

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
BLACK HILLS POWER, INC. FOR AUTHORITY)
TO INCREASE ITS ELECTRIC RATES)
)

ORDER GRANTING
INTERVENTION

EL06-019

On June 30, 2006, Black Hills Power, Inc. (BHP), filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an application to increase rates for electric service to customers in its service territory by \$9,593,688 annually or approximately 9.5% based on BHP's 2005 test year. The company states the proposed increase for a residential customer would be \$5.16 per month based on usage of 600 kwh. The proposed rates may potentially affect approximately 60,434 customers in BHP's service territory.

On July 28, 2006, the Commission received a Petition to Intervene from Merillat Industries, LLC, Pope & Talbot, Inc. and GCC Dacotah, Inc. (collectively Black Hills Intervenors). At a regularly scheduled meeting of August 8, 2006, the Commission granted intervention to the Black Hills Intervenors. On August 25, 2006, the Commission received a Petition to Intervene from the City of Gillette, Wyoming (Gillette). On August 31, 2006, the Commission received Black Hills Power, Inc.'s Objection to the Petition of City of Gillette to Intervene. On September 7, 2006, the Commission received a Withdrawal of Petition of City of Gillette to Intervene. At a regularly scheduled meeting of September 12, 2006, the Commission granted the withdrawal of the City of Gillette's Petition to Intervene. On September 18, 2006, the Commission received a Petition to Intervene and Notice of Appearance of Rushmore Forest Products (Rushmore).

At its regularly scheduled September 26, 2006, meeting, the Commission considered the Petition to Intervene of Rushmore. The Commission finds that pursuant to its authority under SDCL 1-26-17.1 and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02 and .03, the petition of Rushmore demonstrates good cause for granting intervention (Chairman Sahr abstained). The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, specifically 1-26-17.1, 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-12, 49-34A-13.1 and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02 and .03. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Rushmore shall be granted intervention.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 3rd day of October, 2006.

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>Melaine Kelbo</u>
Date: <u>10/4/06</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman, abstaining

Dustin Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner