

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REQUEST) ORDER GRANTING APPROVAL OF
FOR SERVICE RIGHTS EXCEPTION) AN EXCEPTION TO ASSIGNED
BETWEEN GRAND ELECTRIC) ELECTRIC SERVICE TERRITORY
COOPERATIVE, INC. AND WEST RIVER)
ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.)**

EL12-056

On October 9, 2012, Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc. (GEC) and West River Electric Association (WREA) jointly filed a letter agreement with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) requesting approval of an electric service territory exception. If approved, WREA would provide electrical service to the Raymond Howie water well located in GEC's service territory. Under the agreement between GEC and WREA, if in the future GEC extends service into the area and wishes to take over the excepted service, GEC will have the option to purchase the WREA facilities serving the customer at their depreciated value and provide service to the customer.

On October 11, 2012, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of October 26, 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 and 49-34A-55.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on October 23, 2012, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff recommended approval of the joint request. Finding that WREA has distribution facilities closer to the service and will therefore be able to extend service to the customer at lower cost and avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities, provide adequate electric service to the customer affected, and promote the efficient and economical use and development of GEC's and WREA's electric systems and that the exception to the parties' assigned service territories is therefore in the public interest, the Commission voted unanimously to grant the request and approve the exception in accordance with the terms of the filed joint request for electric service territory exception. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the request for approval of an exception to the assigned service territories of GEC and WREA is hereby granted subject to the agreement terms of the joint request as filed.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 24th day of October, 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>10.24.12</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

[Signature]
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

[Signature]
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commission

[Signature]
GARY HANSON, Commission