

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST BY THE)
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN GOOD)
SAMARITAN SOCIETY FOR A VARIANCE)
FROM THE INDIVIDUAL METERING)
REQUIREMENT IN ARSD 20:10:26:03 FOR A)
50 UNIT PROJECT IN RAPID CITY, SD)**

**ORDER GRANTING
MASTER METERING
VARIANCE**

EL17-013

On March 1, 2017, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a letter from the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society (Good Samaritan) regarding a gas and electric master metering exception at a new 50-unit building for low-income elderly housing located near the intersection of Minnesota Street and Wisconsin Avenue in Rapid City, S.D. Good Samaritan estimates the additional cost to install individual metering would increase construction costs by \$161,000. After reviewing the letter, Commission staff concluded that the project plans met the exception set forth in ARSD 20:10:26:04(6) for gas service and that the project plans indicate that the project may be required to have individual metering pursuant to ARSD 20:10:26:03. On March 8, 2017, Commission staff opened a docket to process an individual metering variance request for electric service at the Good Samaritan's building. Since the building meets the exception for gas service, the approval of a variance is not required for gas service.

On March 9, 2017, the Commission served notice of Good Samaritan's variance request on the affected utility company, Black Hills Power, Inc., in accordance with ARSD 20:10:26:06. On March 9, 2017, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of March 24, 2017, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On March 17, 2017, notice of the master metering variance request was published in the Rapid City, South Dakota, Rapid City Journal newspaper in accordance with ARSD 20:10:26:06. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, particularly 49-34A-4 and 49-34A-27, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:26, particularly 20:10:26:03, 20:10:26:04, 20:10:26:05, and 20:10:26:06.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 10, 2017, the Commission considered this matter. Finding that Good Samaritan's request for a variance set forth compelling reasons for granting the variance, including cost effectiveness, energy efficiency, and energy conservation effects, the Commission unanimously voted to grant the request.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that Good Samaritan's request for a master metering variance from the individual metering requirements set forth in ARSD 20:10:26:03 for a 50-unit low-income housing project at the location noted above, is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 18th day of April, 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: Adam DeHueck

Date: 4/18/17

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner