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically, 49-34A-4, 49-34A-42, and 49-34A-55. Further, the Commission finds that the release of frozen customers in the service territory will avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities, provide adequate electric service to all customers affected, and promote the efficient use and development of the electric systems of BHP&L and WREA. The Commission therefore concludes that the release of frozen customers in the service territory is in the public interest and it shall be granted. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that the request seeking approval of an electric service territory agreement to release frozen customers in the service territory is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 24th day of April, 2001.

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: Alaine Kelso

Date: 4/24/01

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner