

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF BLACK HILLS POWER, INC. DBA)
BLACK HILLS ENERGY FOR)
APPROVAL OF ITS 2017)
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT)
ADJUSTMENT)**

**ORDER SUSPENDING
OPERATION OF
RATE SCHEDULE**

EL17-008

On February 15, 2017, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application by Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy (BHE) for approval of its 2017 Environmental Improvement Adjustment (EIA). BHE seeks approval of its proposal for the annual true-up of EIA revenue requirement from June 1, 2016, through May 31, 2017, as approved in Docket EL16-006, and the forecasted recovery of EIA revenue requirement associated with eligible environmental improvements from June 1, 2017, through May 31, 2018. The Company proposes EIA rates effective June 1, 2017, through May 31, 2018. Approximately 68,000 South Dakota retail customers are affected by the EIA rate change. The average bill impact for a typical residential electric customer using 650 kWh is approximately 0.03 percent.

On February 16, 2017, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of March 3, 2017, to interested persons and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. As of the date of this order, no petitions to intervene or comments had been filed.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, particularly 49-34A-14 and 49-34A-97 through 49-34A-100. SDCL 49-34A-14 authorizes the Commission to suspend the operation of proposed rates for one hundred and eighty (180) days following the date on which the proposed rates were filed.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on March 28, 2017, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff requested that the Commission suspend the imposition of the rates pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14. The Commission voted unanimously to suspend the operation of the schedule of rates proposed by BHE for 180 days beyond February 15, 2017. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the proposed schedule of rates shall be suspended for a period not to exceed 180 days beyond February 15, 2017, pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 29th day of March, 2017.

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 or by mail.
By: <u>Karon E. Cremer</u>
Date: <u>03/29/2017</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner