



Gary Hanson, Chairperson  
Chris Nelson, Vice Chairperson  
Kristie Fiegen, Commissioner

*South Dakota*

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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September 23, 2014

John Halter  
Lisa Hives  
John Halter Family Living Trust

Dear Mr. Halter and Ms. Hives:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the Black Hills Power's 230-kV transmission line siting docket, EL14-061. You asked that the commission hear your input provided via your letter dated Aug. 18, 2014. Staff Attorney Karen Cremer ensured that my fellow commissioners and I received your letter outlining your concerns and requests so we could take them into account as we listened to others at the public input hearing on Aug. 25 in Rapid City regarding this proposed transmission line. Your letter was posted in the electronic docket under Comments and Responses for all interested in this proceeding to read. Here is a link to the docket:  
<http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2014/el14-061.aspx>

It is important to understand the parameters of state law – in other words, what the commission is allowed to consider and determine with a transmission siting docket such as this. This document from our website may assist you in understanding the commission's processing of transmission siting dockets:

<http://www.puc.sd.gov/commission/Publication/sitinghandout.pdf> as well as this link to state law, SDCL 49-41B, which provides the commission's transmission siting authority:

[http://legis.sd.gov/Statutes/Codified\\_Laws/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&Statute=49-41B](http://legis.sd.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&Statute=49-41B)

A copy of your additional comments and my response will be filed in the electronic docket at:  
<http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2014/el14-061comments.aspx>. I assure you I give serious consideration to all comments and evidence before making decisions on them, and I know my fellow commissioners do the same.

Sincerely,

Gary Hanson