BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REQUEST FOR AN ELECTRIC SERVICE RIGHTS EXCEPTION BETWEEN BLACK HILLS POWER AND WEST RIVER ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.	))))))	**ORDER GRANTING APPROVAL OF AN EXCEPTION TO THE ASSIGNED ELECTRIC SERVICE TERRITORY EL03-012**

On March 21, 2003, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a joint filing by Black Hills Power (BHP) and West River Electric Association, Inc. (WREA) for approval of an electric service rights exception. This request would allow WREA to provide electrical service to three signs owned by Epic Outdoor Advertising adjacent to I-90, located in BHP's service territory. The signs are located in Section 16 and 21, Township 2 North, Range 7 East, Pennington County, South Dakota.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of April 15, 2003, the Commission considered the matter. Commission Staff recommended approval of the joint request.

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 an exception to the assigned service territory is in the public interest and the request shall be granted. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the request seeking approval of an exception to the assignment of service territory is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 24th day of April, 2003.

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: Delaine Kolbo

Date: 4/24/03

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner