
IOWA UTILITIES BOARD
General Counsel

Docket No.: RPU-2010-0002
Utility: Black Hills/Iowa Gas Utility
Company, LLC d/b/a Black Hills
Energy
File Date/Due Date: N/A-ASAP
Memo Date: 11/9/10

TO: The Board

FROM: Cecil Wright

SUBJECT: Memorandum recommending cancelation of hearing date

I. Background

On July 7, 2010, the Utilities Board (Board) issued an order docketing the application filed by Black Hills/Iowa Gas Utility Company, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy (Black Hills Energy), for a general increase in natural gas rates for Iowa customers. In the docketing order, the Board established a procedural schedule and scheduled a hearing for December 13, 2010. On August 20, 2010, Black Hills Energy, the Consumer Advocate Division of the Department of Justice (Consumer Advocate) and Constellation New Energy-Gas Division, LLC, filed a unanimous settlement agreement proposing to resolve all issues in this case. Also, on August 20, 2010, Consumer Advocate and Black Hills Energy filed a joint motion for suspension of the procedural schedule established by the Board in the July 7, 2010, order.

On September 1, 2010, the Board issued an order suspending the procedural schedule in this docket. The Board suspended the procedural schedule to allow time to consider the proposed settlement. In the September 1, 2010, order, the Board stated that it was not canceling the hearing date set for December 13, 2010, at that time pending a review of the proposed settlement.

On September 16, 2010, the Board issued an order scheduling a hearing to address the settlement agreement. On October 12, 2010, the Board held the hearing on the proposed settlement as scheduled. On October 18, 2010, the Board issued an order allowing Black Hills Energy to file a post-hearing brief. On October 26, 2010, Black Hills Energy filed its post-hearing brief.

Staff is preparing the decision memorandum for Board review and a decision briefing is scheduled for December 6, 2010. The Board has also

scheduled a decision meeting in this case for December 10, 2010. Based upon the Board's anticipated date for the decision meeting, staff believes there is no longer a need to retain the original hearing date of December 13, 2010. Staff recommends the Board issue an order canceling the December 13, 2010, hearing date.

IV. Recommendation

Review and issue the attached order that cancels the original hearing date of December 13, 2010.