

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	ORDER OF ASSESSMENT
BLACK HILLS POWER, INC. FOR AUTHORITY)	OF FILING FEE AND
TO INCREASE ITS ELECTRIC RATES)	SUSPENSION OF
)	IMPOSITION OF TARIFF
)	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.

SDCL 49-1A-8 authorizes the Commission to require a deposit of up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's (SDPUC) regulatory assessment fee fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon this type of filing. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1A, 49-34A and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02 and 20:10:01:15.03.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of July 11, 2006, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission found that pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8, BHP shall be assessed a filing fee as requested by the deputy executive director up to the statutory limit of \$100,000. Further, an intervention deadline of August 25, 2006, has been established. Pursuant to SDCL 49-31-14, the Commission suspended the operation of the schedule of rates proposed by BHP for 90 days beyond July 30, 2006. It is therefore

ORDERED, that BHP shall deposit a filing fee, to be established by the deputy executive director, in the SDPUC regulatory assessment fee fund and shall deposit any additional amounts as requested by the deputy executive director, not to exceed the statutory limit; it is further

ORDERED, that the proposed schedule of rates shall be suspended for 90 days beyond July 30, 2006, pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14; and it is further

ORDERED, that the deadline for filing petitions to intervene in this case is August 25, 2006.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 30th day of July, 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><i>Nelvin Kalbo</i></u>
Date:	<u>7/21/06</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner