

March 19, 2003

Ms. Pam Bonrud
Executive Director
SD Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RECEIVED

MAR 21 2003

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Re: Joint Request for Approval of an Electric Service Rights Exception Submitted by Black Hills Power and West River Electric Association

Dear Ms. Bonrud:

Black Hills Power (BHP) and West River Electric Association (WREA) respectfully submit this joint request to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for approval of an Electric Service Rights Exception. The joint request would allow for WREA to provide electrical service to three signs owned by Epic Outdoor Advertising adjacent to I-90, located in BHP's service territory. The signs are located in Sections 16 and 21, T2N, R7E, Pennington County, whose locations are shown on the attached map.

WREA has a distribution line adjacent to the location of the signs, and is presently providing service to another sign in that area. BHP's nearest distribution facilities are several hundred feet away, and per BHP's filed line extension policy, would necessitate a significant investment for the signs' owner to procure electrical service from BHP. By allowing WREA to provide service to the signs, unnecessary duplication of facilities would be avoided.

Stuart Wevik, BHP's Director of Customer Service, and Dave Semerad, WREA's Rapid City Branch Manager, have considered alternatives and jointly submit this request for the Commission's consideration. The following information is enclosed for your review:

- a map showing details of the area in question
- BHP's letter to WREA authorizing the provision of service contingent on the Commission's ruling
- a letter of consent from Epic Advertising

If you require additional information or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Stuart Wevik
Director of Customer Service
Black Hills Power



Dave Semerad
Rapid City Branch Manager
West River Electric Association

3/19/03
Date

3-19-03
Date



STUART WEVIK
DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER SERVICE
swevik@blackhillspower.com

Telephone
605-721-2222
FAX: (605) 721-2573

March 19, 2003

Mr. Dave Semerad
West River Electric Association
PO Box 3486
Rapid City, SD 57703

Dear Dave:

As we have discussed, Epic Outdoor Advertising has requested service to three signs located adjacent to I-90 and west of Deadwood Avenue near Rapid City. The signs are located in Sections 16 and 21, T2N, R7E, Pennington County. West River Electric Association (WREA) has a three-phase line immediately adjacent to the location of the signs, and is currently providing service to an existing sign at that same location.

To avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities, Black Hills Power (BHP) authorizes WREA to provide service to these three signs with the understanding that if some time in the future BHP decides to take over these services, BHP may do so and may purchase WREA facilities at their depreciated value. No kWh will be given in exchange for this service. Of course, all of this is contingent upon the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission approval of our Joint Request for Approval of an Electric Service Rights Exception.

Thanks for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stuart Wevik'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Stuart Wevik
BHP Director of Customer Service

March 18, 2003

Mr. Stuart Wevik
Black Hills Power
PO Box 1400
Rapid City, SD 57709

Dear Mr. Wevik:

Epic Outdoor Advertising (Epic) hereby gives consent for the Electric Service Rights Exception jointly submitted by Black Hills Power (BHP) and West River Electric Association (WREA). We understand that this request would allow for WREA to provide electrical service to three signs owned by Epic adjacent to I-90, located in BHP's service territory. The signs are located in Sections 16 and 21, T2N, R7E, Pennington County.

WREA has a distribution line adjacent to the location of the signs, and is presently providing service to another sign in that area. BHP's nearest distribution facilities are several hundred feet away, and per BHP's filed line extension policy, would necessitate a significant investment by Epic to procure electrical service from BHP. Also, by allowing WREA to provide service to the signs, unnecessary duplication of facilities would be avoided for the utilities.


(signature)

3/18/03
(date)

Brendan P. Casey
Epic Outdoor Advertising
PO Box 7861
Rapid City, SD 57709

cc: Dave Semerad
West River Electric Association

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
WEEKLY FILINGS
For the Period of March 20, 2003 through March 26, 2003

If you need a complete copy of a filing faxed, overnight expressed, or mailed to you, please contact
Delaine Kolbo within five business days of this report. Phone: 605-773-3705

ELECTRIC

**EL03-012 In the Matter of the Request for an Electric Service Rights Exception
between Black Hills Power and West River Electric Association, Inc.**

On March 21, 2003, Black Hills Power (BHP) and West River Electric Association (WREA) submitted a joint request to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for approval of an Electric Service Rights Exception. The request would allow WREA to provide electrical service to three signs owned by Epic Outdoor Advertising adjacent to I-90, located in BHP's service territory. The signs are located in Sections 16 and 21, T2N, R7E, Pennington County.

Staff Analyst: Michele M. Farris
Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier
Date Docketed: 03/21/03
Intervention Deadline: 04/11/03

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**TC03-058 In the Matter of the Application of C III Communications Operations, LLC
for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Interexchange Telecommunications
Services in South Dakota.**

C III Communications Operations, LLC has filed an application for a Certificate of Authority to provide intrastate interexchange telecommunications services in South Dakota. The applicant intends to provide resold intrastate interexchange services, including message telecommunications service, outbound wide area telecommunication service, inbound 800 service, travel card service, operator assisted calling programs, private line services and frame relay service throughout South Dakota.

Staff Analyst: Bonnie Bjork
Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier
Date Docketed: 03/21/03
Intervention Deadline: 04/11/03

TC03-059 In the Matter of the Application of Consolidated Communications Operator Services, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Operator Assisted Telecommunications Services and Services for Payphones in South Dakota.

Consolidated Communications Operator Services, Inc. has filed an application for a Certificate of Authority to provide live and automated long distance assistance and directory assistance services, as well as services for coinless and coin-operated public telephones.

Staff Analyst: Bonnie Bjork
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Docketed: 03/21/03
Intervention Deadline: 04/11/03

TC03-060 In the Matter of the Filing by Excel Telecommunications, Inc. for Approval of its Intrastate Switched Access Tariff and for an Exemption from Developing Company Specific Cost-Based Switched Access Rates.

On March 20, 2003, Excel Telecommunications, Inc. (Excel). filed its South Dakota P.U.C. access tariff No. 4 for approval. The proposed tariff introduces Excel's intrastate switched access services and rates including, Carrier Common Line Access, Local Transport, Local Switching and Toll-Free Database Query.

Staff Analyst: Keith Senger
Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier
Date Docketed: 03/25/03
Intervention Deadline: 04/11/03

TC03-061 In the Matter of the Filing by VarTec Telecom, Inc. for Approval of its Intrastate Switched Access Tariff and for an Exemption from Developing Company Specific Cost-Based Switched Access Rates.

On March 20, 2003, VarTec Telecom, Inc. filed its South Dakota Access Tariff No. 2 for approval. The proposed tariff introduces VarTec's intrastate switched access services and rates, including Carrier Common Line Access, Local Transport, Local Switching and Toll-Free Database Query.

Staff Analyst: Michele M. Farris
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Docketed: 03/25/03
Intervention Deadline: 04/11/03

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