

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REQUEST)	ORDER GRANTING
FOR AN ELECTRIC SERVICE TERRITORY)	APPROVAL OF ELECTRIC
BOUNDARY CHANGE BETWEEN BLACK)	SERVICE TERRITORY
HILLS POWER AND BLACK HILLS ELECTRIC)	AGREEMENT
COOPERATIVE, INC.)	EL03-023

On July 23, 2003, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a joint filing by Black Hills Power (BHP) and Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BHEC) for approval of the relocation of an electric service territory line located in Sections 22, 26, and 27, Township 10S, Range 4E, Black Hills Meridian, Fall River County, South Dakota. The proposed electric service territory line is as follows: beginning at the northwestern corner of Section 27; then bear south along the western boundary of Section 27 to the southwestern corner of section 27; then bear east along the southern boundary of Section 27; then continue to bear east for 1/2 mile along the southern boundary of Section 26. Weinreis Brothers Partnership and John Hollmann, the current property owners, are in agreement with the change.

On August 19, 2003, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered the request for approval of the boundary change. Commission Staff recommended approval of the joint request.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically, 49-34A-4, 49-34A-42, and 49-34A-55. Further, the Commission finds that the boundary change will avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities and help minimize operational challenges. The Commission concludes that the change in the service territory boundary is in the public interest and it shall be granted. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that the request seeking approval of an electric service territory boundary change between BHP and BHEC is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 28th day of August, 2003.

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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: <u>Dellaine Kolbo</u>
Date: <u>8/29/03</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner