

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

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

EL17-025

On May 31, 2017, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Service Territory Exception Agreement (Agreement) between Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BHEC) and West River Electric Association, Inc. (WREA) requesting approval for WREA to provide two new single phase electric services to a house and shop located in BHEC territory. The location of the new services will be in the NW ¼ of the NE ¼, Section 9, T1S, R9E, B.H.M., in Pennington County, South Dakota. Under the Agreement, BHEC shall retain the right of service to any new commercial or residential facility or service that may be developed on any portion of the parcel as described above.

On June 1, 2017, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of June 16, 2017, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. 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-44 and 49-34A-55.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on July 5, 2017, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended granting approval of the Agreement. Finding that the Agreement will avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities, provide adequate electric service to the customer affected, promote the efficient and economical use and development of WREA's and BHEC's electric systems, and that the exception to the parties' assigned service territories is in the public interest, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the requested service rights exception. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Agreement between BHEC and WREA for a service rights exception is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 12th day of July, 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>Karen E. Cremer</u>
Date: <u>07/12/17</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner