

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application) Application No. NG-0078.5
of Black Hills Gas Distribution,)
LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy,)
seeking an order to continue the) ORDER SETTING
System Safety and Integrity) PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
Rider Charge (SSIR) and SSIR)
Revenue.)
) Entered: July 19, 2018

BY THE HEARING OFFICER:

On June 1, 2018, Black Hills Distribution Gas LLC, d/b/a Black Hills Energy ("Black Hills"), of Denver, Colorado, filed an application with the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) seeking an order authorizing it to continue its current System Safety and Integrity Rider ("SSIR") Charge. A Petition for Formal Intervention was filed by the Nebraska Public Advocate on June 13, 2018.

A planning conference was held on July 18, 2018. Commissioner Frank Landis, Ms. Nichole Mulcahy, and Ms. Sallie Dietrich appeared on behalf of the Commission. Mr. William Austin appeared for the Public Advocate. Mr. Adam Buhrman and Mr. Doug Law appeared on behalf of Black Hills.

As a result of the planning conference, several issues were decided. This order serves to memorialize those decisions and provide a timeline for proceeding in this docket.

Intervention of the Public Advocate

Pursuant to the Rules of Commission Procedure, 291 Neb. Admin. Code § 1-015.01 *et seq.*, I find that the Public Advocate's petition for formal intervention should be granted, and the Nebraska Public Advocate should be designated as a formal intervenor and party to this proceeding. The Nebraska Public Advocate further should be entitled to participate in the proceeding to the extent of his express interest in the matter and in a manner consistent with 291 Neb. Admin. Code § 1-015.01C.

Filings

During the planning conference held on July 18, 2018, the parties indicated that based on information currently available, a hearing on the above-captioned docket may not be necessary, and the Commission may be able to review the docket administratively under the Commission's rules of modified procedure, 291 Neb. Admin. Code § 1-018.03. However, the parties agreed that in the event circumstances changed and either party felt a hearing might be necessary or desirable, they would notify the Hearing Officer and the other party as soon as practical.

The parties agreed that the procedural schedule should be set as follows:

Report of the Public Advocate. The Public Advocate will file a report with the Commission no later than **August 3, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. CDT.** The report will contain a description of the Public Advocate's findings regarding Application No. NG-0078.5, as well as any recommendations or issues of fact or law which the Public Advocate wishes to bring to the Commission's attention.

Company Response. If Black Hills, after reviewing the Public Advocate's report, finds that there remain any issues of fact or law to be decided, Black Hills will file a response to the Public Advocate's report with the Commission no later than **August 17, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. CDT.** Black Hills should enumerate these issues in its response and its proposed course of action.

Joint Filing. In the event there are no remaining unresolved issues of fact or law, Black Hills and the Public Advocate will collaborate and submit a joint filing no later than **August 17, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. CDT.** This filing will summarize the parties' agreement and state whether the parties believe a hearing before the Commission is necessary.

Service

Parties may meet filing deadlines outlined herein by sending an electronic copy of the filing via electronic mail to deena.ackerman@nebraska.gov and sallie.dietrich@nebraska.gov, so long as all parties are served via electronic mail contemporaneously with the email filing and a hard copy is received by the Commission within three (3) days of the email filing.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Hearing Officer that the formal intervention of the Public Advocate be, and is hereby, granted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the deadlines and requirements established in this order and attached hereto are hereby adopted.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 19th day of July, 2018.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Landis", is written over a horizontal line.

Frank Landis
HEARING OFFICER