

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST FOR)
APPROVAL OF AN ELECTRIC SERVICE)
TERRITORY BOUNDARY AGREEMENT)
BETWEEN WEST RIVER ELECTRIC)
ASSOCIATION, INC. AND BLACK HILLS)
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.)**

**ORDER GRANTING APPROVAL
OF AN EXCEPTION TO THE
ASSIGNED ELECTRIC
SERVICE TERRITORY**

EL12-053

On August 17, 2012, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Electric Service Territory Boundary Agreement (Agreement) between West River Electric Association, Inc. (WREA) and Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BHEC). This filing is made pursuant to current efforts of the Commission to verify electric territory mapping data for conversion to electronic format and use in a Geographic Information System (GIS) database. With the assistance of the above-referenced utilities, Commission Staff has confirmed the service territory boundary shared by these utilities and has prepared updated mapping information. In addition, the parties ask for approval of existing territory deviations identified during the review processes, which have not been approved as official territory service rights exceptions. In conjunction with the parties to this docket, Commission Staff requests approval of the agreement and the exceptions identified in order to update official mapping data and reflect the service territory boundaries shared by the utilities in this docket.

On August 23, 2012, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 7, 2012, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-42 through 49-34A-45 and 49-34A-55.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 11, 2012, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff recommended approval of the joint request. Finding the Agreement to meet the standards of SDCL 49-34A-55 for approval and serve the public interest, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Agreement. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the request seeking approval of an exception to assigned service territory is hereby granted and the Agreement is approved.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 13th day of September, 2012.

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, electronically.
By: <u>[Signature]</u>
Date: <u>Sept. 13, 2012</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

[Signature: Chris Nelson]

CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

[Signature: Kristie Fiegen]

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commission

[Signature: Gary Hanson]

GARY HANSON, Commission