

2023

BLACK HILLS CORPORATION

2023 Annual Report | Proxy Statement | Form 10-K



BKH BLACK HILLS CORPORATION

We are a customer focused, growth-oriented utility company with a tradition of exemplary service and a vision to be the energy partner of choice. Based in Rapid City, South Dakota, the company serves over 1.3 million electric and natural gas utility customers in 824 communities in Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. Employees partner to produce results that improve life with energy.

Arkansas

186,200 utility customers
100 communities served

Colorado

311,900 utility customers
119 communities served
617 megawatts of owned power generation capacity

Iowa

163,300 utility customers
133 communities served

Kansas

119,400 utility customers
67 communities served

Montana

44 utility customers
2 communities served

Nebraska

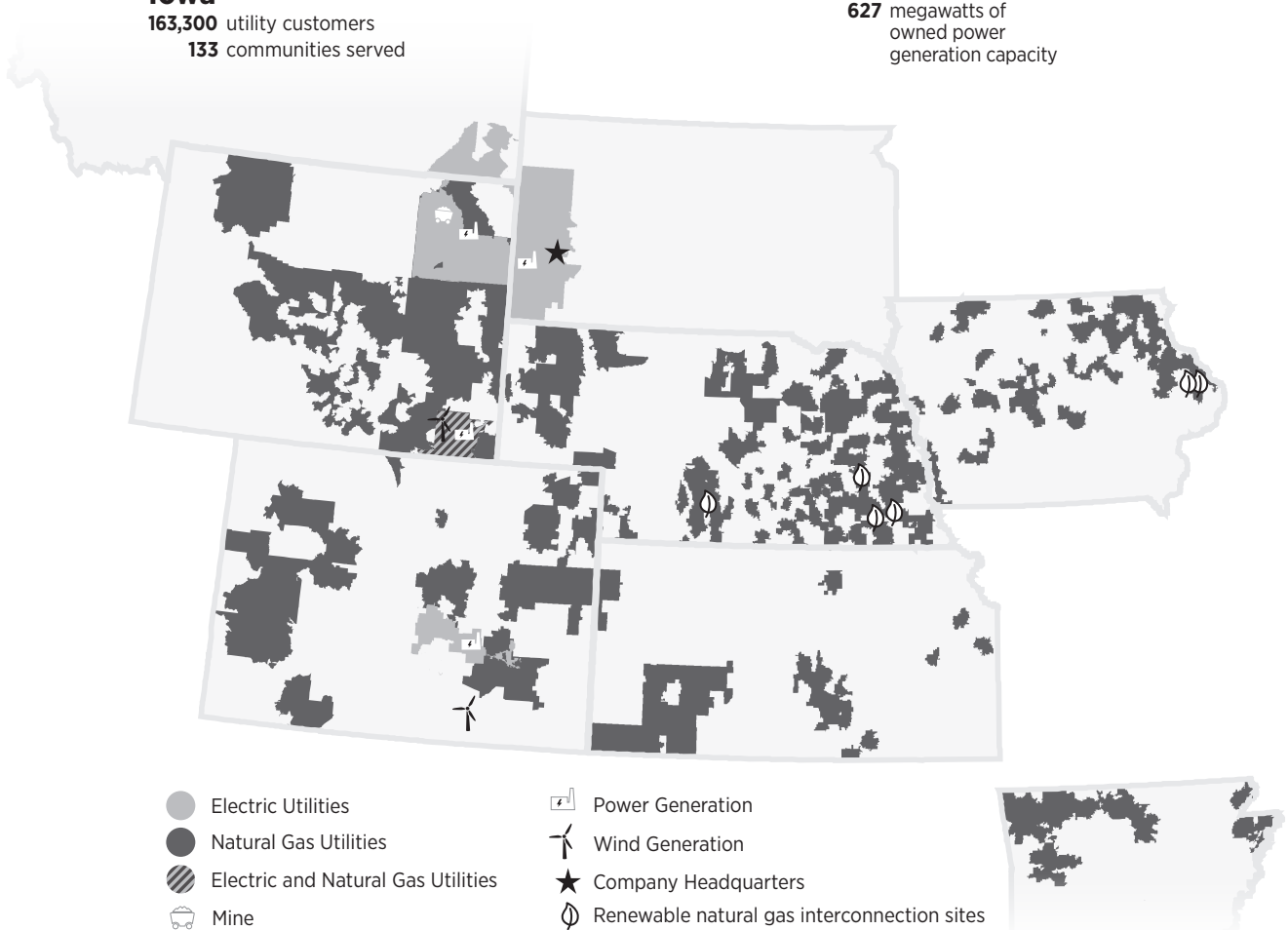
302,200 utility customers
319 communities served

South Dakota

76,500 utility customers
29 communities served
150 megawatts of owned power generation capacity

Wyoming

179,100 utility customers
56 communities served
174 million tons of coal reserves
627 megawatts of owned power generation capacity





Dear shareholders,

At Black Hills Corporation, we provide essential energy to 1.34 million electric and natural gas customers across eight states. Through a rapidly changing economic and business environment, our team is dedicated to delivering the safe, reliable, and cost-effective service our customers and communities depend upon every day.

During 2023, we delivered on our objectives of excellent operational performance and solid financial results. We strengthened our financial position and advanced our regulatory, growth and resiliency initiatives, setting the stage for future growth.

Reliable. Resilient. Ready.

Our mission of improving life with energy is accomplished every day as a dependable energy provider within the communities we live and operate. In 2023, our team delivered more than 7,000 gigawatt hours of electricity and 95 million dekatherms of natural gas to our utility customers. Our resilient team and infrastructure continued to advance our reputation for excellent service as we continued to invest in the core needs for the safety and reliability of our systems and successfully reduced third-party damages to our natural gas system by nearly 10%.

In addition, we continued to support customer and community growth and delivered innovative solutions for both new and existing customers. This growing demand was reflected through our tenth consecutive year of new all-time peaks at Wyoming Electric, representing an increase of nearly 70% in peak demand over the last decade.

Our long-standing commitment to shareholders is also reflected in our 53 consecutive years of annual dividend increases and 83 years of uninterrupted dividend payout. This track record of sustainable growth through numerous economic cycles, global wars and uncertainties is one of the longest in the electric and natural gas utility industry.

A firm foundation

Being ready for the needs of customers is the result of our customer-focused culture and is supported by a solid financial foundation. We delivered on our commitment to strengthen our financial position in 2023 as we improved our net debt to total capitalization ratio to 57.3% and maintained our BBB+ equivalent credit ratings. Our financial progress in the face of a changing economic environment was no easy feat, as we flexed the organization to achieve our objectives,

including conserving capital and managing expenses while executing on what was necessary to deliver on our commitments for our customers and shareholders.

As we invested in the resiliency and modernization of our infrastructure for the core needs of our customers, we continued to develop strategic growth projects. Looking forward, our \$4.3 billion capital plan for 2024 through 2028 is focused on critical needs for reliability, system integrity, electric transmission and new renewable generation.

We commenced construction of our 260-mile Ready Wyoming electric transmission expansion project to stabilize long-term costs for customers, enhance energy market access and capacity, and interconnect our electric systems in Cheyenne and our jointly operated South Dakota and Wyoming system.

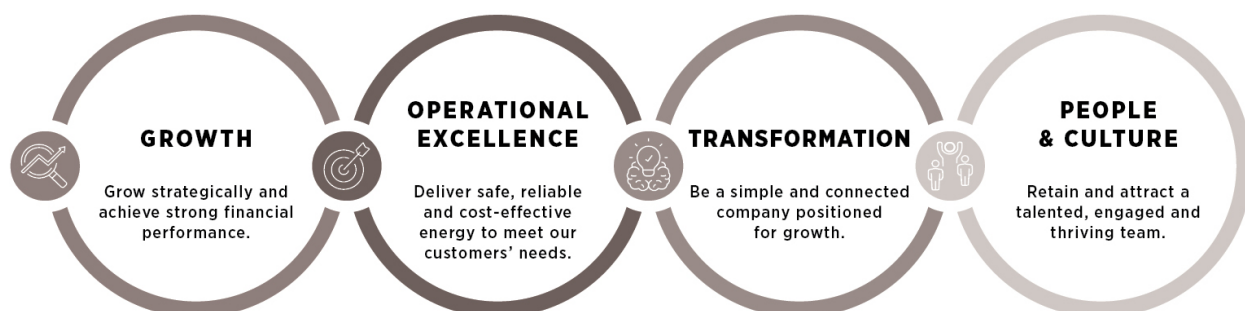
During the year, we reached the final stages of our integrated resource plan for our jointly operated South Dakota and Wyoming system. In 2023, we issued a request for proposals to add 100 megawatts of utility-owned renewable generation to our system by mid-2026.

We made great progress on our Clean Energy Plan to support Colorado’s decarbonization goals of 80% reduction in emissions by 2030 off a 2005 baseline. We issued a request for proposals to add 400 megawatts of renewable resources by 2029.

We also successfully served expanding data center and blockchain energy demand, a growing and important piece of our business, and a benefit to our other customers and local communities in Wyoming.

Looking to the horizon

Our strategic objectives, including Growth and Financial Performance, Operational Excellence, Transformation and People and Culture provide clarity around our goal of growing long-term value and serving our stakeholders effectively and efficiently. Our vision, mission and values embodied by our unique team and culture are the foundation for our sustainable success and the driving force for growing long-term value for our stakeholders.



Connecting the dots

Connecting our past success to a vibrant future is based in keeping our customers connected and safe. During 2023, we once again delivered reliable service, with all three of our electric utilities in the upper tier of reliability as reported by the Edison Electric Institute, with two of our utilities in the top quartile of rankings for minimizing customer outage minutes.

We take pride in connecting to our stakeholders within our communities, cultivating relationships and long-term business development. We work closely with our customers and communities, developing innovative solutions such as our unique tariffs to serve data centers and large blockchain customers, tailoring our service to their needs.

Our coworkers are also connected within our communities. We are proud to encourage and enable our employees to volunteer and engage locally. Our company and employees support a wide range of local nonprofit organizations with financial support, volunteer hours, serving on local community boards and much more. We were also recognized for our employment of veterans, and we value the benefits of their experience and leadership within our organization.

Our connections and interactions with utility regulators across our states are constructive and supportive of the needs of our customers. Over the last year, we negotiated settlements in three different rate reviews and continued to manage positive relationships with regulatory bodies across our service footprint. Our culture of transparency and proactive communication builds long-term trust and education about our goals, demonstrates the prudence of the decisions we are making for our customers, and promotes fair and timely recovery of investments and costs required to serve customers.

Growing long-term value

As we execute on our opportunities to sustainably grow long-term value for all our stakeholders, we thank you for the confidence and trust you have placed in our company to continue improving lives with energy.

Sincerely,



Steve Mills,
Chairman, Black Hills Corp. Board of Directors



Linn Evans,
President and CEO, Black Hills Corp.

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BLACK HILLS CORPORATION

**Notice of 2024
Annual Meeting of Shareholders
and Proxy Statement**

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BLACK HILLS CORPORATION
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

WHEN:

Tuesday, April 23, 2024
9:30 a.m., local time

WHERE:

Horizon Point
Company's Corporate Headquarters
7001 Mount Rushmore Road
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

We are pleased to invite you to attend the annual meeting of shareholders of Black Hills Corporation.

In the event it is not possible to attend our annual meeting in person, we encourage you to listen to the meeting by calling in: 605-782-9484, Conference ID: 604 530 619#. The presentation for this meeting can be located at www.ir.blackhillscorp.com by clicking on "Events and Presentations" in the "Investor Relations" section. The presentation will be posted on the website before the call. Please note, if you attend by calling in, you will not be able to vote your shares or submit questions. Accordingly, it is important that you vote your shares as instructed below.

Proposals:

1. Election of four directors in Class III: Linden R. Evans, Barry M. Granger, Tony A. Jensen, and Steven R. Mills.
2. Ratification of Deloitte & Touche LLP to serve as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2024.
3. Advisory vote to approve our executive compensation.
4. Any other business that properly comes before the annual meeting.

Record Date:

The Board set March 4, 2024 as the record date for the meeting. This means that our shareholders as of the close of business on that date are entitled to receive this notice of the meeting and vote at the meeting and any adjournments or postponements of the meeting.

How to Vote:

Your vote is very important. You may vote your shares by telephone, by the Internet or by returning the enclosed proxy. If you own shares of common stock other than the shares shown on the enclosed proxy, you will receive a proxy in a separate envelope for each such holding. Please vote each proxy received. To make sure that your vote is counted if voting by mail, you should allow enough time for the postal service to deliver your proxy before the meeting.

Sincerely,

/s/ AMY K. KOENIG

Amy K. Koenig

Vice President - Governance, Corporate Secretary and Deputy General Counsel

PROXY SUMMARY

BLACK HILLS CORPORATION OVERVIEW

We are a customer-focused energy solution provider that invests in our communities' safety, sustainability and growth with a mission of *Improving Life with Energy* and a vision to be the *Energy Partner of Choice*. The Company's core mission – and our primary focus – is to provide safe, reliable and cost-effective electric and natural gas service to more than 1.3 million utility customers in over 800 communities in eight states, including Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming.

Items of Business to be Considered at the Annual Meeting

| Proposal | | Board Recommendation | Page |
|----------|--|--|------|
| 1 | Election of Directors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR each Director Nominee | 6 |
| 2 | Ratification of Deloitte & Touche LLP to Serve as Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm for 2024 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR | 20 |
| 3 | Advisory Vote to Approve Executive Compensation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR | 23 |

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director Nominees

Our Board of Directors ("Board") is committed to oversight that promotes the long-term interests of our shareholders and other stakeholders. We believe this is best achieved with directors who bring a diverse and relevant set of skills, expertise, experiences and perspectives. Our Board is nominating four individuals for election at this annual meeting. The following table provides summary information about the nominees:

| Name | Age | Director Since | Independent | Committee Membership | Other U.S. Public Boards |
|------------------|-----|----------------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Linden R. Evans | 61 | 2018 | | NA | None |
| Barry M. Granger | 64 | 2020 | X | Compensation | None |
| Tony A. Jensen | 61 | 2019 | X | Audit | None |
| Steven R. Mills | 68 | 2011 | X | Board Chair; Governance | Amyris, Inc. |

Director Skills and Demographics

| | Evans | Granger | Jensen | McAllister | Mills | Otto | Prochazka | Roberts | Schober | Taylor |
|---------------------------------------|-------|---------|--------|------------|-------|------|-----------|---------|---------|--------|
| Skills and Experience | | | | | | | | | | |
| Business Operations | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | | X |
| Customer Service | X | | | | | | X | | | X |
| Cybersecurity/Technology | | | | X | | X | | | | |
| ESG/Sustainability | X | | | X | | | | X | | |
| Financial Acumen | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| Government/Regulatory | X | X | | | | X | X | | X | X |
| Health and Safety | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | | |
| Human Capital Management/Compensation | | | X | | | | X | X | | X |
| Legal/Governance/Compliance | X | X | X | X | | | | | | |
| Mergers and Acquisitions | X | | X | X | X | | | | X | X |
| Risk Management | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Strategic Planning | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Utility Industry | X | | | | | | X | | X | |
| Board Tenure | | | | | | | | | | |
| Years | 5 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 12 | 7 | 3 | 12 | 8 | 7 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | |
| Years Old | 61 | 64 | 61 | 59 | 68 | 64 | 58 | 71 | 68 | 60 |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | |
| Female | | | | X | | | | X | | X |
| Male | X | X | X | | X | X | X | | X | |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | | |
| African American/Black | | X | | | | | | | | |
| White/Caucasian | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |

OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

Our mission of *Improving Life with Energy* means we must be ready to make tomorrow even better than today. That is why we are committed to creating a cleaner energy future which builds upon our responsibility to provide the safe, reliable and cost-effective energy that improves our customers' lives. By investing in the success of our employees, continually innovating, thoughtfully utilizing resources and keeping people at the core of our decision-making, we are dedicated to the sustainability of our Company, communities and planet.

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Strategy and Oversight

We are continuously building upon our success of delivering cost-effective energy for customers and strong returns for investors by seeking renewable energy growth opportunities, minimizing risk and responding to stakeholders' evolving expectations. ESG and sustainability are inherently connected throughout our business and our ESG management is structured accordingly. Our Board oversees ESG, with management leadership from our CEO and executive steering committee, our dedicated department and our cross functional sustainability working group.

Responsibly Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

We have set challenging, yet realistic, goals for delivering cleaner energy. We've reduced our electric utilities' greenhouse gas emissions intensity by one-third since 2005 and have a clear path to achieve our reduction goals of 40% by 2030 and 70% by

2040. In 2022, we increased our gas distribution utilities' emissions target to Net Zero by 2035. We expect to achieve our Net Zero target through ongoing infrastructure investment, damage prevention and integration of low carbon fuels.

| Electric Utilities Goals⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ | Natural Gas Utilities Goals⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾ |
|--|---|
| ↓ 40% by 2030 | ↓ Net Zero by 2035 |
| ↓ 70% by 2040 | |

- (1) Our goals are compared to a 2005 baseline.
 (2) Electric Utilities goals include Scope 1 emissions from electric utility generating units and Scope 3 emissions from purchased power for sales.
 (3) Natural Gas Utilities goals include all Scope 1 sources of methane emissions on our distribution system, including fugitive emissions from pipeline mains and service lines, meters, transfer stations, system damages and system blow downs.

We are proud of our sustainability efforts and continue to pursue initiatives to enable the transition to a cleaner energy future, including:

- Since 2005, we have reduced GHG emissions intensity from our electric utilities by one-third. Additionally, our Electric Utilities have reduced nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide emissions by more than 75% since 2005. Colorado Electric has achieved a nearly 50% reduction in GHG emissions since 2005 and is on track to reach the State of Colorado's 80% carbon reduction goal by 2030.
- We completed a hydrogen blending feasibility study for our Cheyenne Prairie natural gas generation facility and are now working on a feasibility analysis for a coal to hydrogen project.
- We successfully filed and received approval for Green Forward, a voluntary renewable natural gas (RNG) attribute and carbon offset program, expected to provide customers with a cost-effective path to offset up to 100% or more of the emissions associated with their own natural gas footprint.
- As we look to the future, our approximately 500 MW of planned battery storage, renewable generation and additions, position us to achieve deeper carbon reductions that also deliver reliable and cost-effective energy to our customers.

We will continue executing our strategy of investing in cost-effective renewables and new technologies to further reduce our environmental impact across all states in which we operate, while continuing to deliver safe, reliable and cost effective energy to customers.

For additional information on our commitment to sustainability, you can review the following 2022 ESG reports on our website at www.blackhillsenergy.com/our-company/commitment-sustainability/sustainability-and-esg-reports:

- 2022 Corporate Sustainability Report
- 2022 Edison Electric Institute ESG Disclosure
- 2022 American Gas Association ESG Disclosure
- 2022 Natural Gas Sustainability Initiative Disclosure
- 2022 Sustainability Accounting Standards Board Disclosure
- 2022 Task Force on Climate Related Financial Disclosure Index

OUR COMMITMENT TO WILDFIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION

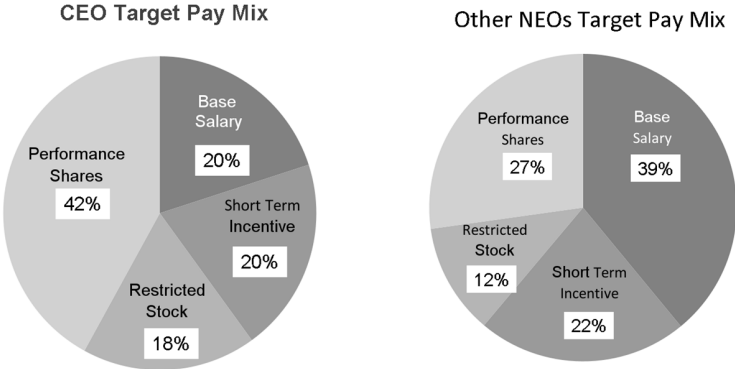
We have a long history of delivering safe and reliable energy to our customers. For decades, we have employed a wide variety of wildfire mitigation measures and initiatives to support the integrity of our energy delivery systems, while safeguarding our facilities and the surrounding environment. These efforts are part of our comprehensive approach to mitigate not only wildfire risk, but also a variety of extreme weather events, including ice storms and high winds. We are utilizing a three-pronged approach to wildfire mitigation, which includes the following:

- Asset programs like preventative inspection, repair, and maintenance practices, including vegetation management, line patrol in the air and on the ground, and pole inspections and replacement.
- Integrity programs and system investments aimed at improving reliability and reducing risk, undergrounding electric distribution lines, and applying construction standards that reduce the likelihood of wildfire interactions with facilities.
- Operational response utilizing risk-driven decisions including system reconfigurations, daily work activities and equipment operation (non-reclosing energized power lines), and fire weather forecasting tools to enhance situational awareness and understanding of a potentially hazardous fire area.

We are committed to the ongoing development and implementation of risk reduction strategies for the betterment of the environment and our customers, employees, and investors. For additional information on our commitment to wildfire safety and prevention, please visit our website at www.blackhillsenergy.com/wildfire-safety.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

We have an Executive Compensation Philosophy that establishes the framework our Compensation Committee applies in structuring compensation for our executive officers ("Named Executive Officers" or "NEOs"). The components of our executive pay program consist of a base salary, a short-term incentive plan, and long-term incentives. Our executive pay program aligns the interest of our Named Executive Officers with our stakeholders by tying incentive pay to achievement of performance metrics.



| | | | |
|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|------|
| Variable | 80 % | Variable | 61 % |
| Linked to Share Value | 60 % | Linked to Share Value | 39 % |

*Percentages may differ from above due to rounding.

The performance measures for our incentive compensation plans are discussed in greater detail on page 27 of the Proxy Statement. We also require our executive officers to hold a significant amount of our common stock (between 3 and 6 times the base salary) to further align their interests with the interest of our stakeholders.

Our compensation practices and policies demonstrate the alignment between executive compensation and the interests of our stakeholders. Our shareholders share our confidence in our compensation philosophy as reflected by the support of shareholders owning 98 percent of the shares who voted to approve our 2022 executive compensation at last year's annual meeting.

The following table summarizes performance metrics and results for incentive plans that ended in 2023.

| Pay Element | Performance Measure | 2023 Results |
|---|--|---|
| Short-term Incentive: Payout of 153.67% of Target | | |
| 70 Percent | EPS from ongoing operations, as adjusted, target set at \$3.75; threshold set at \$3.49 | \$3.93 per share for incentive plan purposes |
| | Timeliness of Incident Reporting, target set at 91%; threshold set at 90% | 93% |
| 7.5 Percent | Average Proactive Safety Activities/Employee; target set at 3; threshold set at 2 | 4 |
| | Total Case Incident Rate (TCIR); target set at 1.23; threshold set at 1.39 | TCIR: 1.51 |
| | Top Quartile PMVI Performance; target set at 1.44; threshold set at 1.56 | PMVI: 1.65 |
| 7.5 Percent | Hits Per Thousand (HPT), target set at 2.05; threshold set at 2.20 | HPT: 2.05 |
| | Top Quartile System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) Performance, target set at 65.7; threshold set at 72.8 | SAIDI: 61.56 |
| 5.0 Percent | Customer Interaction: Customer Effort; target set at 8.9; threshold set at 8.8 | 8.8 |
| | Customer Interaction: Net Promoter Score; target set at 67; threshold set at 64 | 65.4 |
| 2.5 Percent | Customer Brand/Perception: JD Power Gas vs Industry; target set at 50%; threshold set at 25% | 41% |
| | Customer Brand/Perception: JD Power Electric vs Industry; target set at +2 ranking; threshold set at +1 ranking | 0 |
| 7.5 Percent | Percent of Diverse Candidate Slates; target set at 85%; threshold set at 80% | 90% |
| | Percent of Diverse Interview Panels; target set at 92%; threshold set at 90% | 96% |
| Long-term Incentive (2021-2023 Plan): Payout of 16.21% of Target | | |
| 60 Percent | Total Shareholder Return (TSR) relative to our Performance Peer Group measured over a three-year period; target set at 50th Percentile; threshold set at 25th Percentile | TSR: 1.27% 16th Percentile Ranking in Performance Peer Group |
| 20 Percent | Average EPS as Adjusted; target set at \$4.09; threshold set at \$3.88 | Average EPS: \$3.882 |
| 20 Percent | Average Cost to Serve; target set at 45.0%; threshold set at 47.2% | Average Cost to Serve: 46.3% |

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Black Hills Corporation delivered on our financial commitments during an inflationary macroeconomic environment. Earnings per share for the year were \$3.91, above our earnings guidance range of \$3.65 to \$3.85. We achieved our financial targets, advanced our key strategic initiatives, executed our capital plan and delivered excellent operations performance. Significant accomplishments for the year included:

- Provided the safe and reliable service our communities and customers depend on and achieved several notable operations performance metrics:
 - * Achieved a safety performance preventable motor vehicle incident rate of 1.65 compared to a 2022 American Gas Association report top quartile average of 1.72
 - * Achieved 10 consecutive years of new peaks for Wyoming Electric, representing 127 MW, which is a 69% increase
- Completed financing activity to accomplish our long-term objective of investing to meet the needs of our customers, including:
 - * Completed a public debt offering of \$450 million, 6.15% senior unsecured notes due 2034
 - * Completed a public debt offering of \$350 million, 5.95% senior unsecured notes due 2028
 - * Issued a total of 2.0 million shares of new common stock for net proceeds of \$118.7 million under our at-the-market equity offering program
 - * Improved our year-over-year net debt to capitalization ratio to 57.3% from 60.8%
 - * Grew our dividend for the 53rd consecutive year
- Invested in our utility infrastructure and systems:
 - * Deployed \$590 million in capital projects
 - * Commenced construction on our 260-mile Ready Wyoming Electric Transmission Expansion Project
 - * Issued an RFP under our South Dakota Electric Integrated Resource Plan for 100 MW of build-transfer renewable generation by mid-2026
- Executed a number of regulatory accomplishments:
 - * Successfully completed rate review requests for Rocky Mountain Natural Gas and Wyoming Electric
 - * Reached constructive settlements for our rate reviews for Colorado Gas and Wyoming Gas
 - * Received a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Ready Wyoming Electric Transmission Expansion Project
- Continued our focus on sustainability, including:
 - * Issued an updated sustainability report and updated EEI, AGA, SASB, NGSi, and TCFD disclosures
 - * Issued an RFP under our Colorado Electric Clean Energy Plan for approximately 400 MW of renewable resources by 2030

BLACK HILLS CORPORATION

7001 Mount Rushmore Road
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

PROXY STATEMENT



A proxy in the accompanying form is solicited by the Board of Directors of Black Hills Corporation, a South Dakota corporation, to be voted at the annual meeting of our shareholders to be held Tuesday, April 23, 2024, and at any adjournment of the annual meeting.



The enclosed form of proxy, when executed and returned, will be voted as set forth in the proxy. Any shareholder signing a proxy has the power to revoke the proxy in writing, addressed to our secretary, or in person at the meeting at any time before the proxy is exercised.



This proxy statement and the accompanying form of proxy are to be first mailed on or about March 15, 2024. Our 2023 annual report to shareholders is being mailed to shareholders with this proxy statement.

VOTING RIGHTS AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS



Only our shareholders of record at the close of business on March 4, 2024 are entitled to vote at the meeting. Our outstanding voting stock as of the record date consisted of 68,289,533 shares of our common stock.



Each outstanding share of our common stock is entitled to one vote. Cumulative voting is permitted in the election of directors in the same class.

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COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING PROCESS

Who is soliciting my proxy?

The Board of Directors of Black Hills Corporation is soliciting your proxy.

Where and when is the annual meeting?

The annual meeting is at 9:30 a.m., local time, April 23, 2024 at Horizon Point, the Company's corporate headquarters, 7001 Mount Rushmore Road, Rapid City, South Dakota.

Who can vote?

Holders of our common stock as of the close of business on the record date, March 4, 2024, can vote at our annual meeting. Each share of our common stock has one vote for Proposals 2, and 3. Related to Proposal 1, Election of Directors, cumulative voting is permitted in the election of directors in the same class.

How do I vote?

There are three ways to vote by proxy:

- by calling the toll free telephone number on the enclosed proxy;
- by going to the website identified on the enclosed proxy; or
- by returning the enclosed proxy in the envelope provided.

You *may* be able to vote by telephone or over the Internet if your shares are held in the name of a bank or broker. If this is the case, you will need to follow their instructions.

What constitutes a quorum?

Shareholders representing at least 50 percent of our common stock issued and outstanding as of the record date must be present at the annual meeting, either in person or by proxy, for there to be a quorum. Abstentions and broker non-votes are counted as present for establishing a quorum. A broker non-vote occurs when a broker or other nominee holding shares for a beneficial owner does not vote on a particular proposal because the broker or nominee does not have discretionary voting power and has not received instructions from the beneficial owner.

What am I voting on and what is the required vote for the proposals to be adopted?

The required vote and method of counting votes for the various business matters to be considered at the annual meeting are described in the table below. If you sign and return your proxy card without indicating your vote, your shares will be voted in accordance with the Board recommendations as set forth below.

| Item of Business | Board Recommendation | Voting Approval Standard | Effect of Abstention | Effect of Broker Non-Vote |
|--|--|---|----------------------|--|
| Proposal 1: Election of Directors | FOR election of each director nominee | The four nominees with the most "FOR" votes are elected to their respective classes. If a nominee receives more "WITHHOLD AUTHORITY" votes than "FOR" votes, the nominee must submit a resignation for consideration by the Governance Committee and final Board decision. | No effect | No effect |
| Proposal 2: Ratification of Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm | FOR | The votes cast "FOR" must exceed the votes cast "AGAINST". | No effect | Not applicable; broker may vote shares without instruction |
| Proposal 3: Advisory Vote to Approve Executive Compensation | FOR | The votes cast "FOR" must exceed the votes cast "AGAINST". This advisory vote is not binding on the Board, but the Board will consider the vote results when making future executive compensation decisions. | No effect | No effect |

Is cumulative voting permitted for the election of directors?

In the election of directors, you may cumulate your vote. Cumulative voting allows you to allocate among the director nominees in the same class, as you see fit, the total number of votes equal to the number of director positions to be filled multiplied by the number of shares you hold. For example, if you own 100 shares of stock, and there are three directors to be elected in a class at the annual meeting, you could allocate 300 "For" votes (three times 100) among as few or as many of the three nominees to be voted on at the annual meeting as you choose.

If you choose to cumulate your votes, you will need to submit a proxy card or a ballot and make an explicit statement of your intent to cumulate your votes, either by indicating in writing on the proxy card or by indicating in writing on your ballot when voting at the annual meeting. If you hold shares beneficially in street name and wish to cumulate votes, you should contact your broker, trustee or nominee.

How will my shares be voted if they are held in a broker's name?

If you hold your shares through an account with a bank or broker, the bank or broker may vote your shares on some matters even if you do not provide voting instructions. Brokerage firms have the authority under the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") rules to vote shares on certain matters (such as the ratification of auditors) when their customers do not provide voting instructions. However, on most other matters when the brokerage firm has not received voting instructions from its customers, the brokerage firm cannot vote the shares on that matter and a "broker non-vote" occurs. **This means that brokers may not vote your shares on the election of directors or the "say on pay" advisory vote if you have not given your broker specific instructions as to how to vote. Please be sure to give specific voting instructions to your broker so that your vote can be counted.**

What should I do now?

You should vote your shares by telephone, over the Internet or by returning your signed and dated proxy card in the enclosed envelope as soon as possible so that your shares will be represented at the annual meeting.

Who will count the vote?

Representatives of our transfer agent, Equiniti Trust Company, will count the votes and serve as judges of the election.

Who conducts the proxy solicitation and how much will it cost?

We are asking for your proxy for the annual meeting and will pay all the costs of asking for shareholder proxies. We have hired Georgeson LLC to help us send out the proxy materials and ask for proxies. Georgeson LLC's fee for these services is anticipated to be \$12,250 plus out-of-pocket expenses. We can ask for proxies through the mail, by telephone or in person. We can use our directors, officers and employees to ask for proxies. These people do not receive additional compensation for these services. We will reimburse brokers and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for forwarding solicitation material to the beneficial owners of our common stock.

Can I revoke my proxy?

Yes. You can change your vote in one of four ways at any time before your proxy is used. First, you can enter a new vote by telephone or Internet. Second, you can revoke your proxy by written notice. Third, you can send a later dated proxy changing your vote. Fourth, you can attend the meeting and vote in person.

Who should I call with questions?

If you have questions about the annual meeting, you should call Amy K. Koenig, Vice President - Governance, Corporate Secretary and Deputy General Counsel, at (605) 721-1700.

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| PROPOSAL 1 | ELECTION OF DIRECTORS |
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Our Board is nominating four individuals for election as directors at this annual meeting. All of the nominees are currently serving as our directors. In accordance with our Bylaws and Article VI of our Articles of Incorporation, members of our Board are elected to three classes of staggered terms consisting of three years each, and until their successors are duly elected and qualified. At this annual meeting, four directors will be elected to Class III for a term of three years until our annual meeting in 2027.

Nominees for director at the annual meeting are Linden R. Evans, Barry M. Granger, Tony A. Jensen, and Steven R. Mills. Our Bylaws require a minimum of nine directors. Currently, the Board has set the size of the Board at ten directors.


If, at the time of the annual meeting, any nominees are unable to stand for election, the Board may designate a substitute or reduce the number of directors to no less than nine. In that case, shares represented by proxies may be voted for a substitute director nominated by the Board. We do not expect that any nominee will be unavailable or unable to serve.

The Board and the Governance Committee believe that the combination of the various qualifications, skills and experiences of the directors contribute to an effective and well-functioning Board, and that, individually and as a whole, the directors possess the necessary qualifications to provide effective oversight of the business and quality advice to the Company's management. Included in each director's biography below is an assessment of the specific qualifications, attributes, skills and experience that have led to the conclusion that each individual should serve as a director in light of our current business and structure.

The Board recommends a vote *FOR* the election of the following nominees:

| Director Nominee | Class | Year Term Expiring |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Linden R. Evans | III | 2027 |
| Barry M. Granger | III | 2027 |
| Tony A. Jensen | III | 2027 |
| Steven R. Mills | III | 2027 |

DIRECTOR SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE


| | | |
|---|--|---|
|  | Linden R. Evans President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company | Outside Directorships: None |
| | Director since: 2018 | |
| | Director Class: III, term expiring in 2027 | Other U.S. Public Company Directorships: None |
| | Age: 61 | |

Summary:

Mr. Evans has been President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company since January 1, 2019. He previously served as President and Chief Operating Officer from 2016 to 2018, and President and Chief Operating Officer – Utilities from 2004 to 2015. He began his career with Black Hills Corporation in 2001 as Corporate Counsel. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Evans was a mining engineer and an attorney specializing in environmental and corporate legal matters.

Skills Relevant to BHC:

As CEO of Black Hills Corporation, Mr. Evans brings historic institutional knowledge of the Company and its operations that assist the Board in its evaluation of the Company's financial and operational risks and strategy.

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|  | Barry M. Granger Managing Partner and Co-Founder of Vonbar Investments LLC | Standing Board Committees: Compensation Committee |
| | Director since: 2020 | |
| | Director Class: III, term expiring in 2027 | Other U.S. Public Company Directorships: None |
| | Age: 64 | |

Summary:

Mr. Granger has over 40 years of experience in the chemical and industrial markets. He is the Managing Partner of Vonbar Investments LLC. He held leadership roles at DuPont as Vice President of Government Marketing and Government Affairs and Vice President and General Manager at Tyvek®. Early in his career, he served as the Executive Assistant to the Chairman and CEO of DuPont. He has held a variety of leadership positions with increasing responsibilities in business, regulatory affairs, operations, sales and marketing.

Skills Relevant to BHC:

Mr. Granger's leadership roles in the areas of governmental affairs, business and operations offer the Board insight regarding business strategy and leadership, oversight of operations, regulatory affairs, safety and people development.


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|  | <p>Tony A. Jensen</p> <p>Retired Director, President and Chief Executive Officer of Royal Gold, Inc.</p> | <p>Standing Board Committees:</p> <p>Audit Committee</p> |
| | <p>Director since: 2019</p> | |
| | <p>Director Class: III, term expiring in 2027</p> | <p>Other U.S. Public Company Directorships:</p> <p>None</p> |
| | <p>Age: 61</p> | |

Summary:

Mr. Jensen has over 35 years of experience in the international mining and mining finance industries. From 2003 until his retirement in 2019, Mr. Jensen served in several leadership roles at Royal Gold, Inc., a public precious metals company, including Director, President and Chief Executive Officer from 2006 to 2019, and Chief Operating Officer from 2003 to 2006. Prior to 2003, he held roles with progressively more responsibility in engineering, finance, strategic growth, safety, environmental excellence, and operational efficiency. Mr. Jensen also serves on the Boards of Antofagasta Minerals SA and Antofagasta plc where he chairs the Audit and Risk Committee and is a member of the Projects Committee as well as the Governance and Nominations Committee.

Skills Relevant to BHC:

As the former CEO of a publicly traded precious metals stream and royalty company, Mr. Jensen brings business, leadership, governance, and financial expertise that assists the Board in evaluating the Company's financial risks and strategy and capital deployment.

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|  | <p>Kathleen S. McAllister</p> <p>Retired Director, President and Chief Executive Officer of Transocean Partners LLC</p> | <p>Standing Board Committees:</p> <p>Audit Committee</p> |
| | <p>Director since: 2019</p> | |
| | <p>Director Class: I, term expiring in 2025</p> | <p>Other U.S. Public Company Directorships:</p> <p>Silverbow Resources, Inc. (since 2023) TMC The Metals Company Inc. (since 2022)</p> |
| | <p>Age: 59</p> | |

Summary:

Ms. McAllister has over 30 years of experience in diverse leadership roles with global, capital intensive companies in the energy value chain. She served as Director, President and Chief Executive Officer of Transocean Partners LLC, an international provider of offshore contract drilling services from 2014 to 2016, and as Chief Financial Officer in 2016. She held the roles of Vice President and Treasurer of Transocean Ltd. from 2011 to 2014. Prior to 2011, she served in roles with increasing responsibility in finance, information technology, tax and treasury. Ms. McAllister is a National Association of Corporate Directors Board Fellow and a Certified Public Accountant. She previously served on the board of Maersk Drilling from 2019 to 2021, where she chaired the Audit and Risk Committee. She is a Board Member of Silverbow Resources, Inc. and TMC The Metals Company Inc., where she chairs the Audit Committees. She also serves on the Board of Hoegh LNG Partners.

Skills Relevant to BHC:

As a former CEO, CFO and Treasurer of publicly traded companies, Ms. McAllister's broad business perspective, financial acumen and experience in capital raising and allocation contributes to the Board's oversight of strategy and risk. Her experience serving as a corporate director and audit and risk committee chair on other public company boards provides a valuable perspective on the Board's role in management oversight and corporate governance.



Steven R. Mills

Chairman of the Board
Retired Public Company Financial Executive

Director since: 2011

Director Class: III, term expiring in 2027

Age: 68

Standing Board Committees:

Governance Committee

Other U.S. Public Company Directorships:

Amyris, Inc. (since 2018)

Summary:

Mr. Mills has more than 40 years of experience in the fields of accounting, corporate finance, strategic planning, risk management, and mergers and acquisitions. He served as Chief Financial Officer of Amyris, Inc., a renewable products company, from May 2002 to December 2003. Prior to joining Amyris, he had a 33-year career at Archer Daniels Midland Company, one of the world's largest agricultural processors and food ingredient providers. At Archer Daniels Midland, he held various senior executive roles, including Chief Financial Officer, Controller, and responsibility for leading company strategic efforts globally. Mr. Mills also serves on the boards of Arianna S.A., Illinois College and First Interstate Corporation (along with its wholly-owned banking subsidiary, Hickory Point Bank & Trust).

Skills Relevant to BHC:

Mr. Mills brings to the Board executive leadership and financial experience as a former CFO of publicly traded companies and strategic planning experience as both a former senior vice president of strategic planning and a senior executive vice president performance and growth for a publicly traded company. These roles also position Mr. Mills to provide the Board perspectives on mergers and acquisitions and capital deployment.



Robert P. Otto

Owner of Bob Otto Consulting LLC

Director since: 2017

Director Class: I, term expiring in 2025

Age: 64

Standing Board Committees:

Audit Committee

Other U.S. Public Company Directorships:


None

Summary:

Since 2017, Mr. Otto has provided strategic planning and advisory services in cybersecurity and intelligence through his company, Bob Otto Consulting LLC. With 34 years of U.S. Air Force service, he served as a general officer from 2008 to 2016, culminating as lieutenant general and the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance. He was directly responsible for intelligence policy, planning, implementation, oversight, and leadership of a 27,000-person workforce.

Skills Relevant to BHC:

Mr. Otto's experience in cybersecurity and intelligence through his lengthy career with the U.S. Air Force provides the Board information technology and cybersecurity expertise. His leadership and oversight of a large workforce positions him to provide the Board insights regarding human capital management.


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|  | Scott M. Prochazka Former Board Member, President and Chief Executive Officer of CenterPoint Energy | Standing Board Committees: Compensation Committee |
| | Director since: 2020 | |
| | Director Nominee Class: II, term expiring in 2026 | Other U.S. Public Company Directorships: Li-Cycle Holdings Corp. (since 2021) |
| | Age: 58 | |

Summary:

Mr. Prochazka served as Board Member, President and Chief Executive Officer of CenterPoint Energy, a public energy delivery company with electric transmission and distribution, power generation and natural gas distribution operations, from 2014 until his retirement in 2020. Prior to that he was Chief Operating Officer from 2012 to 2013, Senior Vice President of Electric Business from 2011 to 2012, and Vice President of Gas Business Unit from 2009 to 2011. He held other management positions including Vice President Customer Care and Support Services and Vice President Texas Gas Region. Before his time at CenterPoint Energy, Mr. Prochazka held roles of increasing responsibility at Dow Chemical. Mr. Prochazka was a Board Member of Enable Midstream Partners, LP from 2014 to 2020, and Chairman from 2015 to 2017. Mr. Prochazka was previously a Board Member of Peridot Acquisition Corporation, from 2020 to 2021, where he served on the Audit and Compensation Committees, and Peridot Acquisition Corp. II, from 2021 to 2023, where he served on the Audit and Compensation Committees. He currently serves on Li-Cycle Holdings Corp. (successor to Peridot Acquisition Corp.) where he chairs the Audit Committee and serves on the Nominating/Governance Committee and the Compensation Committee. He also serves on the Board of Saudi Electric Co.

Skills Relevant to BHC:

Mr. Prochazka's executive experience as a former CEO of a publicly traded electric and gas utility company, with a market cap more than four times that of Black Hills Corporation, and leadership experience as COO of both gas and electric utility divisions, provides a valuable perspective regarding utility business operations, regulatory and governmental affairs, safety, capital deployment and risk management.

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|  | Rebecca B. Roberts Retired President of Chevron Pipe Line Company | Standing Board Committees: Compensation Committee Governance Committee (Chair) |
| | Director since: 2011 | |
| | Director Nominee Class: II, term expiring in 2026 | Other U.S. Public Company Directorships: AbbVie, Inc. (since 2018) MSA Safety, Inc. (since 2013) |
| | Age: 71 | |

Summary:

Ms. Roberts has over 35 years of experience in the energy industry, including managing pipelines in North America and global pipeline projects, and managing a portfolio of power plants in the United States, Asia, and the Middle East. From 2006 until her retirement in 2011, Ms. Roberts served as the President of Chevron Pipe Line Company, a pipeline company transporting crude oil, refined petroleum products, liquefied petroleum gas, natural gas, and chemicals within the United States. From 2003 until 2006, she was the President of Chevron Global Power Generation. She was previously a Board Member of Enbridge, Inc., from 2015 to 2018. Ms. Roberts is a Board Member of Abbvie, Inc. and MSA Safety, Inc., where she serves as the Chair of the Compensation Committee. As previously disclosed, Ms. Roberts, who will turn 72 prior to our 2025 annual meeting, is required to resign effective at that meeting pursuant to our bylaws.

Skills Relevant to BHC:

Ms. Robert's executive experience overseeing natural gas pipelines and power generation facilities positions her to assist the Board as it evaluates the Company's operational, health and safety risks. Her prior and ongoing experience on other public company boards provides insight as to the Board's role in oversight of management as well as corporate governance.



Mark A. Schober

Retired Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of ALLETE, Inc.

Director since: 2015

Director Class: I, term expiring in 2025

Age: 68

Standing Board Committees:

Audit Committee (Chair)
Governance Committee

Other U.S. Public Company Directorships:

None

Summary:

Mr. Schober has more than 35 years of experience in the utility and energy industry. From 2006 until his retirement in 2014, Mr. Schober served as the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of ALLETE, Inc., a public energy company. His extensive industry experience in the upper Midwest provides expertise in the regulated business model and the unique challenges of the geographic and regulatory environment in which we operate.

Skills Relevant to BHC:

Mr. Schober brings to the Board business and leadership experience as a former executive of a public company, regulated utility experience as a former executive of a publicly traded Midwest based energy company, and financial expertise having served as a CFO. He also provides insight to the Company regarding potential exposures and risks in these areas.



Teresa A. Taylor

Chief Executive Officer of Blue Valley Advisors, LLC

Director since: 2016

Director Nominee Class: II, term expiring in 2026

Age: 60

Standing Board Committees:

Compensation Committee (Chair)
Governance Committee

Other U.S. Public Company Directorships:

T-Mobile USA, Inc. (since 2013)

Summary:

Ms. Taylor has over 30 years of experience in the technology, media, and telecom sectors. She has been the Chief Executive Officer of Blue Valley Advisors, LLC, a consulting firm that she founded, since 2011. She was the Chief Operating Officer of Qwest Communications, Inc., a telecommunications carrier, from 2009 to 2011, where she led the daily operations and a senior management team responsible for 30,000 employees in field support, technical development, sales, marketing, customer support and information technology systems. She is a Board Member of T-Mobile USA, Inc. She was previously a Board Member of First Interstate BancSystem, Inc. from 2012 to 2020, Columbia Pipeline Group Inc. from 2015 to 2016, and NiSource, a public utility company from 2012 to 2015.

Skills Relevant to BHC:

Ms. Taylor's broad range of experience over her three decades-long career, including in the fields of human resources, customer support, information technology systems, and business operations, add breadth and depth to the board. Her experience leading large employee teams lends toward engagement with the Board in the areas of compensation practices and human capital management. Ms. Taylor's experience as a lead independent director of a publicly traded company provides further insight into Board governance and oversight of management.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Corporate Governance Guidelines

Our Board has adopted “Corporate Governance Guidelines of the Board,” which guide the operation of our Board and assist the Board in fulfilling its obligations to shareholders and other constituencies. The guidelines lay the foundation for the Board’s responsibilities, operations, leadership, organization and committee matters. The Governance Committee reviews the guidelines annually, and the guidelines may be amended at any time, upon recommendation by the Governance Committee and approval of the Board. These guidelines can be found in the “Corporate Governance” section of our website (<https://ir.blackhillscorp.com/corporate-governance/governance-documents>).

Board Leadership Structure

On May 1, 2020, Steven R. Mills, an independent director, was appointed Chairman of the Board. As Chairman, Mr. Mills leads our Board in the performance of its duties by working with the CEO to establish meeting agendas, facilitating board meetings and executive sessions, and collaborating with the Board to annually evaluate the performance of the CEO.

As provided in our Corporate Governance Guidelines, the Board does not have a policy on whether or not the roles of Chairman and CEO should be separate or combined. The Governance Committee annually reviews the appropriate leadership structure for the Company and recommends a Chairman for Board approval. While our Bylaws and Corporate Governance Guidelines do not require that our Chairman and CEO positions be held by separate individuals, the Board believes that having separate positions and having an independent director serve as Chairman is the appropriate leadership structure for the Company at this time because it allows our CEO to focus on business operations and our Chairman to focus on Board governance.

Risk Oversight

Our Board oversees an enterprise risk management (“ERM”) approach to risk management that supports our operational and strategic objectives. It fulfills its oversight responsibilities through receipt of quarterly reports from management regarding material risks involving strategic planning and execution, operations, physical and cybersecurity, environmental, social and governance (“ESG”), financial, legal, safety, regulatory, and human resources risks. While our full Board retains responsibility for risk oversight, it delegates oversight of certain risk considerations to its committees within each of their respective areas of responsibility as defined in the charter for each committee.

Our management is responsible for day-to-day risk management and operates under our ERM program that addresses enterprise risks. The ERM program includes practices to identify risks, assess the impact and likelihood of occurrence, and develop action plans to prevent the occurrence or mitigate the impact of the risk. The ERM program includes regular reporting to our senior management team, quarterly reporting to our Board, and monitoring and testing by the Risk Management, Compliance and Internal Audit groups.

Sustainability Oversight

We are committed to creating a cleaner energy future that builds upon our responsibility to provide the safe, reliable and economic energy that improves our customers’ lives. The Board oversees management’s execution of our sustainability objectives and receives quarterly updates from management regarding sustainability matters. Under the oversight of the Board, we published our 2022 Corporate Sustainability Report in the third quarter of 2023. In addition to announcing progress toward our goal to reduce electric utility emission intensity 40% by 2030 and 70% by 2040, we provided key strategic updates to our plans to achieve net zero emissions by 2035 for our natural gas distribution system. Also in the third quarter of 2023, we issued updated Edison Electric Institute and American Gas Association ESG disclosures, Natural Gas Sustainability Initiative (NGSI) disclosures, Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) disclosures, and Task Force on Climate Related Financial Disclosure Index disclosures.

Cyber and Physical Security Oversight

Our Board retains oversight of cyber and physical security. Our Chief Information Officer provides the Board quarterly reports that summarize material security risks and the measures that have been put in place to mitigate the associated risks. These reports address a variety of topics including updates on strategic initiatives, industry trends, threat vulnerability assessments, and efforts to prevent, detect and respond to internal and external critical threats.

Human Capital Management Oversight

Primary responsibility for oversight of human capital management rests with our Compensation Committee. As part of its oversight, the Committee reviews regular reports from management regarding diversity and inclusion, pay equity, strategic workforce planning, talent retention, employee benefits programs, employee engagement, human rights, and company culture.

Succession Planning Oversight

Our Board is actively engaged in succession planning for our key executive positions to ensure a strong bench of future leaders. To assist the Board, our CEO and our Human Resources team perform talent reviews and discuss succession planning and leadership development. Semi-annually, their assessment of senior executive talent, including potential of such talent to succeed our CEO or other executive officers, readiness for succession and development opportunities are presented to our Board.

Director Nominees

The Governance Committee uses a variety of methods for identifying and evaluating nominees for director. The Governance Committee regularly assesses the appropriate size of the Board and whether any vacancies on the Board are expected due to retirement or otherwise. In the event vacancies are anticipated, or otherwise arise, the Governance Committee considers various potential candidates for director. Board candidates are considered based upon various criteria, including diversity of gender, race and ethnicity; business, administrative and professional skills or experiences; an understanding of relevant industries, technologies and markets; financial literacy; independence status; the ability and willingness to contribute time and special competence to Board activities; personal integrity and independent judgment; and a commitment to enhancing shareholder value. The Governance Committee considers these and other factors as it deems appropriate, given the needs of the Board. Our goal is a diverse, talented, and highly engaged Board, with members whose skills, background and experience are complementary and, together, cover the spectrum of areas that impact our business currently and in the future. The Governance Committee considers candidates for Board membership suggested by a variety of sources, including current or past Board members, the use of third-party executive search firms, members of management, and shareholders. Any shareholder may make recommendations for consideration by the Governance Committee for membership on the Board by sending a written statement of the qualifications of the recommended individual to the Corporate Secretary. The Committee evaluates all director candidates in the same manner using the same criteria regardless of who recommends them.

Shareholders who intend to nominate persons for election to the Board must provide timely written notice of the nomination in accordance with Article I, Section 9 of our Bylaws. Generally, our Corporate Secretary must receive the written notice at our executive offices at 7001 Mount Rushmore Road, P.O. Box 1400, Rapid City, South Dakota 57709, not less than 90 days nor more than 120 days prior to the anniversary date of the immediately preceding annual meeting of shareholders. For the 2025 shareholder meeting, those dates are January 23, 2025 and December 24, 2024. The notice must include at a minimum the information set forth in Article I, Section 9 of our Bylaws, including the shareholder's identity, contingent ownership interests, description of any agreement made with others acting in concert with respect to the nomination, specific information about the nominee and certain representations by the nominee to us.

Board Independence

In accordance with NYSE rules, the Board through its Governance Committee, affirmatively determines the independence of each director and director nominee in accordance with guidelines it has adopted, which include all elements of independence set forth in the NYSE listing standards. These guidelines are contained in our Policy for Director Independence, which can be found in the "Corporate Governance" section of our website (<https://ir.blackhillscorp.com/corporate-governance/governance-documents>). Based on these standards, the Governance Committee determined that each of the following non-employee directors is independent and has no relationship with us, except as a director and shareholder: Barry M. Granger, Tony A. Jensen, Kathleen S. McAllister, Steven R. Mills, Robert P. Otto, Scott M. Prochazka, Rebecca B. Roberts, Mark A. Schober, and Teresa A. Taylor. In addition, based upon these standards, the Governance Committee determined that Mr. Evans is not independent because he is an officer of the Company.

Director Resignation Policies

The Corporate Governance Guidelines require members of the Board to submit a letter of resignation for consideration by the Board in certain circumstances. The Corporate Governance Guidelines include a plurality plus voting policy. Pursuant to the policy, any nominee for election as a director in an uncontested election who receives a greater number of votes "Withheld" from his or her election than votes "For" his or her election will promptly tender his or her resignation as a director to the Chairman of the Board following certification of the election results. Broker non-votes will not be deemed to be votes "For" or "Withheld" from a director's election for purposes of the policy. The Governance Committee (without the participation of the affected director) will consider each resignation tendered under the policy and recommend to the Board whether to accept or reject it. The Board will then take the appropriate action on each tendered resignation, taking into account the Governance Committee's recommendation. The Governance Committee in making its recommendation, and the Board in making its decision, may consider any factors or other information that it considers appropriate, including the reasons why the Governance Committee believes shareholders "Withheld" votes for election from such director and any other circumstances

surrounding the “Withheld” votes, any alternatives for curing the underlying cause of the “Withheld” votes, the qualifications of the tendering director, his or her past and expected future contributions to us and the Board, and the overall composition of the Board, including whether accepting the resignation would cause us to fail to meet any applicable SEC or NYSE requirements. The Board will publicly disclose its decision and rationale by filing a Form 8-K with the SEC within 90 days after receipt of the tendered resignation.

The Corporate Governance Guidelines also require members of the Board to tender a letter of resignation in the event of a change in professional responsibilities that may directly or indirectly impact that Board member’s ability to fulfill directorship obligations. The Board is not obligated to accept that resignation. The Governance Committee will review the affected member’s service and qualifications and recommend to the Board the continued appropriateness of Board membership under the circumstances.

Codes of Business Conduct and Ethics

The Code of Business Conduct and the Code of Ethics that apply to our Chief Executive Officer and Senior Financial Officers can be found in the “Corporate Governance” section of our website (<https://ir.blackhillscorp.com/corporate-governance/governance-documents>). We intend to disclose any amendments to, or waivers of, the Code of Ethics on our website. Please note that none of the information contained on our website is incorporated by reference in this proxy statement.

Certain Relationships and Related Party Transactions

We recognize related party transactions can present potential or actual conflicts of interest and create the appearance that decisions are based on considerations other than the best interests of us and our shareholders. Accordingly, as a general matter, it is our preference to avoid related party transactions. Nevertheless, we recognize that there are situations where related party transactions may be in, or may not be inconsistent with, the best interests of us and our shareholders, including but not limited to situations where we may obtain products or services of a nature, quantity or quality, or on other terms, that are not readily available from alternative sources or when we provide products or services to related parties on an arm’s length basis on terms comparable to those provided to unrelated third parties or on terms comparable to those provided to employees generally.

Therefore, our Board has adopted a policy for the review of related party transactions. This policy requires directors and officers to promptly report to our Vice President - Governance all proposed or existing transactions in which the Company and they, or persons related to them, are parties or participants. Our Vice President - Governance presents those transactions to our Governance Committee. Our Governance Committee reviews the material facts presented and either approves or disapproves entry into the transaction. In reviewing the transaction, the Governance Committee considers the following factors, among other factors it deems appropriate: (i) whether the transaction is on terms no less favorable than terms generally available to an unaffiliated third party under the same or similar circumstances; (ii) the extent of the related party’s interest in the transaction; and (iii) the impact on a director’s independence in the event the related party is a director, an immediate family member of a director or an entity in which a director is a partner, shareholder or executive officer. There were no reportable related party transactions in 2023.

Delinquent Section 16(a) Reports

Based solely upon a review of our records and reports on Forms 3, 4 and 5 filed with the SEC, we believe that during and with respect to 2023, all persons subject to the reporting requirements of section 16(a) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, filed the required reports on a timely basis, except for a Form 4 for Mr. Keller related to an August 2023 transaction that was reported in December of 2023.

Communications with the Board

We value the views and input of our shareholders and believe that fostering productive dialogue with our shareholders contributes to our long-term success. Shareholders and others interested in communicating directly with the Chairman, with the independent directors as a group, or the Board may do so in writing to the Chairman, Black Hills Corporation, 7001 Mount Rushmore Road, P.O. Box 1400, Rapid City, South Dakota 57709.

MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

THE BOARD

Our Board held eleven meetings during 2023. Each regularly scheduled meeting of the Board includes an executive session of only independent directors. We encourage our directors to attend the annual shareholders' meeting. During 2023, each current director attended at least 75 percent of the combined total of Board meetings and Committee meetings on which the director served. While not required under our policies, all directors attended the 2023 annual meeting of shareholders.

COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

Our Board has three standing committees to facilitate and assist the Board in the execution of its responsibilities. Those standing committees are the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee and the Governance Committee. Each committee operates under a charter, which is available on our website at <https://ir.blackhillscorp.com/corporate-governance/governance-documents> and is also available in print to any shareholder who requests it. In addition, our Board creates special committees from time to time for specific purposes. Members of the committees are designated by our Board upon recommendation of the Governance Committee.

| Audit Committee 9 Meetings in 2023 | Primary Responsibilities |
|--|--|
| <p>Members:</p> <p>Mark A. Schober (Chair) Tony A. Jensen Kathleen S. McAllister Robert P. Otto</p> <p>Independence: 100%</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibility to our shareholders relating to the quality and integrity of our accounting, auditing and financial reporting processes; ▲ Oversee the integrity of our financial statements, financial reporting systems, internal controls and disclosure controls regarding finance, accounting and legal compliance; ▲ Review areas of potential significant financial risk to us; ▲ Review consolidated financial statements and disclosures; ▲ Appoint an independent registered public accounting firm for ratification by our shareholders; ▲ Monitor the independence and performance of our independent registered public accountants and internal auditing department; ▲ Pre-approve all audit and non-audit services provided by our independent registered public accountants; ▲ Review the scope and results of the annual audit, including reports and recommendations of our independent registered public accountants; ▲ Review the internal audit plan results of internal audit work and our process for monitoring compliance with our Code of Business Conduct and other policies and practices established to ensure compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; and ▲ Periodically meet, in private sessions, with our VP - Internal Audit, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Compliance Officer, other management, and our independent registered public accounting firm. |
| <p>Committee Report: Page 22 of this Proxy Statement</p> | <p>In accordance with the rules of the NYSE, all of the members of the Audit Committee are financially literate. In addition, the Board determined that Ms. McAllister and Messrs. Jensen and Schober have the requisite attributes of an "audit committee financial expert" as provided in regulations promulgated by the SEC, and that such attributes were acquired through relevant education and/or experience.</p> |

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| <p>Compensation Committee 6 Meetings in 2023</p> <p>Members: Teresa A. Taylor (Chair) Barry M. Granger Scott M. Prochazka Rebecca B. Roberts</p> <p>Independence: 100%</p> <p>Committee Report: Page 36 of this Proxy Statement</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Primary Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Discharge the Board's responsibilities related to executive and director compensation philosophy, policies and programs; ▲ Perform functions required of directors in the administration of all federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to executive employment and compensation; ▲ Consider and recommend for approval by the Board all executive compensation programs including executive benefit programs and stock ownership plans; ▲ Promote an executive compensation program that supports the overall objective of enhancing shareholder value; and ▲ Provide oversight of Company culture, diversity and inclusion, human rights, pay equity, and employee engagement. <p>The Compensation Committee has authority under its charter to retain compensation consultants and other advisors as the Committee may deem appropriate in its sole discretion. The Committee engaged Meridian Compensation Partners, LLC (Meridian), an independent consulting firm, to conduct an annual review of our 2023 total compensation program for executive officers. The Committee reviewed the independence of Meridian and the individual representatives of Meridian who served as consultants to the Committee, in accordance with the SEC and NYSE requirements. The Compensation Committee concluded that Meridian was independent and Meridian's performance of services raised no conflict of interest. The Committee's conclusions were based in part on a report that Meridian provided to the Committee intended to reveal any potential conflicts of interest and a schedule of the type and amount of non-executive compensation services provided by Meridian to the Company. During 2023, the cost of these non-executive compensation services was less than \$25,000.</p> |
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Compensation Committee Interlocks. None of our executive officers serve as a member of a board of directors or compensation committee of any entity that has one or more executive officers who serve on our Board or on our Compensation Committee.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Governance Committee 3 Meetings in 2023</p> <p>Members: Rebecca B. Roberts (Chair) Steven R. Mills Mark A. Schober Teresa A. Taylor</p> <p>Independence: 100%</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Primary Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Assess the size of the Board and qualifications for Board membership; ▲ Identify and recommend prospective directors to the Board to fill vacancies; ▲ Review and evaluate director nominations submitted by shareholders, including reviewing the qualifications and independence of shareholder nominees; ▲ Consider and recommend existing Board members to be renominated at our annual meeting of shareholders; ▲ Consider the resignation of an incumbent director who makes a principal occupation change (including retirement) or who receives a greater number of votes "Withheld" than votes "For" in an uncontested election of directors and recommend to the Board whether to accept or reject the resignation; ▲ Establish and review guidelines for corporate governance; ▲ Recommend to the Board for approval committee membership and chairs of the committees; ▲ Recommend to the Board for approval a Chairman or an independent director to serve as a Lead Director; ▲ Review the independence of each director and director nominee; ▲ Administer an annual evaluation of the performance of the Board and each Committee and a biennial evaluation of each individual director; ▲ Ensure that the Board oversees the evaluation and succession planning of management; ▲ Oversee the reporting framework the Company utilizes to track and monitor progress associated with ESG activities; and ▲ Oversee company political engagement. |
|---|---|

DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

DIRECTOR FEES

Compensation to our non-employee directors consists of cash retainers for Board members, Committee members, the Board Chairman and Committee Chairs.

In setting non-employee director compensation, the Compensation Committee recommends the form and amount of compensation to the Board, which makes the final determination. In considering and recommending the compensation of non-employee directors, the Compensation Committee considers such factors as it deems appropriate, including historical compensation information, level of compensation necessary to attract and retain non-employee directors meeting our desired qualifications and market data. We do not pay meeting fees. The Committee did not recommend a change to director compensation for 2023. However, in January 2024 the Committee recommended and our Board approved increases to the cash retainer, equity compensation, Chairman retainer, and Governance Chair retainer to maintain our board compensation level near the median of our peers. The fee structure for director fees in 2023 and the fee structure that will take effect in May 2024, are as follows:

| | Fees For Fiscal 2023 | | Fees Effective May 1, 2024 | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Cash | Restricted Stock Units | Cash | Restricted Stock Units |
| Board Retainer | \$ 95,000 | \$ 120,000 | \$ 105,000 | \$ 135,000 |
| Board Chairman | \$ 100,000 | | \$ 120,000 | |
| Committee Chair Retainer | | | | |
| Audit Committee | \$ 15,000 | | \$ 15,000 | |
| Compensation Committee | \$ 12,500 | | \$ 12,500 | |
| Governance Committee | \$ 10,000 | | \$ 12,500 | |
| Committee Member Retainer | | | | |
| Audit Committee | \$ 10,000 | | \$ 10,000 | |
| Compensation Committee | \$ 7,500 | | \$ 7,500 | |
| Governance Committee | \$ 7,500 | | \$ 7,500 | |

DIRECTOR COMPENSATION FOR 2023 AND COMMON STOCK EQUIVALENTS OUTSTANDING AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023⁽¹⁾

| Name ⁽²⁾ | Fees Earned or Paid | | | Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2023 ⁽⁴⁾ |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|---|
| | in Cash | Stock Awards ⁽³⁾ | Total | |
| Barry M. Granger | \$103,333 | \$120,000 | \$223,333 | 5,770 |
| Tony A. Jensen | \$104,167 | \$120,000 | \$224,167 | 5,755 |
| Kathleen A. McAllister | \$105,000 | \$120,000 | \$225,000 | 7,508 |
| Steven R. Mills | \$202,500 | \$120,000 | \$322,500 | 23,706 |
| Robert P. Otto | \$105,000 | \$120,000 | \$225,000 | 10,758 |
| Scott M. Prochazka | \$102,500 | \$120,000 | \$222,500 | 4,017 |
| Rebecca B. Roberts | \$120,000 | \$120,000 | \$240,000 | 23,166 |
| Mark A. Schober | \$127,500 | \$120,000 | \$247,500 | 15,014 |
| Teresa A. Taylor | \$122,500 | \$120,000 | \$242,500 | 11,321 |

- (1) Our directors did not receive any stock option awards, non-equity incentive plan compensation, pension benefits or perquisites in 2023 and did not have any stock options outstanding at December 31, 2023.
- (2) Mr. Evans, our President and CEO, is not included in this table because he is our employee and thus receives no compensation for his services as director. Mr. Evans' compensation received as an employee is shown in the Summary Compensation Table for our Named Executive Officers.
- (3) On May 1, 2023, each non-employee director received an annual equity award of restricted stock units equivalent to \$120,000 that will vest following our 2024 annual meeting. The grant date fair value of a restricted stock unit is the closing price of a share of our common stock on the grant date.
- (4) Includes common stock equivalents, unvested restricted stock units and associated earned dividends (1,899 shares for each director that will vest, if not deferred, at the 2024 annual meeting) and deferred stock units (1,753 shares for Ms. McAllister and Messrs. Granger, Mills, and Schober who elected to defer their restricted stock awards until they separate from the board).

Dividend equivalents accrue on the common stock equivalents and restricted stock units.

DIRECTOR STOCK OWNERSHIP GUIDELINES

Each member of our Board is required to hold shares of common stock, common stock equivalents, or restricted stock units equal to five times the annual cash Board retainer. Currently, all of our directors have met the stock ownership guideline except for Messrs. Granger and Prochazka, who have been on the Board for less than four years.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF MANAGEMENT AND PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS

The following table sets forth the beneficial ownership of our common stock as of February 23, 2024 for each director, each executive officer named in the Summary Compensation Table, all of our current directors and executive officers as a group and each person known by us to beneficially own more than five percent of our outstanding shares of common stock. Beneficial ownership includes shares a director or executive officer has or shares the power to vote or transfer. There were no stock options outstanding for any of our directors or executive officers as of February 23, 2024.

Except as otherwise indicated by footnote below, we believe that each individual named has sole investment and voting power with respect to the shares of common stock indicated as beneficially owned by that individual.

| Name of Beneficial Owner ⁽¹⁾ | Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned ⁽²⁾ | Outstanding Equity Awards ⁽³⁾ | Total | Percentage |
|---|--|--|---------|------------|
| <i>Outside Directors</i> | | | | |
| Barry M. Granger | 2,634 | 3,871 | 6,505 | * |
| Tony A. Jensen | 10,730 | 3,857 | 14,587 | * |
| Kathleen S. McAllister | 7,372 | 5,610 | 12,982 | * |
| Steven R. Mills | 20,561 | 21,807 | 42,368 | * |
| Robert P. Otto | 7,362 | 8,859 | 16,221 | * |
| Scott M. Prochazka | 4,387 | 2,118 | 6,505 | * |
| Rebecca B. Roberts | 8,599 | 21,267 | 29,866 | * |
| Mark A. Schober | 7,979 | 13,116 | 21,095 | * |
| Teresa A. Taylor | 6,525 | 9,422 | 15,947 | * |
| <i>Named Executive Officers</i> | | | | |
| Linden R. Evans | 159,840 | | 159,840 | * |
| Kimberly F. Nooney | 22,174 | | 22,174 | * |
| Brian G. Iverson | 42,771 | | 42,771 | * |
| Marne M. Jones | 15,727 | | 15,727 | * |
| Erik D. Keller | 8,702 | | 8,702 | * |
| <i>All current directors and executive officers as a group (15 persons)</i> | 341,564 | 89,927 | 431,491 | * |

* Represents less than one percent of the common stock outstanding.

- (1) Beneficial ownership means the sole or shared power to vote, or to direct the voting of, a security or investment power with respect to a security.
- (2) Includes restricted stock held by the following executive officers for which they have voting power but not investment power: Mr. Evans - 29,229 shares; Ms. Nooney - 6,005 shares; Mr. Iverson - 6,412 shares; Ms. Jones - 3,994 shares; Mr. Keller - 3,206 shares and all directors and executive officers as a group 84,825 shares. Includes 1,899 restricted stock units held by each director.
- (3) Represents common stock equivalents allocated to the directors' accounts prior to January 1, 2022 under our former directors' stock-based compensation plan, of which there are no voting rights, and deferred restricted stock units for directors who elected to defer their equity compensation after January 1, 2022.

PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS

Set forth in the table below is information about the number of shares held by persons we know to be the beneficial owners of more than 5% of the issued and outstanding Common Stock:

| Name and Address | Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned | Percentage |
|---|--|------------|
| BlackRock, Inc. ⁽¹⁾ 50 Hudson Yards New York, NY 10001 | 10,122,756 | 14.9% |
| The Vanguard Group Inc. ⁽³⁾ 100 Vanguard Blvd. Malvern, PA 19355 | 8,143,567 | 12.0% |
| State Street Corporation ⁽²⁾ State Street Financial Center 1 Congress Street, Suite 1 Boston, MA 02114-2016 | 3,665,284 | 5.4% |

(1) Information is as of December 31, 2023, and is based on a Schedule 13G/A filed on January 25, 2024. BlackRock, Inc. has sole voting power with respect to 9,984,516 shares and sole investment power with respect to 10,122,756 shares.

(2) Information is as of December 31, 2023, and is based on a Schedule 13G filed on January 25, 2024. State Street Corporation has shared voting power with respect to 3,389,369 shares and shared investment power with respect to 3,656,584 shares.

(3) Information is as of December 31, 2023, and is based on a Schedule 13G/A filed on February 13, 2024. The Vanguard Group Inc. has shared voting power with respect to 77,164 shares and sole investment power with respect to 8,002,478 shares.

PROPOSAL 2**RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The firm of Deloitte & Touche LLP, independent registered public accountants, conducted the audit of Black Hills Corporation and its subsidiaries for 2023. Representatives of Deloitte & Touche LLP will be present at our annual meeting and will have the opportunity to make a statement, if they desire to do so, and to respond to appropriate questions.

Our Audit Committee has appointed Deloitte & Touche LLP to perform an audit of our consolidated financial statements and those of our subsidiaries for 2024 and to render their reports. In determining whether to recommend to the full Board the reappointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent auditor, the Audit Committee considered the following:

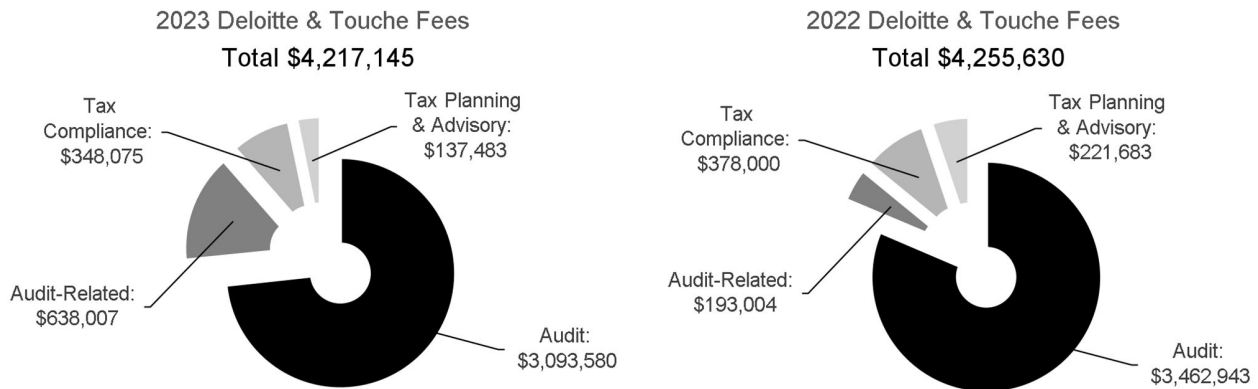
- Technical expertise and knowledge of the Company's business and industry
- The quality and candor of communications with the Audit Committee
- Deloitte & Touche LLP's independence
- Public Company Accounting Oversight Board inspection reports on the firm
- Input from management on Deloitte & Touche LLP's performance, objectivity and professional judgment
- The appropriateness of fees for audit and non-audit services

The Board recommends ratification of the Audit Committee's appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP. The appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2024 will be ratified if the votes cast "For" exceed the votes cast "Against." Abstentions will have no effect on such vote. If shareholder approval for the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP is not obtained, the Audit Committee will reconsider the appointment.

The Board recommends a vote *FOR* ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP to serve as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2024.

FEES PAID TO THE INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The following charts set forth the aggregate fees for services provided to us for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 by our independent registered public accounting firm, Deloitte & Touche, the member firms of Deloitte & Touche and their respective affiliates:



Audit Fees

Fees for professional services rendered for the audits of our financial statements, review of the interim financial statements included in quarterly reports, opinions on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting, and services that generally only the independent auditor can reasonably provide, such as comfort letters, statutory audits, consents and assistance with and review of documents filed with the SEC.

Audit-Related Fees

Fees for assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of our financial statements and are not reported under "Audit Fees." These services include employee benefit plan audits.

Tax Compliance Fees

Fees for services related to federal and state tax compliance.

Tax Planning and Advisory Fees

Fees for planning and advisory services.

The services performed by D&T were pre-approved in accordance with the Audit Committee's policy whereby the Audit Committee pre-approves all audit and permissible non-audit services provided by the independent registered public accountants. The Audit Committee will generally pre-approve a list of specific services and categories of services, including audit, audit-related, tax and other services, for the upcoming or current year, subject to a specified cost level. Any service that is not included in the approved list of services must be separately pre-approved by the Audit Committee.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Audit Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities to shareholders relating to the integrity of the Company's financial statements, the Company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements regarding financial reporting, the independent auditors' qualifications and independence, and the performance of the Company's internal and independent auditors.

Management has the primary responsibility for the completeness and accuracy of the Company's financial statements and disclosures, the financial reporting process, and the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Our independent auditors, Deloitte & Touche LLP, are responsible for auditing the Company's consolidated financial statements and expressing an opinion as to whether they are presented fairly, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities for 2023, the Audit Committee, among other things:

- Reviewed and discussed the audited financial information contained in the Annual Report on Form 10-K with management and our independent auditors prior to public release.
- Reviewed and discussed with our independent auditors their judgments as to the quality, not just the acceptability, of our critical accounting principles and estimates and all other communications required to be discussed with the Audit Committee under generally accepted auditing standards, including the matters required to be discussed by the applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and the SEC.
- Reviewed and discussed with management, our internal auditors and our independent auditors management's report on internal control over financial reporting, including the significance and status of control deficiencies identified by management and the results of remediation efforts undertaken, to determine the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting at December 31, 2023.
- Reviewed with our independent auditors their report on the Company's internal control over financial reporting at December 31, 2023, including the basis for their conclusions.
- Reviewed and pre-approved all audit and non-audit services and fees provided to the Company by our independent auditors and considered whether the provision of such non-audit services by our independent auditors is compatible with maintaining their independence.
- Discussed with our internal and independent auditors their audit plans, audit scope and identification of audit risks and reviewed the results of internal audit examinations.
- Reviewed and discussed the interim financial information contained in each quarterly earnings announcement and Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with management and our independent auditors prior to public release.
- Received and reviewed periodic corporate compliance and financial risk reports, including credit and hedging activity.
- Held private sessions with our independent auditors, Vice President - Internal Audit, Chief Financial Officer and Controller, and Chief Compliance Officer.
- Received the written disclosures and the letter from our independent auditors required by the applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent auditors' communications with the Committee concerning independence and discussed the independence of Deloitte & Touche LLP with them.
- Concluded Deloitte & Touche LLP is independent based upon the above considerations.

Based upon the reviews and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that our audited consolidated financial statements be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023 filed with the SEC. The Audit Committee also recommended and the Board reappointed Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2024. Shareholders are being asked to ratify that selection at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Mark A. Schober, Chair
 Tony A. Jensen
 Kathleen S. McAllister
 Robert P. Otto

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| PROPOSAL 3 | ADVISORY VOTE ON OUR EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION |
|-------------------|--|

We are providing shareholders with an annual advisory, non-binding vote on the executive compensation of our Named Executive Officers (commonly referred to as “say on pay”). Accordingly, shareholders will vote on approval of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the shareholders approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of our Named Executive Officers as disclosed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section, the accompanying compensation tables and the related narrative disclosure in this proxy statement.

This vote is non-binding. The Board and the Compensation Committee expect to consider the outcome of the vote when considering future executive compensation decisions to the extent they can determine the cause or causes of any significant negative voting results. At our 2023 annual meeting, shareholders owning 98 percent of the shares that were voted in this matter approved our executive compensation.

As described at length in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this proxy statement, we believe our executive compensation program is reasonable, competitive and strongly focused on pay for performance. The compensation of our Named Executive Officers varies depending upon the achievement of pre-established performance goals, both individual and corporate. Our short-term incentive is tied to earnings per share, safety performance targets, system safety and reliability targets, customer experience targets, and diversity targets that reward our executives when they deliver targeted results. Our long-term incentive performance shares or units vest based upon the level of achievement of certain pre-established performance goals over a three-year performance period as described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis. Through stock ownership guidelines, equity incentives and clawback provisions, we align the interests of our executives with those of our shareholders and our long-term interests. Our executive compensation policies have enabled us to attract and retain talented and experienced senior executives who can drive financial and strategic growth objectives that are intended to enhance shareholder value. We believe that the 2023 compensation of our Named Executive Officers was appropriate and aligned with our 2023 results and positions us for long-term growth.

Shareholders are encouraged to read the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the accompanying compensation tables, and the related narrative disclosures to better understand the compensation of our Named Executive Officers.

The advisory resolution to approve executive compensation is non-binding. However, our Board will consider shareholders to have approved our executive compensation if the number of votes cast “For” the proposal exceeds the number of votes cast “Against” the proposal. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect on such vote.

The Board recommends a vote *FOR* the advisory vote on executive compensation.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis describes our overall executive compensation policies and practices and specifically explains the compensation-related actions taken with respect to 2023 compensation for our Named Executive Officers included in the Summary Compensation Table. The Compensation Committee of the Board (the "Committee" for purposes of this Compensation Discussion and Analysis), is composed entirely of independent directors and is responsible for approving and overseeing our executive compensation philosophy, policies and programs.

Our Named Executive Officers, based on 2023 positions and compensation levels, are:

| Named Executive Officers | Title | Reference |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Linden R. Evans | President and Chief Executive Officer | Evans, CEO |
| Kimberly F. Nooney | Sr. Vice President and Chief Financial Officer | Nooney, CFO |
| Brian G. Iverson | Sr. Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer | Iverson, GC |
| Erik D. Keller | Sr. Vice President - Chief Information Officer | Keller, CIO |
| Marne M. Jones | Sr. Vice President - Utilities | Jones, SVP |
| Richard W. Kinzley ⁽¹⁾ | Former Sr. Vice President and Chief Financial Officer | Kinzley, Former CFO |

(1) Mr. Kinzley retired effective July 3, 2023.

KEY EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION OBJECTIVES

Overall, our goal is to target total direct compensation (the sum of base salary, short-term incentive at target and long-term incentive at target) to be around the median of the appropriate market. Our executive compensation is designed to maintain an appropriate and competitive balance between fixed and variable compensation components including short-and long-term compensation, and cash and stock-based compensation. We believe that the performance basis for determining compensation should differ by each reward component – base salary, short-term incentive and long-term incentive. Incentive measures (short-term and long-term) should emphasize objective, quantitative operating measures. The performance measures for our incentive compensation plans are discussed below.

BEST PRACTICES IN EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Our executive compensation program reflects the following best practices, which ensure effective compensation governance and align the interests of our shareholders and executives.

| What we do: | What we do not do: |
|--|--|
| ✓ A significant portion of executive pay is at risk by granting incentive awards that are based on continuing annual and long-term metrics tied to performance. | X No employment agreements with executives. |
| ✓ Short-Term incentive plan awards are capped at 200% of target. | X No change in control cash severance payments that exceed three times base salary and target bonus. |
| ✓ Long-Term incentive plan awards are capped at 200% of target number of shares granted. | X No excise tax gross-ups for executives. |
| ✓ Beginning with 2023 grants, non-vested equity awards are not accelerated after a change in control unless the executive is: (1) terminated without cause or good reason; or (2) the award is not assumed or substituted by the successor company | X No hedging or pledging of Company stock. |
| ✓ Executives and directors are subject to stock ownership guidelines and retention requirements. | X No excessive perquisites for executives. |

2023 COMPENSATION PRACTICE CHANGES

The Compensation Committee engaged Meridian Compensation Partners, LLC (Meridian) to review our executive compensation plans and practices. Based on this review and recommendations from Meridian and the Company's business strategy, the Compensation Committee made the following changes to our executive compensation practices for 2023:

| | Prior Executive Compensation Practice | Revised Executive Compensation Practice | Rationale for Change |
|----------------------|--|--|---|
| Short-Term Incentive | Five performance measures and the corresponding weighting: 70% EPS from ongoing operations, as adjusted 7.5% System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) 7.5% Hits Per Thousand (HPT) 7.5% Total Case Incident Rate (TCIR) 7.5% Diversity Training | Five goal categories and the corresponding weighting: 70% EPS from ongoing operations, as adjusted 7.5% Safety Index metrics 7.5% System Safety and Reliability Index metrics 7.5% Customer Experience Index metrics 7.5% Diversity Index metrics | Safety metrics reinforce a culture of safety by encouraging employee attention to key proactive safety actions and outcome-based safety results. System Safety and Reliability metrics reinforce our commitment to safe and reliable operations and environmental stewardship. Customer Experience metrics measure the quality of our customer service through multiple points of interaction. Diversity metrics reinforce our commitment to advancing diversity in our workforce. |
| Long-Term Incentive | 60% Performance Share Units and 40% Restricted Stock Awards | 70% Performance Share Units and 30% Restricted Stock Awards | A higher performance based percentage drives long-term focus/behaviors/actions on the performance measures and aligns with peer group practices. |

SETTING EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Based upon our compensation philosophy, the Committee structures executive compensation to motivate our executives to achieve specified business goals and to reward them for achieving such goals. The key steps the Committee follows in setting executive compensation are to:

- ★ Analyze executive compensation market data to ensure market competitiveness
- ★ Review the components of executive compensation, including base salary, short-term incentive, long-term incentive, retirement, and other benefits
- ★ Review total compensation and structure
- ★ Review executive officer performance, responsibilities, experience, and other factors cited above to determine individual compensation levels

| EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION PROGRAM DESIGN OBJECTIVES | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Attract, retain, motivate, and encourage the development of highly qualified executives | Provide competitive compensation | Promote the relationship between pay and performance | Promote corporate performance that is linked to our shareholders' interests | Recognize and reward individual performance |

Market Compensation Analysis

The market for our executive talent is national in scope and is not focused on any one geographic location, area or region of the country. As such, our executive compensation should be competitive with the national market for executives. It should also reflect the executive's responsibilities and duties and align with the compensation of executives at companies or business units of comparable size and complexity. The Committee gathers market information for our executives from the electric and gas utility industry and general industry.

The Committee selects and retains the services of an independent consulting firm to periodically:

- ★ Provide information regarding practices and trends in compensation programs
- ★ Review and evaluate our compensation program as compared to compensation practices of other companies with similar characteristics, including size, complexity, and type of business
- ★ Review and assist with the establishment of a peer group of companies
- ★ Provide a compensation analysis of the executive positions

The Committee used the services of Meridian to evaluate 2023 compensation. Meridian gathered data from nationally recognized survey providers, as well as specific peer companies through public filings, which included:

- i. Willis Towers Watson's Compensation Data Bank (energy services and general industry); and
- ii. 20 peer companies representing the utility and energy industry.

The 20 peer companies ranged in annual revenue size from approximately \$656 million to \$8.1 billion, with the median at \$2.4 billion. The Company's 2023 revenue was \$2.3 billion. The survey data was adjusted for our relative revenue size using regression analysis. Our compensation peer companies included in the analysis for 2023 compensation decisions were:

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| ALLETE Inc. | IDACORP Inc. | ONE Gas, Inc. |
| Alliant Energy Corporation | MGE Energy Inc. | Pinnacle West Capital Corp. |
| Ameren Corporation | New Jersey Resources Corp. | PNM Resources, Inc. |
| Atmos Energy Corp. | NiSource, Inc. | Portland General Electric Co. |
| Avista Corp. | Northwest Natural Holding Co. | South Jersey Industries, Inc. ⁽¹⁾ |
| CMS Energy Corp. | NorthWestern Corp. | Spire, Inc. |
| Hawaiian Electric Ind., Inc. | OGE Energy Corp. | |

(1) South Jersey Industries, Inc. is no longer an SEC registrant following completion of a merger in February 2023, and was therefore removed from the peer group.

Meridian validated that the above Compensation Peer Group remains credible, includes size-appropriate peers, and reflects the Company's industry, complexity and market for executive talent.

The salary surveys are one of several factors the Committee uses in setting appropriate compensation levels. Other factors include Company performance, individual performance and experience, the level and nature of the executive's responsibilities, internal equity considerations and discussions with the CEO related to the other senior executive officers' performance and contributions.

Components of Executive Compensation

The primary components of our executive compensation program consist of a base salary, a short-term incentive plan, and long-term incentives. In addition, we provide retirement and other benefits. The Committee reviews all components of each executive officer's compensation, including salary, short-term incentive, equity and other long-term incentive compensation values granted, and the current and potential value of the executive officer's total Black Hills Corporation equity holdings.

The majority of the executives' total compensation is granted as incentive compensation. Incentive compensation is intended to motivate and encourage our executives to drive performance and achieve superior results for our shareholders and align realized pay with stock performance. The Committee periodically reviews information provided by its compensation consultant to inform its determination of the appropriate level and mix of total compensation. The Committee believes that a significant portion of total target compensation should be comprised of variable compensation. In order to reward long-term growth while still encouraging focus on short-term results, the Committee establishes incentive targets that emphasize long-term compensation at a greater level than short-term compensation.

Base Salary. Base salaries for all executives are reviewed annually. The base salary of our executives is also adjusted at the time of a promotion or material change in job responsibility, as appropriate. Evaluation of 2023 base salary adjustments occurred in January 2023. The base salary component of each position was compared to the median of the market data provided by the compensation consultant. The actual base salary of each officer was determined based on the executive's performance, the experience level of the officer, the current position in a market-based salary range, and internal pay relationships.

| | Base Salary | |
|----------------------------|-------------|------------|
| | 2022 | 2023 |
| Evans, CEO | \$ 860,000 | \$ 900,000 |
| Nooney, CFO ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 375,000 | \$ 440,000 |
| Iverson, GC | \$ 416,000 | \$ 433,000 |
| Jones, SVP ⁽²⁾ | \$ 340,000 | \$ 398,000 |
| Keller, CIO | \$ 354,000 | \$ 368,000 |
| Kinzley, Former CFO | \$ 472,000 | \$ 472,000 |

(1) Ms. Nooney was appointed CFO effective April 1, 2023.

(2) Ms. Jones was appointed Senior Vice President - Utilities effective June 12, 2023

Short-Term Incentive. Our Short-Term Incentive Plan is designed to recognize and reward the contributions of individual executives as well as the contributions that group performance makes to overall corporate success. The 2023 short-term incentive was based on the following metrics:

2023 Short-Term Incentive Metrics

| Metric | Weighting | Definition |
|--|-----------|---|
| EPS from ongoing operations, as adjusted | 70.00% | Diluted earnings per share calculated in accordance with GAAP, adjusted for material, non-recurring events (such as impairment charges, one-time tax events, external acquisition costs, changes to accounting rules, etc.) |
| Timeliness of Incident Reporting | 1.875% | Reporting of injuries within 24 hours |
| Average Proactive Safety Activities/Employee | 1.875% | Includes reporting of near misses, safety suggestions, unsafe conditions, stop work authority, and pipeline near misses |
| Total Case Incident Rate (TCIR) | 1.875% | Injuries per 200,000 hours worked |
| Preventable Motor Vehicle Incident Rate (PMVI) | 1.875% | Preventable motor vehicle incident rate |
| Gas Distribution Damage Prevention (HPT) | 3.75% | Hits per thousand |
| Electric Reliability (SAIDI) | 3.75% | System average interruption duration index |
| Customer Interaction: Customer Effort | 2.50% | Third party survey of 25,000 customers regarding "How easy is BHE to do business with?" |
| Customer Interaction: Net Promoter Score | 2.50% | Third party survey of 25,000 customers regarding "How likely are you to recommend BHE?" |
| Customer Brand/Perception: JD Power Gas vs Industry | 1.25% | Third party scoring of brand perception relative to other gas utilities |
| Customer Brand/Perception: JD Power Electric vs Industry | 1.25% | Third party scoring of brand perception relative to other electric utilities |
| Percent of Diverse Candidate Slates | 3.75% | A slate that includes at least 1 woman and/or racially/ethnically diverse candidate |
| Percent of Diverse Interview Panels | 3.75% | A panel that includes at least 1 woman and/or racially/ethnically diverse individual in the final interview |

2023 Short-Term Incentive Goals

| Incentive | Threshold | Goals Target | Maximum |
|--|------------|--------------|------------|
| EPS from ongoing operations, as adjusted | \$3.488 | \$3.750 | \$4.013 |
| Timeliness of Incident Reporting | 90% | 91% | 92% |
| Average Proactive Safety Activities/Employee | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Total Case Incident Rate (TCIR) | 1.39 | 1.23 | 1.11 |
| Preventable Motor Vehicle Incident Rate (PMVI) | 1.56 | 1.44 | 1.33 |
| Gas Distribution Damage (HPT) | 2.20 | 2.05 | 1.80 |
| Electric Reliability (SAIDI) | 72.80 | 65.70 | 51.80 |
| Customer Interaction: Customer Effort | 8.80 | 8.90 | 9.00 |
| Customer interaction: Net Promoter Score | 64.00 | 67.00 | 70.00 |
| Customer Brand/Perception: JD Power Gas vs Industry | 25% | 50% | 75% |
| Customer Brand/Perception: JD Power Electric vs Industry | +1 ranking | +2 ranking | +3 ranking |
| Percent of Diverse Candidate Slates | 80% | 85% | 90% |
| Percent of Diverse Interview Panels | 90% | 92% | 94% |
| Payout percentage of target for each metric | 50% | 100% | 200% |

The Committee believes that these performance measures meet the objectives of the plan, including:

- ★ Align the interests of the plan participants and the shareholders
- ★ Motivate employees to strive to achieve superior operating results
- ★ Provide an incentive reflective of core operating performance
- ★ Ensure "buy-in" from participants with easily understood metrics
- ★ Meet the performance objectives of the plan to achieve over time an average payout equal to market competitive levels

The short-term incentive, after applicable tax withholding, is distributed to the officer in the form of cash. Target award levels are established as a percentage of each participant's base salary. A target award is typically set around the benchmark 50th percentile short-term incentive target award for comparable positions. The actual payout, if any, will vary, based on attainment of pre-established performance goals, between 0 and 200 percent of the individual executive's short-term incentive target award level.

The Committee approves the target level for each officer in January, which applies to performance in the upcoming plan year. Target levels are derived in part from market data provided by the compensation consultant and in part by the Committee's judgment regarding internal equity, retention and an individual executive's expected contribution to the achievement of our strategic objectives. The target levels for our Named Executive Officers are shown below:

| | Short-Term Incentive Target | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| | 2022 | | 2023 | |
| | % of Base | | % of Base | |
| | Salary | \$ Amount | Salary | \$ Amount |
| Evans, CEO | 100% | \$ 860,000 | 100% | \$ 900,000 |
| Nooney, CFO | 45% | \$ 168,750 | 60% | \$ 264,000 |
| Iverson, GC | 60% | \$ 249,600 | 70% | \$ 303,100 |
| Jones, SVP | 45% | \$ 153,000 | 55% | \$ 218,900 |
| Keller, CIO | 50% | \$ 177,000 | 50% | \$ 184,000 |
| Kinzley, Former CFO | 70% | \$ 330,400 | 70% | \$ 330,400 |

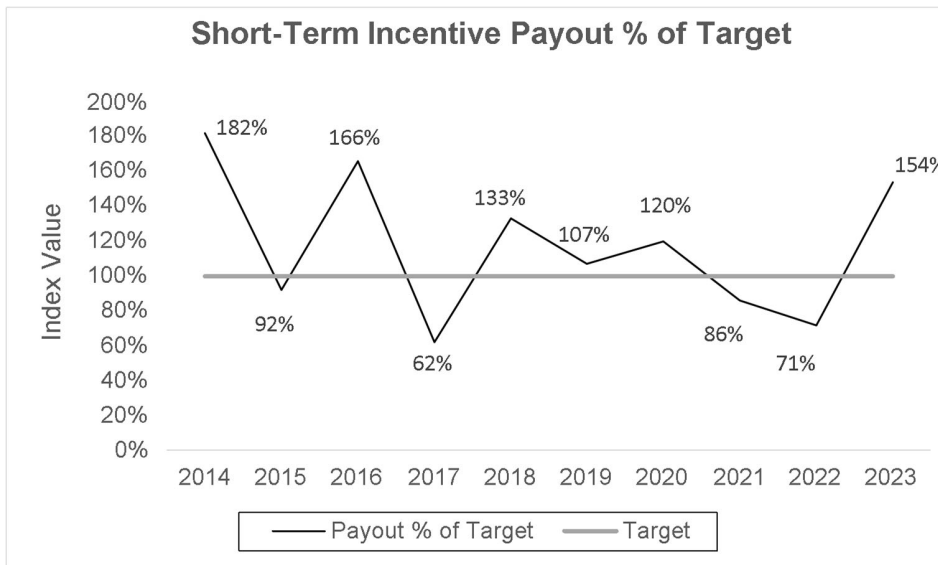
The threshold, target and maximum payout levels for our Named Executive Officers under the 2023 Short-Term Incentive Plan are shown in the Grants of Plan-Based Awards in 2023 table on page 38, under the heading "Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards."

Early in the first quarter, the Committee evaluates actual performance in relation to the prior year's targets and approves the actual payment of awards related to the prior plan year. The Committee reserves the discretion to adjust any award, and will review and take into account individual performance, level of contribution, and the accomplishment of specific project goals that were initiated throughout the plan year. The Committee also reserves discretion with respect to any payout related to safety goals if we experience an employee or contractor fatality during the plan period. For 2023, the Committee exercised its discretion and approved a \$0.022 increase to EPS from ongoing operations, as adjusted, resulting in \$3.932 of EPS for compensation purposes. The adjustment to EPS excluded certain project costs that were not anticipated when the original metrics were set. Except for the Committee's discretionary increase, earnings per share from ongoing operations, as adjusted, for incentive plan purposes were the same as earnings per share, diluted, reported externally to our investors.

On January 25, 2024, the Committee approved a payout of 153.67% percent of target under the 2023 Short-Term Incentive Plan. The incentive plan payout was based on attainment of the following:

| Incentive | 2023 Results | Goal Payout | % of Award | Payout |
|--|--------------|-------------|------------|----------|
| EPS from ongoing operations, as adjusted | \$3.932 | 169.200% | 70.000% | 118.440% |
| Timeliness of Incident Reporting | 93% | 200.00% | 1.875% | 3.750% |
| Average Proactive Safety Activities/Employee | 4 | 200.00% | 1.875% | 3.750% |
| Total Case Incident Rate (TCIR) | 1.51 | 0.00% | 1.875% | 0.000% |
| Preventable Motor Vehicle Incident Rate (PMVI) | 1.65 | 0.00% | 1.875% | 0.000% |
| Gas Distribution Damage (HPT) | 2.05 | 100.00% | 3.750% | 3.750% |
| Electric Reliability (SAIDI) | 61.56 | 129.78% | 3.750% | 4.867% |
| Customer Interaction: Customer Effort | 8.80 | 50.00% | 2.500% | 1.250% |
| Customer interaction: Net Promotor Score | 65.40 | 73.33% | 2.500% | 1.833% |
| Customer Brand/Perception: JD Power Gas vs Industry | 41% | 82.00% | 1.250% | 1.025% |
| Customer Brand/Perception: JD Power Electric vs Industry | 0.00 | 0.00% | 1.250% | 0.000% |
| Percent of Diverse Candidate Slates | 90% | 200.00% | 3.750% | 7.500% |
| Percent of Diverse Interview Panels | 96% | 200.00% | 3.750% | 7.500% |
| Total Payout | | | 100% | 153.67% |

Payouts under the Short-Term Incentive Plan have varied over the last 10 years as shown in the graph below.



Actual awards made to each of our Named Executive Officers under the Short-Term Incentive Plan for 2023 are included in the Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation column of the Summary Compensation Table on page 37.

For the 2024 Short-Term Incentive Plan, we are maintaining our commitment to financial performance with EPS from ongoing operations as adjusted, changing our outcome-based safety metric to replace TCIR and PMVI with the Days Away, Restricted or Transferred Rate (DART), modifying our customer experience metrics to update our methodology for measuring customer satisfaction and customer effort to leverage internal customer feedback tools instead of NPS and JD Power and continuing our commitment to diversity by replacing diverse candidate slates and interview panels with a new metric intended to increase diversity in leadership positions. Our metrics for customer experience, diversity, and system safety and reliability demonstrate our continued efforts to improve our social and environmental ESG performance.

Long-Term Incentive. Our Long-Term Incentive Plan (LTIP) is designed to focus executive performance on sustained long-term results that drive or are based on shareholder value creation. Long-term incentive compensation is intended to:

- ★ Promote achievement of corporate goals by linking the interests of participants to those of our shareholders
- ★ Provide participants with an incentive for excellence in individual performance
- ★ Promote teamwork among participants
- ★ Motivate, retain, and attract the services of participants who make significant contributions to our success by allowing participants to share in such success
- ★ Meet the performance objectives of the plan to achieve an average payout equal to market competitive levels over time

The Committee approved the metrics for the Performance plan portion of our Long-term incentive plans as follows:

| Performance Plan Metrics | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| Plan | Metrics | Definition | Rationale |
| 2021-2023 Plan and 2022-2024 Plan | 60% TSR | Total shareholder return | Executive pay under a long-term, capital accumulation program should mirror performance in shareholder return and directly aligns with shareholders and reflects our performance relative to peers |
| | 20% EPS | Diluted earnings per share calculated in accordance with GAAP, adjusted for material, non-recurring events (such as impairment charges, one-time tax events, external acquisition costs, changes to accounting rules, etc.) | Aligns with long-term performance growth |
| | 20% Average Cost to Serve | Non-fuel operations and maintenance (O&M) expense divided by Utility margin (a non-GAAP measure ⁽¹⁾ which represents revenue less cost of sales), adjusted for material, non-recurring events (such as impairment charges, external acquisition costs, changes to accounting rules, etc.) | Drives growth goals while balancing capital deployment with increasing customer rates |
| 2023-2025 Plan | 70% TSR | Total shareholder return | Executive pay under a long-term, capital accumulation program should mirror performance in shareholder return and directly aligns with shareholders and reflects our performance relative to peers |
| | 10% EPS | Diluted earnings per share calculated in accordance with GAAP, adjusted for material, non-recurring events (such as impairment charges, one-time tax events, external acquisition costs, changes to accounting rules, etc.) | Aligns with long-term performance growth |
| | 10% Average Cost to Serve | Non-fuel operations and maintenance (O&M) expense divided by Utility margin (a non-GAAP measure ⁽¹⁾ which represents revenue less cost of sales), adjusted for material, non-recurring events (such as impairment charges, external acquisition costs, changes to accounting rules, etc.) | Drives growth goals while balancing capital deployment with increasing customer rates |
| | 10% Emissions Reduction | Natural gas emissions reduction by 2035 | Aligns with sustainability goals |

(1) For further information regarding Utility margin, a non-GAAP measure, please see *Item 7 - Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations* in our 2023 Annual Report on Form 10-K as filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on February 14, 2024.

The long-term incentive compensation component is composed of performance share units and restricted stock that vests ratably over three years. The Committee chose these components because linking executive compensation to stock price appreciation, total shareholder return, and other key financial and environmental metrics is an effective way to align the interests of management with those of our shareholders. The split between performance share units and restricted stock for each plan period is illustrated below:



The value of long-term incentives awarded is based primarily on competitive market-based data presented by the compensation consultant to the Committee, the impact each position has on our shareholder return, executive performance, and internal pay relationships. The actual amount realized may vary from the target award amounts. The Committee approved the target long-term incentive compensation level for each officer in January 2023. The 2023 long-term incentive was adjusted from 2022 levels for Mr. Evans to align more closely with market median and Ms. Nooney to align with her promotion to CFO.

NEO Long-Term Incentive Target Compensation

| | 2022 | 2023 |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Evans, CEO | \$ 2,300,000 | \$ 2,700,000 |
| Nooney, CFO | \$ 250,000 | \$ 600,000 |
| Iverson, GC | \$ 600,000 | \$ 600,000 |
| Jones, SVP | \$ 250,000 | \$ 250,000 |
| Keller, CIO | \$ 300,000 | \$ 300,000 |
| Kinzley, Former CFO | \$ 625,000 | \$ — |

Performance Share Units. Participants are awarded a target number of performance share units. The target number of performance share units is determined by dividing the Committee approved target performance value for the participant by the average closing price for the established number of trading days preceding the performance period.

Vesting of performance share units associated with TSR is based on our total shareholder return over designated performance periods as measured against our Performance Peer Group. The Committee, with the guidance of its independent compensation consultant, periodically conducts a review of our Performance Peer Group to which our performance should be compared. Due to the extensive merger and acquisition activity in the industry and its contribution to relative performance volatility, the Committee chose to continue to use the companies in the EEI Index as the Performance Peer Group for 2023.

A summary of the TSR performance criteria for the 2023-2025 performance share units is summarized in the table below:

| Performance Share Plans | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Percentile Ranking for Threshold Payout of 25% of Target Shares | Percentile Ranking for Target Payout of 100% of Target Shares | Percentile Ranking for Maximum Payout Level | Possible Payout Range of Target |
| 25th percentile | 50th percentile | 90th percentile | 0-200% |

The 2023-2025 Performance plan, for the portion of the award that vests based on relative TSR, provides: (i) a threshold payout if relative TSR performance is below threshold but our TSR is at least 35 percent for the performance period; and (ii) the performance share plan payout is capped at 100 percent of target if TSR is negative. The additional provisions are intended to reduce the impact of one peer company's performance on the relative TSR, and also increase accountability and expectations related to the Company's performance.

Vesting of performance share units associated with Earnings Per Share, Average Cost to Serve, and Emissions Reduction performance is determined based upon the Company's performance against established performance goals. The final value of the performance shares is based upon the number of shares of common stock that are ultimately earned, based upon our performance in relation to the performance criteria.

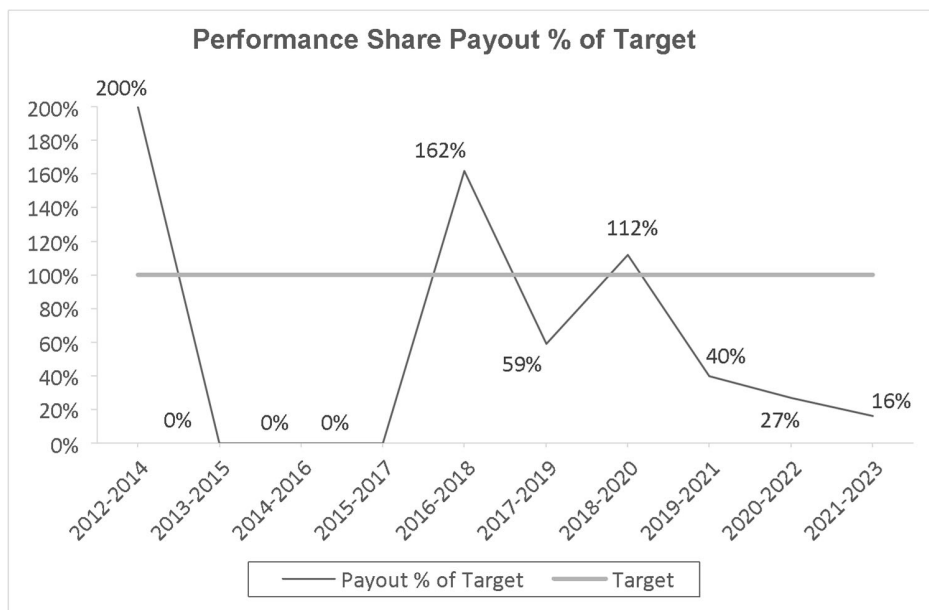
Threshold performance results in a payout of 25 percent of the target share award. Target performance results in a payout of the target share award. Maximum performance results in a payout of 200 percent of the target share award.

The performance share units and dividend equivalents, if earned, are paid in common stock. Performance share units are pro-rated for the period of service in the events of retirement, death or disability. Performance share units vest in full under certain circumstances following a change in control. Performance awards are forfeited if an officer's employment is terminated for any reason other than those previously stated.

Restricted Stock. Restricted stock awarded as long-term incentives vests one-third each year over a three-year period, and automatically vests in its entirety upon death, disability or under certain termination circumstances following a change in control. Dividends are paid on the restricted stock. Unvested restricted stock is forfeited if an officer's employment is terminated for any reason other than those previously stated.

Payouts under the Performance Share Plan have varied significantly over the last 10 years, as shown in the graph below. Each performance period extends for three years. For the recently completed performance period, January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023, the payout was based on attainment of the following:

| Metric | 2021-2023 Results | Goal Payout as a % of Target | % of Award | Payout |
|--|-------------------|------------------------------|------------|--------|
| Total Shareholder Return (TSR) | 1.27% | 0.00% | 60% | 0.00% |
| TSR relative to Performance Peer Group | 16th Percentile | | | |
| Average EPS as Adjusted | \$3.882 | 25.37% | 20% | 5.07% |
| Average Cost to Serve | 46.3% | 55.68% | 20% | 11.14% |
| Total Payout | | | 100% | 16.21% |



The 2024-2026 Performance plan portion of our Long-Term Incentive plan retains our current four metrics. The Compensation Committee, with the guidance of its independent compensation consultant, adopted the Compensation Peer Group as the Company's Performance Peer Group beginning with the 2024-2026 Performance plan. This change was made to better align with our fuel mix as the companies in the EEI Index are electric-only utilities.

Board and Management Roles in Compensation Decisions

Role of Executive Officers in Compensation Decisions. In 2023, the Human Resources team, with the support of an external compensation consultant, reviewed all compensation programs to ensure that the programs do not encourage unnecessary risk-taking and instead encourage behaviors that support the values and operations of the Company. This review determined that the compensation programs of the Company do not encourage excessive risk-taking or have an adverse effect on the Company.

The CEO annually reviews the performance of each of our senior executive officers. Based upon these performance reviews and market analysis conducted by compensation consultants, the CEO recommends the compensation for this group of officers to the Committee.

Role of the Committee and Board in Setting Executive Compensation. The Committee reviews and establishes the Company's financial targets and the CEO's goals and objectives for the year. After the end of each year, the Committee evaluates the CEO's performance in light of established goals and objectives, with input from the other independent directors. Based upon the Committee's evaluation and recommendation, the independent directors of the Board set the CEO's annual compensation, including salary, short-term incentive, and long-term incentive compensation.

The Committee reviews the CEO's recommended compensation for our senior executive officers. The Committee may approve the CEO's compensation recommendations for this group of officers or exercise its discretion by modifying any of the recommended compensation and award levels in its review and approval process. The Committee is required to approve all decisions regarding equity awards to our officers.

Summary

In total, the Committee believes that the 2023 compensation actions, decisions and outcomes strongly reflect and reinforce our compensation philosophy and, in particular, emphasize the alignment between compensation and both performance and shareholder interests. At our 2023 annual meeting, shareholders owning 98 percent of the shares that were voted on this matter approved our executive compensation for 2022, which we consider highly supportive of our current compensation philosophy. In connection with establishing the 2023 executive compensation program, the Board reviewed the results of the say on pay vote, as well as market data and performance indicators.

Governance Best Practices

We have several governance programs in place to align our executive compensation with shareholder interests and to mitigate risks in our plans. These programs include stock ownership guidelines, mandatory and supplemental clawback policies, and the prohibition of hedging or pledging of Company stock.

STOCK OWNERSHIP GUIDELINES

The Committee has implemented stock ownership guidelines that apply to all officers based upon their level of responsibility. We believe it is important for our officers to hold a significant amount of our common stock to further align their interests with the interests of our shareholders. A “retention ratio” approach to stock ownership is incorporated into the guidelines. Officers are required to retain 100 percent of all shares owned, including shares awarded through our incentive plans (net of share withholding for taxes and, in the case of cashless stock option exercises, net of the exercise price and withholding for taxes) until specific ownership goals are achieved.

The guidelines are shown below.

| Position | Stock Ownership Value as Multiple of Base Salary |
|-----------------------|---|
| CEO | 6X |
| CFO | 3X |
| Other Senior Officers | 3X |

At least annually, the Compensation Committee reviews common stock ownership to confirm the officers have met or are progressing toward their stock ownership guidelines. Generally, an officer may not sell common stock unless he or she owns common stock in excess of 110 percent of the applicable stock ownership guideline. With the exception of Mr. Keller and Messes. Jones and Nooney, who have all been in their current roles less than four years, all of our Named Executive Officers who are current officers have exceeded their stock ownership guidelines.

CLAWBACK OF EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

We have adopted a Mandatory Compensation Recovery Policy that applies to all current and former Section 16 Officers. This policy is consistent with the final rules adopted by the SEC and the NYSE. In the event of an accounting restatement to correct an error that is (a) material to the previously issued financial statements or (b) would result in a material misstatement if the error were corrected in the current period, the Company will seek to recover erroneously awarded incentive compensation received by any current or former executive officer during the immediately preceding three years. This policy does not require a finding of fault to trigger a recoupment, rather recovery may be triggered absent fraud or willful misconduct by the executive. Erroneous compensation is the amount of compensation that is granted, earned or vested based upon attainment of a financial reporting measure included in an accounting restatement, as described above, that would not have been received had the financial statements in question been accurate. The Mandatory Compensation Recovery Policy is filed as an exhibit to the 2023 Form 10-K.

The Company has also adopted a Supplemental Compensation Recovery Policy that also applies to our NEOs. Under this Policy, our Board may seek to recover incentive compensation received by the executive in the event that such executive officer willfully engaged in conduct which is reasonably likely to cause significant financial or reputational harm to the Company.

UNLAWFUL INSIDER TRADING AND ANTI-HEDGING POLICY

Black Hills Corporation has adopted policies and procedures designed to prohibit unlawful insider trading, hedging transactions and related practices. Specifically, Black Hills Corporation’s employees, officers and directors are prohibited from trading in the Company’s securities while in possession of material, nonpublic information, from pledging its securities as collateral, holding its securities in a margin account and entering into transactions that are designed to hedge or offset decreases in the market value of the securities. Additionally, certain employees and officers are subject to routine and non-

routine blackout periods during which times trading in our securities is not permitted, as well as pre-clearance procedures to ensure compliance with applicable internal policies.

Notwithstanding the prohibition against insider trading, the Policy aligns with the SEC rules that allow directors, officers and employees to trade in Black Hills Corporation Securities while aware of material, nonpublic information, so long as the trades occur pursuant to a binding contract, instruction or written trading program that complies with the requirements of Rule 10b5.

2023 BENEFITS

Retirement Benefits. We maintain a variety of employee benefit plans and programs in which our executive officers may participate. We believe it is important to provide post-employment benefits to our executive officers and the benefits we provide approximate retirement benefits paid by other employers to executives in similar positions. The Committee periodically reviews the benefits provided, with assistance from its compensation consultant, to maintain a market-based benefits package. Mr. Kinzley received a pension benefit payment in 2023.

Several years ago, we adopted a defined contribution plan design as our primary retirement plan and amended our Defined Benefit Pension Plan ("Pension Plan") for all eligible employees to incorporate a partial freeze in which the accrual of benefits ceased for certain participants while other participants were allowed an election to continue to accrue benefits. None of our Named Executive Officers met the age and service requirements to allow them to continue to accrue benefits under the Pension Plan. Employees who no longer accrue benefits under the Pension Plan now receive Company Retirement Contributions ("Retirement Contributions") in the Retirement Savings Plan. The Retirement Contributions are an age and service points-based calculation.

The 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan is offered to all our eligible employees and we provide matching contributions for certain eligible participants. All of our Named Executive Officers are participants in the 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan and received matching contributions in 2023. The matching contributions and the Retirement Contributions are included as "All Other Compensation" in the Summary Compensation Table on page 37.

We also provide nonqualified plans to certain executives as approved by the Compensation Committee. The level of retirement benefits provided by the Pension Plan and Nonqualified Plans for each of our Named Executive Officers is reflected in the Pension Benefits for 2023 table on page 41. Our contributions to the Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan are included in the All Other Compensation column of the Summary Compensation Table on page 37 and the aggregate Nonqualified Deferred Compensation balance at December 31, 2023 is reported in the Nonqualified Deferred Compensation for 2023 table on page 43. These retirement benefits are explained in more detail in the accompanying narrative to the tables.

Other Personal Benefits. We provide the personal use of a Company vehicle, executive health services, and limited reimbursement of financial planning services as benefits to our executive officers. The specific amount attributable to these benefits in 2023 is disclosed in the Summary Compensation Table on page 37. The Committee periodically reviews the other personal benefits provided to our executive officers and believes the current benefits are reasonable and consistent with our overall compensation program.

CHANGE IN CONTROL BENEFIT

Our Named Executive Officers may also receive severance benefits in the event of a qualifying termination in connection with a change in control. We have no employment agreements with our Named Executive Officers. However, change in control protections are common among our Compensation Peer Group and the Committee and our Board believes providing these agreements to our corporate and select subsidiary officers protects our shareholder interests in the event of a change in control by helping assure management focus and continuity.

In 2022, our Compensation Committee approved revised form of incentive award agreements that require a "double trigger" before accelerated equity compensation will be paid to our Named Executive Officers. The double trigger provides benefits in association with:

- (1) a change in control, and
- (2) (i) a termination of employment other than by death, disability or by us for cause, or
 - (ii) a termination by the employee for good reason.

Our change in control agreements have expiration dates and our Board conducts a review of the change in control agreements at each renewal period. Our current change in control agreements expire November 15, 2025. In general, our change in control agreements provide a severance payment of up to 2.99 times average compensation for Mr. Evans, and up to two times average compensation for the other Named Executive Officers. The change in control agreements do not provide for excise tax gross-ups.

See the Potential Payments upon Termination or Change in Control table on page 44 and the accompanying narrative for more information regarding our change in control agreements and estimated payments associated with a change in control.

TAX AND ACCOUNTING IMPLICATIONS

Section 162(m) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, places a limit of \$1 million in compensation per year on the amount public companies may deduct with respect to certain executive officers. The Committee continues to believe that shareholder interests are best served if its discretion and flexibility in structuring and awarding compensation is not restricted, even though some past and/or future compensation awards result in non-deductible compensation expenses to the Company. The Committee's ability to continue to provide a competitive compensation package to attract, motivate and retain the Company's most senior executives is considered critical to the Company's success and to advancing the interests of its shareholders.

REPORT OF THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis required by Item 402(b) of Regulation S-K with management and, based on such review and discussions, the Compensation Committee recommended to our Board that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement.

THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Teresa A. Taylor, Chair
Barry M. Granger
Scott M. Prochazka
Rebecca B. Roberts

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

The following table sets forth the total compensation paid or earned by each of our Named Executive Officers for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021. We have no employment agreements with our Named Executive Officers:

| Name and Principal Position | Year | Salary | Stock Awards ⁽¹⁾ | Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation ⁽²⁾ | Changes in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings ⁽³⁾ | | All Other Compensation ⁽⁴⁾ | Total |
|---|------|------------|-----------------------------|---|---|------------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | |
| Linden R. Evans | 2023 | \$ 893,333 | \$ 2,729,666 | \$ 1,372,785 | \$ 35,493 | \$ 607,725 | \$ 5,639,002 | |
| President and Chief Executive Officer | 2022 | \$ 854,167 | \$ 2,394,776 | \$ 610,559 | \$ — | \$ 627,046 | \$ 4,486,548 | |
| | 2021 | \$ 819,167 | \$ 2,238,529 | \$ 708,252 | \$ — | \$ 674,960 | \$ 4,440,908 | |
| Kimberly F. Nooney ⁽⁵⁾ Sr. Vice President and Chief Financial Officer | 2023 | \$ 429,167 | \$ 606,568 | \$ 395,700 | \$ 13,765 | \$ 144,083 | \$ 1,589,283 | |
| Brian G. Iverson | 2023 | \$ 430,167 | \$ 606,568 | \$ 462,726 | \$ 10,405 | \$ 163,506 | \$ 1,673,372 | |
| Sr. Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer | 2022 | \$ 413,333 | \$ 624,682 | \$ 177,270 | \$ — | \$ 164,183 | \$ 1,379,468 | |
| | 2021 | \$ 397,667 | \$ 510,213 | \$ 206,294 | \$ — | \$ 170,934 | \$ 1,285,108 | |
| Marne M. Jones ⁽⁵⁾ Sr. Vice President - Utilities | 2023 | \$ 388,333 | \$ 252,767 | \$ 328,214 | \$ 4,968 | \$ 123,906 | \$ 1,098,188 | |
| Erik D. Keller | 2023 | \$ 365,667 | \$ 303,274 | \$ 280,960 | \$ — | \$ 117,496 | \$ 1,067,397 | |
| Sr. Vice President - Chief Information Officer | 2022 | \$ 351,667 | \$ 312,337 | \$ 125,686 | \$ — | \$ 109,753 | \$ 899,443 | |
| | 2021 | \$ 338,333 | \$ 260,251 | \$ 146,261 | \$ — | \$ 146,667 | \$ 891,512 | |
| Richard W. Kinzley ⁽⁶⁾ | 2023 | \$ 236,000 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 277,783 | \$ 513,783 | |
| Former Sr. Vice President and Chief Financial Officer | 2022 | \$ 469,000 | \$ 650,723 | \$ 234,669 | \$ — | \$ 268,377 | \$ 1,622,769 | |
| | 2021 | \$ 454,000 | \$ 650,687 | \$ 274,770 | \$ — | \$ 282,323 | \$ 1,661,780 | |

- (1) Stock Awards represent the grant date fair value related to restricted stock and performance share units that have been granted as a component of long-term incentive compensation. The grant date fair value is computed in accordance with the provisions of accounting standards for stock compensation. Assumptions used in the calculation of these amounts are included in Note 14 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023. The amounts shown for the performance shares and performance share units represent the values that are based on the achievement of 100% of the target performance. Assuming achievement of the maximum 200% of target performance, the value of the performance share units would be: \$4,018,777 for Mr. Evans, \$893,040 for Ms. Nooney, \$893,040 for Mr. Iverson, \$372,162 for Ms. Jones, and \$446,501 for Mr. Keller.
- (2) Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation represents amounts earned under the Short-Term Incentive Plan. The Compensation Committee approved the payout of the 2023 awards on January 25, 2024 and the awards were paid on March 3, 2024.
- (3) Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings represents the net positive increase in actuarial value of the Pension Plan and Pension Restoration Benefit ("PRB") for the respective years. These benefits have been valued using the assumptions disclosed in Note 13 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023. Because these assumptions sometimes change between measurement dates, the change in value reflects not only the change in value due to additional benefits earned during the period and the passage of time but also reflects the change in value caused by changes in the underlying actuarial assumptions.

The Pension Plan and PRB were frozen effective January 1, 2010 for participants who did not satisfy the age 45 and 10 years of service eligibility. Messrs. Evans, Kinzley and Iverson and Messes. Jones and Nooney did not meet the eligibility choice criteria and their benefits were frozen.

Our Named Executive Officers receive employer contributions into a Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan ("NQDC"). The NQDC employer contributions are reported in the All Other Compensation column. No Named Executive Officer received preferential or above-market earnings on nonqualified deferred compensation. The change in value attributed to each Named Executive Officer from each plan is shown in the table below:

| | Year | Defined Benefit Plan | PRB | Total Change in Pension Value |
|--------------------|------|----------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Linden R. Evans | 2023 | \$ 19,510 | \$ 15,983 | \$ 35,493 |
| | 2022 | \$ (76,130) | \$ (63,285) | \$ (139,415) |
| | 2021 | \$ (7,574) | \$ (7,745) | \$ (15,319) |
| Kimberly F. Nooney | 2023 | \$ 13,765 | \$ - | \$ 13,765 |
| | 2022 | \$ 10,405 | \$ - | \$ 10,405 |
| Brian G. Iverson | 2022 | \$ (40,857) | \$ - | \$ (40,857) |
| | 2021 | \$ (4,089) | \$ - | \$ (4,089) |
| Marne M. Jones | 2023 | \$ 4,968 | \$ - | \$ 4,968 |
| | 2022 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Erik D. Keller | 2022 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| | 2021 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Richard W. Kinzley | 2023 | \$ (32,085) | \$ 1,711 | \$ (30,374) |
| | 2022 | \$ (91,619) | \$ (5,842) | \$ (97,461) |
| | 2021 | \$ (11,125) | \$ (833) | \$ (11,958) |

- (4) All Other Compensation includes amounts allocated under the 401(k) match, defined contributions, Company contributions to deferred compensation plans, dividends received on restricted stock and unvested restricted stock units and other personal benefits. The Other Personal Benefits column reflects the personal use of a Company vehicle, executive health, and financial planning services for each

NEO. All Other Compensation for Mr. Kinzley also includes a \$105,000 lump sum payment that was made in lieu of a performance share plan award for the 2023-2025 performance plan in recognition of his partial year of service in 2023.

| | Year | 401(k) Match | Defined Contributions | NQDC Contributions | Dividends on Restricted Stock | Other Personal Benefits | Total Other Compensation |
|--------------------|------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Linden R. Evans | 2023 | \$ 13,800 | \$ 29,700 | \$ 476,817 | \$ 66,365 | \$ 21,043 | \$ 607,725 |
| Kimberly F. Nooney | 2023 | \$ 17,100 | \$ 26,400 | \$ 76,231 | \$ 10,388 | \$ 13,964 | \$ 144,083 |
| Brian G. Iverson | 2023 | \$ 17,044 | \$ 26,456 | \$ 90,220 | \$ 15,720 | \$ 14,066 | \$ 163,506 |
| Marne M. Jones | 2023 | \$ 17,100 | \$ 26,400 | \$ 63,682 | \$ 6,350 | \$ 10,374 | \$ 123,906 |
| Erik D. Keller | 2023 | \$ 19,800 | \$ 19,800 | \$ 47,705 | \$ 12,308 | \$ 17,883 | \$ 117,496 |
| Richard W. Kinzley | 2023 | \$ 19,512 | \$ 24,086 | \$ 112,685 | \$ 5,288 | \$ 116,212 | \$ 277,783 |

- (5) Messes. Nooney and Jones became NEOs in 2023.
- (6) Mr. Kinzley retired from the Company effective July 3, 2023.

GRANTS OF PLAN BASED AWARDS IN 2023⁽¹⁾

| Name | Grant Date | Date of Compensation Committee Action | Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards ⁽²⁾ | | | Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards ⁽³⁾ | | | Maximum (\$) All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units ⁽⁴⁾ (#) | Threshold (#) Grant Date Fair Value of Stock Awards ⁽⁵⁾ (\$) |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--|--|----------------|-----------------|--|---------------|----------------|---|--|
| | | | Threshold (\$) | Target (\$) | Maximum (\$) | Threshold (#) | Target (#) | Maximum (#) | | |
| Linden R. Evans | 1/24/23 | 1/24/23 | \$ 446,667 | \$ 893,333 | \$ 1,786,667 | 6,609 | 26,434 | 52,868 | \$ 2,009,388 | |
| | 2/9/23 | 1/24/23 | | | | | | | | 11,395 |
| Kimberly F. Nooney | 1/24/23 | 1/24/23 | \$ 128,750 | \$ 257,500 | \$ 515,000 | 1,469 | 5,874 | 11,748 | \$ 446,520 | |
| | 2/9/23 | 1/24/23 | | | | | | | | 2,532 |
| Brian G. Iverson | 1/24/23 | 1/24/23 | \$ 150,558 | \$ 301,117 | \$ 602,233 | 1,469 | 5,874 | 11,748 | \$ 446,520 | |
| | 2/9/23 | 1/24/23 | | | | | | | | 2,532 |
| Marne M. Jones | 1/24/23 | 1/24/23 | \$ 98,797 | \$ 197,403 | \$ 394,806 | 612 | 2,448 | 4,896 | \$ 186,081 | |
| | 2/9/23 | 1/24/23 | | | | | | | | 1,055 |
| Erik D. Keller | 1/24/23 | 1/24/23 | \$ 91,417 | \$ 182,833 | \$ 365,667 | 734 | 2,937 | 5,874 | \$ 223,250 | |
| | 2/9/23 | 1/24/23 | | | | | | | | 1,266 |
| Richard W. Kinzley ⁽⁶⁾ | 1/24/23 | 1/24/23 | \$ 82,600 | \$ 165,200 | \$ 330,400 | — | — | — | \$ — | |
| | 2/9/23 | 1/24/23 | | | | | | | | — |

- (1) No stock options were granted to our Named Executive Officers in 2023.
- (2) The columns under “Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards” show the range of payouts for 2023 performance under our Short-Term Incentive Plan as described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis under the section titled “Short-Term Incentive” on page 27. If the performance criteria are met, payouts can range from 50 percent of target at the threshold level to 200 percent of target at the maximum level. The non-equity incentive payment for 2023 performance, paid in 2024, has been made based on achieving the criteria described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, at 153.67 percent of target, and is shown in the Summary Compensation Table on page 37 in the column titled “Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation.”
- (3) The columns under “Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards” show the range of payouts (in shares of stock) for the January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025 performance period as described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis under the section titled “Long-Term Incentive” on page 30. If the performance criteria are met, payouts can range from 25 percent of target to 200 percent of target. If a participant retires, suffers a disability or dies during the performance period, the participant or the participant’s estate is entitled to that portion of the number of performance shares as such participant would have been entitled to had he or she remained employed through the end of the performance period, prorated for the number of months served. With the exception of certain terminations following a change in control, performance shares and performance share units are forfeited if employment is terminated for any other reason. During the performance period, dividends and other distributions paid with respect to the shares of common stock accrue for the benefit of the participant and are paid out at the end of the performance period.
- (4) The column “All Other Stock Awards” reflects the number of shares of restricted stock granted on February 9, 2023 under our Amended and Restated 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan. The restricted stock vests one-third each year over a three-year period, and automatically vests upon death or disability, with the exception of certain terminations following a change in control. Unvested restricted stock is forfeited if employment is terminated for any other reason. Dividends are paid on the restricted stock and the dividends that were paid in 2023 are included in the column titled “All Other Compensation” in the Summary Compensation Table on page 37.

- (5) The column "Grant Date Fair Value of Stock Awards" reflects the grant date fair value of each equity award computed in accordance with the provisions of accounting standards for stock compensation. The grant date fair value for the performance share units was \$77.95 per share and was calculated on a weighted average basis considering the results of a Monte Carlo simulation model and the market value of our common stock as of the beginning of the performance period. Assumptions used in the calculation are included in Note 14 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023. The grant date fair value for the restricted stock was \$71.50 per share for the February 9, 2023 grant, which was the market value of our common stock on the date of grant as reported on the NYSE.
- (6) In connection with his retirement, Mr. Kinzley did not receive any equity compensation awards for fiscal 2023; however, he did receive a cash payment in lieu of these awards in recognition of his partial year of service. See footnote (4) to our Summary Compensation table.

OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT FISCAL YEAR-END 2023⁽¹⁾

| Name | Stock Awards | | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested ⁽²⁾ (#) | Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$) | Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested ⁽²⁾ (#) | Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$) |
| Linden R. Evans | 26,546 | 1,432,157 | 39,573 | 2,134,963 |
| Kimberly F. Nooney | 4,155 | 224,162 | 7,417 | 400,147 |
| Brian G. Iverson | 6,288 | 339,238 | 9,144 | 493,319 |
| Marne M. Jones | 2,540 | 137,033 | 3,761 | 202,906 |
| Erik D. Keller | 3,158 | 170,374 | 4,577 | 246,929 |
| Richard W. Kinzley | — | — | 3,307 | 178,413 |

- (1) There were no stock options outstanding at December 31, 2023 for our Named Executive Officers.
- (2) Vesting dates for restricted stock and performance share units are shown in the table below. The performance shares shown with a vesting date of January 25, 2024, are the actual equivalent shares, including dividend equivalents, earned for the performance period ended December 31, 2023. On January 25, 2024, the Compensation Committee confirmed that the performance criteria were met and there would be a payout of 16.21 percent of target. The performance shares with a vesting date of January 23, 2025 and the performance share units with a vesting date of January 23, 2026 are shown at a combination of threshold and target payout levels based upon performance as of December 31, 2023.

| Name | Unvested Restricted Stock | | Unvested and Unearned Performance Shares | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--|--------------|
| | # of Shares | Vesting Date | # of Shares | Vesting Date |
| Linden R. Evans | 5,950 | 02/11/24 | 3,233 | 01/25/24 |
| | 4,600 | 02/11/24 | 8,730 | 01/23/25 |
| | 4,601 | 02/11/25 | 27,610 | 01/23/26 |
| | 3,798 | 02/09/24 | | |
| | 3,798 | 02/09/25 | | |
| Kimberly F. Nooney | 623 | 02/11/24 | 336 | 01/25/24 |
| | 500 | 02/11/24 | 947 | 01/23/25 |
| | 500 | 02/11/25 | 6,134 | 01/23/26 |
| | 844 | 02/09/24 | | |
| | 844 | 02/09/25 | | |
| Brian G. Iverson | 1,356 | 02/11/24 | 735 | 01/25/24 |
| | 1,200 | 02/11/24 | 2,275 | 01/23/25 |
| | 1,200 | 02/11/25 | 6,134 | 01/23/26 |
| | 844 | 02/09/24 | | |
| | 844 | 02/09/25 | | |
| Marne M. Jones | 485 | 02/11/24 | 261 | 01/25/24 |
| | 500 | 02/11/24 | 947 | 01/23/25 |
| | 500 | 02/11/25 | 2,553 | 01/23/26 |
| | 351 | 02/09/24 | | |
| | 352 | 02/09/25 | | |
| Erik D. Keller | 692 | 02/11/24 | 374 | 01/25/24 |
| | 600 | 02/11/24 | 1,137 | 01/23/25 |
| | 600 | 02/11/25 | 3,066 | 01/23/26 |
| | 422 | 02/09/24 | | |
| | 422 | 02/09/25 | | |
| Richard W. Kinzley | | | 937 | 01/25/24 |
| | | | 2,370 | 01/23/25 |

OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED DURING 2023⁽¹⁾

Stock Awards⁽²⁾

| Name | Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#) | Value Realized on Vesting (\$) |
|--------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Linden R. Evans | 17,448 | \$ 1,138,987 |
| Kimberly F. Nooney | 1,706 | \$ 111,094 |
| Brian G. Iverson | 4,169 | \$ 272,039 |
| Marne M. Jones | 1,567 | \$ 102,177 |
| Erik D. Keller | 4,822 | \$ 283,704 |
| Richard W. Kinzley | 5,019 | \$ 327,833 |

(1) There were no stock options exercised during 2023.

(2) Reflects restricted stock that vested in 2023 and performance shares earned for the January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2022 performance period. The performance share payout was approved by the Compensation Committee on January 25, 2023 and paid out on February 14, 2023.

PENSION BENEFITS FOR 2023

Several years ago, we adopted a defined contribution plan design as our primary retirement plan and amended our Pension Plan and Nonqualified Pension Plans for all eligible employees to incorporate a partial freeze in which the accrual of benefits ceased for certain participants while other participants were allowed an election to continue to accrue benefits. Employees eligible to elect continued participation were those employees who were at least 45 years old and had at least 10 years of eligible service with us as of January 1, 2010. None of our Named Executive Officers met the age and service requirement necessary to continue to accrue benefits under the Pension Plan. Rather, benefits under the Pension Plan were frozen for Messrs. Evans, Kinzley and Iverson and Messes. Jones and Nooney. Mr. Keller joined the Company after the plans were frozen and therefore does not participate in the plans. Mr. Kinzley received a pension benefit payment during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023.

The present value accumulated by each Named Executive Officer from each plan is shown in the table below:

| Name | Plan Name | Number of Years of Credited Service ⁽¹⁾ (#) | Present Value of Accumulated Benefit ⁽²⁾ (\$) | Payments During Last Fiscal Year (\$) |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|---|
| Linden R. Evans | Pension Plan | 8.58 | \$ 295,006 | \$ - |
| | Pension Restoration Benefit | 8.58 | \$ 235,796 | \$ - |
| Kimberly F. Nooney | Pension Plan | 13.50 | \$ 171,160 | \$ - |
| | Pension Restoration Benefit | N/A | - | \$ - |
| Brian G. Iverson | Pension Plan | 5.83 | \$ 157,035 | \$ - |
| | Pension Restoration Plan | N/A | - | \$ - |
| Marne M. Jones | Pension Plan | 8.00 | \$ 59,139 | \$ - |
| | Pension Restoration Plan | N/A | - | \$ - |
| Erik D. Keller | Pension Plan | N/A | - | \$ - |
| | Pension Restoration Plan | N/A | - | \$ - |
| Richard W. Kinzley | Pension Plan | 10.50 | - | \$ 203,926 |
| | Pension Restoration Benefit | 10.50 | \$ 16,172 | \$ - |

(1) The number of years of credited service represents the number of years used in determining the benefit for each plan.

(2) The present value of accumulated benefits was calculated assuming the participants will work until retirement, benefits commence at age 62 and using the discount rate, mortality rate and assumed payment form assumptions consistent with those disclosed in Note 13 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023.

DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN

Our Pension Plan is a qualified pension plan. As discussed above, several years ago we amended our Pension Plan to incorporate a partial freeze in which the accrual of benefits ceased for certain participants while other participants were allowed an election to continue to accrue benefits.

The Pension Plan provides benefits at retirement based on length of employment service and average compensation levels during the highest five consecutive years of the last ten years of service. For purposes of the benefit calculation, earnings include wages and other cash compensation received from us, including any bonus, commission, unused paid time off or incentive compensation. It also includes any elective before-tax contributions made by the employee to a Company-sponsored cafeteria plan or 401(k) plan. However, it does not include any expense reimbursements, taxable fringe benefits, moving expenses or moving/relocation allowances, nonqualified deferred compensation, non-cash incentives, stock options and any payments of long-term incentive compensation such as restricted stock or payments under performance share plans. The Internal Revenue Code places maximum limitations on the amount of compensation that may be recognized when determining benefits of qualified pension plans. In 2023, the maximum amount of compensation that could be recognized when determining compensation was \$330,000 (called "covered compensation"). Our employees do not contribute to the plan. The amount of the annual contribution by us to the plan is based on an actuarial determination.

The benefit formula for the Named Executive Officers in the plan is the sum of (a) and (b) below:

(a) Credited Service after January 31, 2000

0.9% of average earnings (up to covered compensation), multiplied by credited service after January 31, 2000 minus the number of years of credited service before January 31, 2000

Plus

1.3% of average earnings in excess of covered compensation, multiplied by credited service after January 31, 2000 minus the number of years of credited service before January 31, 2000

Plus

(b) Credited Service before January 31, 2000

1.2% of average earnings (up to covered compensation), multiplied by credited service before January 31, 2000

Plus

1.6% of average earnings in excess of covered compensation, multiplied by credited service before January 31, 2000

Pension benefits are not reduced for social security benefits. The Internal Revenue Code places maximum limitations on annual benefit amounts that can be paid under qualified pension plans. In 2023, the maximum benefit payable under qualified pension plans was \$265,000. Accrued benefits become 100 percent vested after an employee completes five years of service.

Normal retirement is defined as age 65 under the plan. However, a participant may retire and begin taking unreduced benefits at age 62 with five years of service. Participants who have completed at least five years of credited service can retire and receive defined benefit pension benefits as early as age 55. However, the retirement benefit will be reduced by five percent for each year of retirement before age 62. All our Named Executive Officers who are eligible for pension benefits, with the exception of Messrs. Jones and Nooney, are currently age 55 or older and are entitled to early retirement benefits under this provision.

PENSION RESTORATION BENEFIT

We also have a Pension Restoration Benefit. This is a nonqualified supplemental plan, in which benefits are not tax deductible until paid. The plan is designed to provide the higher paid executive employee a retirement benefit which, when added to social security benefits and the pension to be received under the Pension Plan, will approximate retirement benefits being paid by other employers to their employees in similar executive positions. The employee's pension from the qualified Pension Plan is limited by the Internal Revenue Code. The 2023 pension limit was set at \$265,000 annually and the compensation taken into account in determining contributions and benefits could not exceed \$330,000 and could not include nonqualified deferred compensation. The amount of deferred compensation paid under nonqualified plans is not subject to these limits.

As a result of the change in the Pension Plan discussed above, the benefits for certain officers (including Messrs. Evans and Kinzley) under the Nonqualified Pension Plans were significantly reduced because the nonqualified benefit calculations were linked to the benefits earned in the Pension Plan. The Compensation Committee amended the Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan to provide non-elective nonqualified restoration benefits to those affected officers who were not eligible to continue accruing benefits under the Pension Plan and Nonqualified Pension Plans.

Pension Restoration Benefit. In the event that at the time of a participant's retirement, the participant's salary level exceeds the qualified Pension Plan annual compensation limitation (\$330,000 in 2023) or includes nonqualified deferred compensation, then the participant will receive an additional benefit, called a "Pension Restoration Benefit," which is measured by the difference between (i) the monthly benefit that would have been provided to the participant under the Pension Plan as if there were no annual compensation limitation and no exclusion on nonqualified deferred compensation, and (ii) the monthly benefit to be provided to the participant under the Pension Plan. The Pension Restoration Benefit applies to Messrs. Evans and Kinzley.

NONQUALIFIED DEFERRED COMPENSATION FOR 2023

We have a Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan for a select group of management or highly compensated employees. Eligibility to participate in the plan is determined by the Compensation Committee and includes our Named Executive Officers.

A summary of the activity in the plan and the aggregate balance as of December 31, 2023 for our Named Executive Officers is shown in the following table. Our Named Executive Officers received no withdrawals or distributions from the plan in 2023.

| Name | Executive Contributions | Company Contributions in Last Fiscal Year ⁽¹⁾ | Aggregate Earnings in Last Fiscal Year ⁽²⁾ | Aggregate Balance at Last Fiscal Year End ⁽³⁾ |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--|---|--|
| Linden R. Evans | \$ — | \$ 476,817 | \$ 926,737 | \$ 6,436,107 |
| Kimberly F. Nooney | \$ — | \$ 76,231 | \$ 91,506 | \$ 559,709 |
| Brian G. Iverson | \$ — | \$ 90,220 | \$ 103,392 | \$ 1,183,756 |
| Marne M. Jones | \$ — | \$ 63,682 | \$ 41,561 | \$ 305,035 |
| Erik D. Keller | \$ 54,877 | \$ 47,705 | \$ 35,121 | \$ 333,465 |
| Richard W. Kinzley | \$ — | \$ 112,685 | \$ 233,229 | \$ 2,817,496 |

(1) Our contributions represent non-elective Supplemental Matching and Retirement Contributions and Supplemental Target Contributions (defined in the paragraph below) and are included in the All Other Compensation column of the Summary Compensation Table. The value attributed from each contribution type to each Named Executive Officer in 2023 is shown in the table below:

| Name | Supplemental Matching Contribution | Supplemental Retirement Contribution | Supplemental Target Contribution | Total Company Contributions |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Linden R. Evans | \$ 70,426 | \$ 105,639 | \$ 300,752 | \$ 476,817 |
| Kimberly F. Nooney | \$ 13,590 | \$ 18,121 | \$ 44,520 | \$ 76,231 |
| Brian G. Iverson | \$ 16,649 | \$ 24,973 | \$ 48,598 | \$ 90,220 |
| Marne M. Jones | \$ 10,168 | \$ 13,557 | \$ 39,957 | \$ 63,682 |
| Erik D. Keller | \$ 6,392 | \$ 6,392 | \$ 34,921 | \$ 47,705 |
| Richard W. Kinzley | \$ 10,142 | \$ 15,213 | \$ 87,330 | \$ 112,685 |

- (2) Because amounts included in this column do not include above-market or preferential earnings, none of these amounts are included in the "Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings" column of the Summary Compensation Table.
- (3) Messrs. Evans', Iverson's, Keller's, Kinzley's and Messes. Nooney's and Jones' aggregate balances at December 31, 2023 include \$1,526,704, \$291,104, \$132,308, \$516,084, \$76,231 and \$63,682, respectively, which are included in the Summary Compensation Table as 2023, 2022 and 2021 compensation.
- (4) In April of 2022, the Compensation Committee eliminated the supplemental target contribution for all future participants in the plan. All our Named Executive Officers were participants prior to this elimination and maintain entitlement to supplemental target contributions.

Eligible employees may elect to defer up to 50 percent of their base salary and up to 100 percent of their Short-Term Incentive Plan award. In addition, the Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan was amended to provide certain officers whose Pension Plan benefit and Nonqualified Pension Plan benefits were frozen with non-elective supplemental matching contributions equal to 6 percent of eligible compensation in excess of the Internal Revenue Code limit plus matching contributions, if any, lost under the 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan due to nondiscrimination test results and provides non-elective supplemental age and service points-based contributions that cannot be made to the 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan due to the Internal Revenue Code limit ("Supplemental Matching and Retirement Contributions"). It also provides supplemental target contributions equal to a percentage of compensation that may differ by executive, based on the executive's current age and length of service with us, as determined by the plans' actuary ("Supplemental Target Contributions"). Messrs. Evans, Kinzley, Iverson, and Keller and Messes. Jones and Nooney received Supplemental Target Contributions of 20 percent, 17.5 percent, 8 percent, 8 percent, 8 percent, and 8 percent respectively.

The deferrals are deposited into hypothetical investment accounts where the participants may direct the investment of the deferrals as allowed by the plan. The investment options are the same as those offered to all employees in the 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan except for a fixed rate option, which was set at 5.10 percent in 2023. Investment earnings are

credited to the participants' accounts. Upon retirement, we will distribute the account balance to the participant according to the participant's distribution election. The participants may elect either a lump sum payment or annual or monthly installments over a period of years designated by the participant, but not to exceed 10 years. As of January 1, 2024, Messrs. Evans and Iverson and Messes. Jones and Nooney are 100 percent vested in the plan.

POTENTIAL PAYMENTS UPON TERMINATION OR CHANGE IN CONTROL

The following table describes the potential payments and benefits under our compensation and benefit plans and arrangements to which our Named Executive Officers would be entitled upon termination of employment. Except for (i) certain terminations following a change in control ("CIC"), as described below, (ii) pro-rata payout of incentive compensation and the acceleration of vesting of equity awards upon retirement, death or disability, and (iii) certain pension and nonqualified deferred compensation arrangements described under Pension Benefits for 2023 and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation for 2023 above, there are no agreements, arrangements or plans that entitle the Named Executive Officers to severance, perquisites, or other enhanced benefits upon termination of their employment. Any agreements to provide other payments or benefits to a terminating executive officer would be in the discretion of the Compensation Committee.

The amounts shown below assume that such termination was effective as of December 31, 2023, and thus includes estimates of the amounts that would be paid out to our Named Executive Officers upon their termination. The table does not include amounts such as base salary, short-term incentives and stock awards that the Named Executive Officers earned due to employment through December 31, 2023 and distributions of vested benefits such as those described under Pension Benefits for 2023 and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation for 2023. The table also does not include a value for outplacement services because this would be a de minimis amount. The actual amounts to be paid can only be determined at the time of such Named Executive Officer's separation from us.

| | Cash Severance Payment | Incremental Retirement Benefit (present value) ⁽³⁾ | Continuation of Medical/ Welfare Benefits (present value) ⁽⁴⁾ | Acceleration of Equity Awards ⁽⁵⁾ | Total Benefits |
|---|------------------------------|---|---|---|-------------------|
| Linden R. Evans | | | | | |
| Retirement | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 226,165 | \$ 226,165 |
| Death or disability | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 1,658,322 | \$ 1,658,322 |
| Involuntary termination | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — |
| CIC ⁽¹⁾ | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — |
| Involuntary or good reason termination after CIC ⁽²⁾ | \$ 5,342,131 | \$ 1,890,000 | \$ 81,600 | \$ 1,866,301 | \$ 9,180,032 |
| Kimberly F. Nooney | | | | | |
| Retirement | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 41,181 | \$ 41,181 |
| Death or disability | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 265,344 | \$ 265,344 |
| Involuntary termination | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — |
| CIC ⁽¹⁾ | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — |
| Involuntary or good reason termination after CIC ⁽²⁾ | \$ 1,373,334 | \$ 309,760 | \$ 76,800 | \$ 293,848 | \$ 2,053,742 |
| Brian G. Iverson | | | | | |
| Retirement | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 53,324 | \$ 53,324 |
| Death or disability | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 392,562 | \$ 392,562 |
| Involuntary termination | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — |
| CIC ⁽¹⁾ | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — |
| Involuntary or good reason termination after CIC ⁽²⁾ | \$ 1,462,568 | \$ 338,606 | \$ 35,800 | \$ 444,744 | \$ 2,281,718 |
| Marne M. Jones | | | | | |
| Retirement | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 22,207 | \$ 22,207 |
| Death or disability | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 159,240 | \$ 159,240 |
| Involuntary termination | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — |
| CIC ⁽¹⁾ | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — |
| Involuntary or good reason termination after CIC ⁽²⁾ | \$ 1,172,766 | \$ 286,440 | \$ 81,100 | \$ 181,019 | \$ 1,721,325 |
| Erik D. Keller | | | | | |
| Retirement | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 26,649 | \$ 26,649 |
| Death or disability | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 197,023 | \$ 197,023 |
| Involuntary termination | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — |
| CIC ⁽¹⁾ | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — |
| Involuntary or good reason termination after CIC ⁽²⁾ | \$ 1,097,001 | \$ 263,992 | \$ 53,200 | \$ 223,158 | \$ 1,637,351 |
| Richard W. Kinzley | | | | | |
| Retirement ⁽⁶⁾ | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 8,724 | \$ 8,724 |

- (1) The amounts reflected for after a change in control (with no involuntary or good reason termination) contemplate the assumption or replacement of the equity awards by the successor entity.
- (2) The amounts reflected for involuntary or good reason termination after a change in control include the benefits a Named Executive Officer would receive in the event of a change followed by an involuntary or good reason termination.
- (3) Assumes that in the event of a change in control, Mr. Evans will receive an additional three years of credited and vesting service and the other Named Executive Officers will receive an additional two years of credited and vesting service towards the benefit accrual under their applicable retirement plans. For Messrs. Evans, Kinzley, and Iverson and Messes. Jones and Nooney this would be the Retirement Contributions and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation contributions. The benefits will immediately vest and payments will commence at the earliest eligible date unless the executive has elected a later date for the nonqualified plans. With the exception of Messes. Jones and Nooney, our Named Executive Officers are age 55 or older and are already retirement eligible.

- (4) Welfare benefits include medical coverage, dental coverage, life insurance, short-term disability coverage and long-term disability coverage. The calculation assumes that the Named Executive Officer does not take employment with another employer following termination, elects continued welfare benefits until age 55 or, if later, the end of the two year benefit continuation period (three years for Mr. Evans) and elects retiree medical benefits thereafter. Retirement is assumed to occur at the earliest eligible date.
- (5) In the event of death or disability, the acceleration of equity awards represents the acceleration of unvested restricted stock and the assumed payout of the pro-rata share of the performance shares for the January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024 and January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025 performance periods. In the event of retirement, all unvested restricted stock is forfeited and the acceleration of equity awards represents only the pro-rata share of the performance shares and performance share units. We assumed a 20.0 percent payout of the performance shares for the January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024 performance period and a 13.3 percent payout of target for the January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025 performance period based on assumed target achievement of performance metrics for EPS and average cost to serve and, for relative total shareholder return, our Monte Carlo valuations at December 31, 2023.

In the event of a change in control without an involuntary or good reason termination after a change in control, the acceleration of equity awards only occurs if the awards are not assumed or replaced by the successor entity.

In the event of a change in control or an involuntary or good reason termination after a change in control, the acceleration of equity awards represents the acceleration of unvested restricted stock and performance share units calculated as if the performance period ended on December 31, 2023 for the January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024, and January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025 performance periods.

The valuation of the restricted stock and performance share units was based upon the closing price of our common stock on December 31, 2023.

- (6) The amounts for Mr. Kinzley reflect benefits he received in connection with his retirement effective July 3, 2023. As a result, no other scenarios are presented for Mr. Kinzley. As disclosed in footnote (6) to our Summary Compensation Table, Mr. Kinzley also received a cash payment in lieu of any equity compensation awards for fiscal 2023.

Payments Made Upon Termination. Regardless of the manner in which a Named Executive Officer's employment terminates, the Named Executive Officer or his/her beneficiaries may be entitled to receive amounts earned during his/her term of employment. These include:

- accrued salary and unused vacation pay;
- amounts vested under the Pension Plan and Nonqualified Pension Plans;
- amounts vested under the Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan; and
- amounts vested under the 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan.

Payments Made Upon Retirement. In the event of retirement of a Named Executive Officer, in addition to the items identified above, he/she will also receive the benefit of the following:

- a pro-rata share of the performance shares for each outstanding performance period upon completion of the performance period; and
- a pro-rata share of the actual payout under the Short-Term Incentive Plan upon completion of the incentive period.

Payments Made Upon Death or Disability. In the event of death or disability of a Named Executive Officer, in addition to the items identified above for payments made upon termination, he/she will also receive the benefit of the following:

- accelerated vesting of restricted stock and restricted stock units;
- a pro-rata share of the performance shares for each outstanding performance period upon completion of the performance period; and
- a pro-rata share of the actual payout under the Short-Term Incentive Plan upon completion of the incentive period.

Payments Made Upon a Change in Control. Our Named Executive Officers have change in control agreements that terminate November 15, 2025. The renewal of the change in control agreements is at the discretion of the Compensation Committee and the Board. The change in control agreements provide for certain payments and other benefits to be payable upon a change in control and a subsequent termination of employment, either involuntary or for a good reason. In order to receive any payments under the agreements, the Named Executive Officer must sign a waiver and release of claims that includes a one-year non-competition clause and two-year non-solicitation and non-disparagement clauses.

A change in control is defined in the agreements as:

- an acquisition of 30 percent or more of our common stock, except for certain defined acquisitions, such as acquisition by employee benefit plans, us, any of our subsidiaries, or acquisition by an underwriter holding the securities in connection with a public offering thereof; or
- members of our incumbent Board cease to constitute at least a majority of the members of the Board, with the incumbent Board being defined as those individuals consisting of the Board on October 1, 2022 and any other directors elected subsequently whose election was approved by the incumbent Board; or
- approval by our shareholders of:
 - a merger, consolidation, or reorganization;
 - liquidation or dissolution; or
 - an agreement for sale or other disposition of all or substantially all of our assets, with exceptions for transactions which do not involve an effective change in control of voting securities or Board membership, and transfers to subsidiaries or sale of subsidiaries; and

- all regulatory approvals required to effect a change in control have been obtained and the transaction constituting the change in control has been consummated.

In the change in control agreements, a good reason for termination that triggers payment of benefits includes:

- a material reduction of the executive's authority, duties or responsibilities;
- a material reduction in the executive's base salary or annual incentive target opportunity;
- any material breach by us of any provisions of the change in control agreement;
- requiring the executive to be based outside a 50-mile radius from his or her usual and normal place of work; or
- our failure to obtain an agreement, satisfactory to the executive, from any successor company to assume and agree to perform under the change in control agreement.

Upon a change in control, an employment contract with Mr. Evans will become effective for a three-year period and for a two-year period for the other Named Executive Officers. During this time, the executive will receive annual compensation at least equal to the highest rate in effect at any time during the one-year period preceding the change in control and will also receive employment welfare benefits, pension benefits and supplemental retirement benefits on a basis no less favorable than those received prior to the change in control. Annual compensation is defined to include amounts which are includable in the gross income of the executive for federal income tax purposes, including base salary, targeted short-term incentive, targeted long-term incentive grants and awards, and matching contributions or other benefits payable under the 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan, but exclude restricted stock awards, performance units or stock options that become vested or exercisable pursuant to a change in control.

If a Named Executive Officer's employment is terminated prior to the end of the covered time by us for cause or disability, by reason of the Named Executive Officer's death, or by the Named Executive Officer without good reason, the Named Executive Officer will receive all amounts of compensation earned or accrued through the termination date. If the Named Executive Officer's employment is terminated because of death or disability, the Named Executive Officer or their beneficiaries will also receive a pro rata bonus equal to 100 percent of the target incentive for the portion of the year served.

If Mr. Evans' employment is terminated during the employment term (other than by reason of death) (i) by us other than for cause or disability, or (ii) by Mr. Evans for a good reason, then Mr. Evans is entitled to the following benefits:

- all accrued compensation, a pro-rata short-term incentive bonus and accelerated vesting of restricted stock and performance units valued at target as of the date of the change in control;
- severance pay equal to 2.99 times Mr. Evans' severance compensation defined as his base salary and short-term incentive target on the date of the change in control;
- continuation of employee welfare benefits for eighteen months following the termination date unless Mr. Evans becomes covered under the health insurance coverage of a subsequent employer which does not contain any exclusion or limitation with respect to any preexisting condition of Mr. Evans or his eligible dependents;
- following the three-year period, Mr. Evans may elect to receive coverage under the employee welfare plans of the successor entity at his then-current level of benefits (or reduced coverage at his election) by paying the premiums charged to regular full-time employees for such coverage, and is eligible to continue receiving such coverage through the date of his retirement;
- three additional years of service and age will be credited to Mr. Evans' retiree medical savings account and the account balance will become fully vested and he is eligible to use the account balance to offset retiree medical premiums at the later of age 55 or the end of the three year continuation period;
- three years of additional credited service under the Pension Restoration Plan and Pension Plan; and
- outplacement assistance services for up to six months.

If any other NEO's employment is terminated during the employment term (other than by death) (i) by us other than for cause or disability, or (ii) by the NEO for a good reason, then the NEO is entitled to the following benefits:

- all accrued compensation, a pro-rata short-term incentive bonus and accelerated vesting of restricted stock and performance units valued at target as of the date of the change in control;
- severance pay equal to two times the NEO's severance compensation defined as the NEO's base salary and short-term incentive target on the date of the change in control;
- continuation of employee welfare benefits for eighteen months following the termination date unless the NEO becomes covered under the health insurance coverage of a subsequent employer which does not contain any exclusion or limitation with respect to any preexisting condition of the NEO or the NEO's eligible dependents;
- following the two-year period, the NEO may elect to receive coverage under the employee welfare plans of the successor entity at their then-current level of benefits (or reduced coverage at the NEO's election) by paying the premiums charged to regular full-time employees for such coverage, and is eligible to continue receiving such coverage through the date of their retirement;
- two additional years of service and age will be credited to the NEO's retiree medical savings account and the account balance will become fully vested and the NEO is eligible to use the account balance to offset retiree medical premiums at the later of age 55 or the end of the two year continuation period;
- two years of additional credited service under the executives' applicable retirement plans; and
- outplacement assistance services for up to six months.

The change in control agreements do not contain a benefit to cover any excise tax imposed by Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

PAY RATIO FOR 2023

We are providing the following information about the relationship of the annual total compensation of our employees and the annual total compensation of Mr. Evans, our Chief Executive Officer, in 2023.

Based on the information below for the fiscal year 2023 and calculated in a manner consistent with Item 402(u) of Regulation S-K, we reasonably estimate that the ratio of our CEO's annual total compensation to the annual total compensation of our median employee was 54:1.

| Name | Year | Salary | Stock Awards | Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation | Change in Pension Value ⁽²⁾ | All Other Compensation ⁽³⁾ | Total |
|--------------------------------|------|------------|--------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Linden R. Evans | 2023 | \$ 893,333 | \$ 2,729,666 | \$ 1,372,785 | \$ 35,493 | \$ 607,725 | \$ 5,639,002 |
| Median Employee ⁽¹⁾ | 2023 | \$ 91,667 | \$ — | \$ 6,453 | \$ — | \$ 5,891 | \$ 104,011 |

- (1) We identified our median employee based on the year-to-date total cash compensation actually paid as of November 12, 2023 to all of our employees, other than our CEO, who were employed on November 12, 2023.
- (2) See footnote (3) to our Summary Compensation Table for a description of how the values in the Change in Pension Value column are calculated.
- (3) All Other Compensation includes 401(k) match, defined contributions, NQDC contributions, dividends on restricted stock and other personal benefits for Mr. Evans and the 401(k) match for the median employee.

PAY VERSUS PERFORMANCE

In accordance with rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, we provide the following disclosures regarding executive compensation for our principal executive officer ("PEO") and Non-PEO NEOs and Company performance for the fiscal years listed below. The Compensation Committee did not consider the pay versus performance disclosure below in making its pay decisions for any of the years shown.

| | Summary Compensation Table Total for Linden R. Evans ⁽¹⁾ | Compensation Actually Paid to Linden R. Evans ^{(1) (3)} | Average Summary Compensation Table Total for Non-PEO NEOs ⁽¹⁾ | Average Compensation Actually Paid to Non-PEO NEOs ^{(1) (2) (3)} | Value of initial Fixed \$100 Investment Based on: | | | Company-Selected Performance Measure EPS from ongoing operations, as adjusted (non-GAAP) ⁽⁵⁾ |
|------|---|--|--|---|---|--|--------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | Total Shareholder Return | Peer Group Total Shareholder Return ⁽⁴⁾ | Net income (GAAP), in millions | |
| 2023 | \$ 5,639,002 | \$ 1,951,347 | \$ 1,186,100 | \$ 631,015 | \$ 79.38 | \$ 91.30 | \$ 276.0 | \$ 3.93 |
| 2022 | \$ 4,486,548 | \$ 4,506,289 | \$ 1,208,492 | \$ 1,224,584 | \$ 99.15 | \$ 101.15 | \$ 270.8 | \$ 3.97 |
| 2021 | \$ 4,440,908 | \$ 5,151,457 | \$ 1,318,764 | \$ 1,453,664 | \$ 96.19 | \$ 117.12 | \$ 251.3 | \$ 3.74 |
| 2020 | \$ 4,221,114 | \$ 3,055,790 | \$ 1,565,573 | \$ 1,003,991 | \$ 80.92 | \$ 98.84 | \$ 242.8 | \$ 3.73 |

- (1) Linden R. Evans was our PEO for each year presented. The individuals comprising the Non-PEO NEOs for each year presented are listed below:

| 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Richard W. Kinzley | Richard W. Kinzley | Richard W. Kinzley | Kimberly F. Nooney |
| Brian G. Iverson | Brian G. Iverson | Brian G. Iverson | Brian G. Iverson |
| Stuart A. Wevik | Stuart A. Wevik | Erik D. Keller | Marnie M. Jones |
| Scott A. Buchholz | Erik D. Keller | Jennifer C. Landis | Erik D. Keller |
| | | | Richard W. Kinzley |

- (2) The amounts shown for Compensation Actually Paid have been calculated in accordance with Item 402(v) of Regulation S-K and do not reflect compensation actually earned, realized, or received by the Company's NEOs. These amounts reflect the Summary Compensation Table Total with certain adjustments as described in footnote (3) below.
- (3) Compensation Actually Paid reflects the exclusions and inclusions of certain amounts for the PEO and the Non-PEO NEOs as set forth below. Equity values are calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. Amounts in the Exclusion of Stock Awards column are the totals from the Stock Awards column set forth in the Summary Compensation Table. Amounts in the Exclusion of Change in Pension Value column reflect the amounts attributable to the Change in Pension Value reported in the Summary Compensation Table. Amounts in the Inclusion of Pension Service Cost are based on the service cost for services rendered during the listed year.

| Year | Summary Compensation Table Total for Linden R. Evans | Exclusion of Change in Pension Value for Linden R. Evans | Exclusion of Stock Awards for Linden R. Evans | Inclusion of Pension Service Cost for Linden R. Evans | Inclusion of Equity Values for Linden R. Evans | Compensation Actually Paid to Linden R. Evans |
|------|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| 2023 | \$ 5,639,002 | \$ (35,493) | \$ (2,729,666) | \$ - | \$ (922,496) | \$ 1,951,347 |

| Year | Average Summary Compensation Table Total for Non-PEO NEOs | Average Exclusion of Change in Pension Value for Non-PEO NEOs | Average Exclusion of Stock Awards and Option Awards for Non-PEO NEOs | Average Inclusion of Pension Service Cost for Non-PEO NEOs | Average Inclusion of Equity Values for Non-PEO NEOs | Average Compensation Actually Paid to Non-PEO NEOs |
|------|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| 2023 | \$ 1,186,100 | \$ (5,828) | \$ (353,835) | \$ - | \$ (195,422) | \$ 631,015 |

The amounts in the Inclusion of Equity Values in the tables above are derived from the amounts set forth in the following tables:

| Year | Year-End Fair Value of Equity Awards Granted During Year That Remained Unvested as of Last Day of Year for Linden R. Evans | Change in Fair Value from Last Day of Prior Year to Last Day of Year of Unvested Equity Awards for Linden R. Evans | Vesting-Date Fair Value of Equity Awards Granted During Year that Vested During Year for Linden R. Evans | Change in Fair Value from Last Day of Prior Year to Vesting Date of Unvested Equity Awards that Vested During Year for Linden R. Evans | Fair Value at Last Day of Prior Year of Equity Awards Forfeited During Year for Linden R. Evans | Value of Dividends or Other Earnings Paid on Stock or Option Awards Not Otherwise Included for Linden R. Evans | Total - Inclusion of Equity Values for Linden R. Evans |
|------|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| 2023 | \$ 1,578,054 | \$ (2,654,316) | \$ - | \$ 153,766 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ (922,496) |

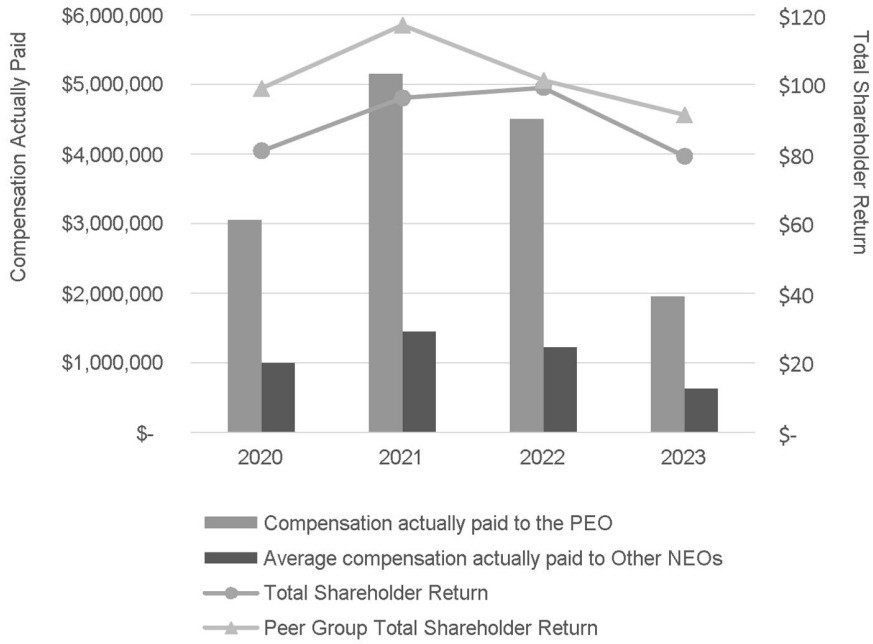
| Year | Average Year-End Fair Value of Equity Awards Granted During Year That Remained Unvested as of Last Day of Year for Non-PEO NEOs | Average Change in Fair Value from Last Day of Prior Year to Last Day of Year of Unvested Equity Awards for Non-PEO NEOs | Average Vesting-Date Fair Value of Equity Awards Granted During Year that Vested During Year for Non-PEO NEOs | Average Change in Fair Value from Last Day of Prior Year to Vesting Date of Unvested Equity Awards that Vested During Year for Non-PEO NEOs | Average Fair Value at Last Day of Prior Year of Equity Awards Forfeited During Year for Non-PEO NEOs | Average Value of Dividends or Other Earnings Paid on Stock or Option Awards Not Otherwise Included for Non-PEO NEOs | Total - Average Inclusion of Equity Values for Non-PEO NEOs |
|------|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| 2023 | \$ 204,554 | \$ (350,241) | \$ - | \$ 12,605 | \$ (62,340) | \$ - | \$ (195,422) |

- (4) The Peer Group TSR set forth in this table utilizes the Edison Electric Institute Index ("EEI Index"), which we also utilize in the stock performance graph required by Item 201(e) of Regulation S-K included in our Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2023. The comparison assumes \$100 was invested for the period starting December 31, 2019, through the end of the listed year in the Company and in the EEI Index, respectively. All dollar values assume reinvestment of the pre-tax value of dividends paid by companies, where applicable, included in the EEI Index. Historical stock performance is not necessarily indicative of future stock performance.
- (5) We determined EPS from ongoing operations, as adjusted (non-GAAP) to be the most important financial performance measure used to link Company performance to Compensation Actually Paid to our PEO and Non-PEO NEOs in 2023. More information on EPS from ongoing operations, as adjusted can be found in the Short-Term Incentive section of Compensation Discussion and Analysis. This performance measure may not have been the most important financial performance measure for years 2022, 2021, and 2020 and we may determine a different financial performance measure to be the most important financial performance measure in future years.

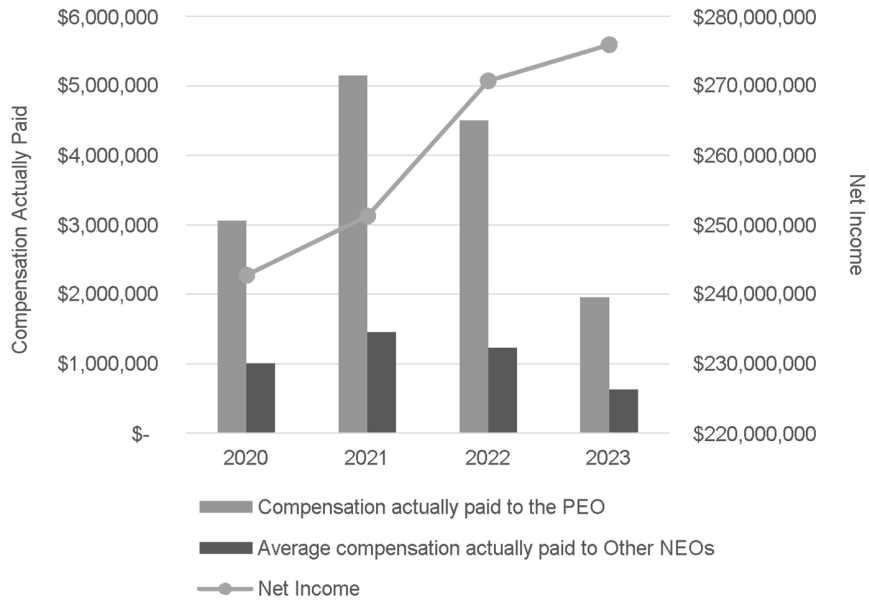
Relationship between Pay and Performance

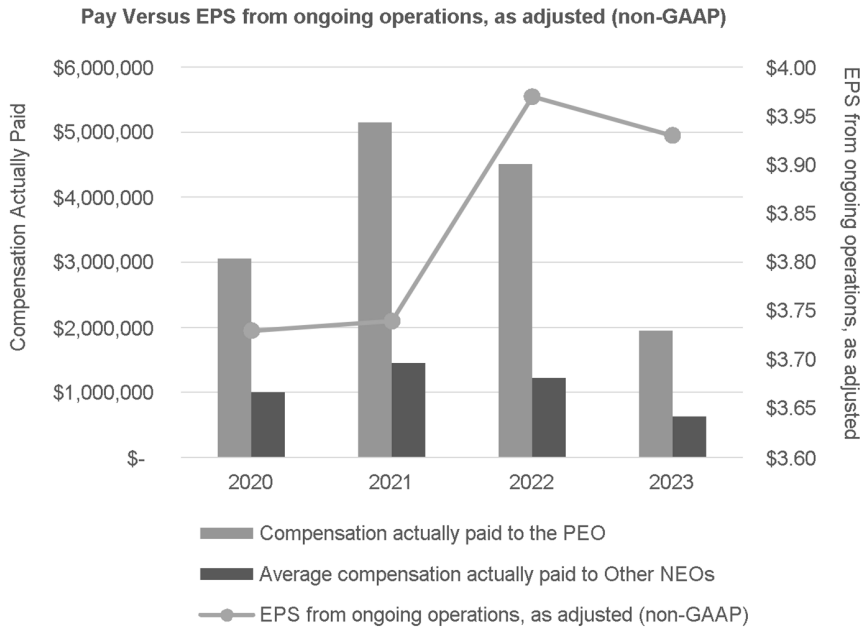
The charts shown below present a graphical comparison of compensation actually paid to the PEO and the average compensation actually paid to the other NEOs set forth in the Pay Versus Performance table above, as compared against the following Company performance measures: (1) Total shareholder return (TSR); (2) Peer group TSR; (3) Net income; and (4) EPS from ongoing operations, as adjusted. As presented, the first chart below compares the Company's TSR and peer group TSR, assumes an initial investment of \$100 on December 31, 2019, assumes all dividends were reinvested and depicts performance at the end of each applicable year.

Pay Versus TSR 2020 - 2023



Pay Versus Net Income 2020 - 2023





Financial Performance Measures

The following table presents the financial performance measures that the Company considers to have been the most important in linking Compensation Actually Paid to our PEO and other NEOs for 2023 to Company performance. The measures in this table are not ranked.

| Most Important Performance Measures | |
|--|---|
| | EPS from ongoing operations, as adjusted (non-GAAP) |
| | Net income |
| | Total Shareholder Return |

TRANSACTION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Our Board does not intend to present any business for action by our shareholders at the meeting except the matters referred to in this proxy statement. If any other matters should be properly presented at the meeting, it is the intention of the persons named in the accompanying form of proxy to vote thereon in accordance with the recommendations of our Board.

SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Shareholder proposals intended to be presented at our 2025 annual meeting of shareholders and considered for inclusion in our proxy materials must be received by our Corporate Secretary in writing at our executive offices at 7001 Mount Rushmore Road, P.O. Box 1400, Rapid City, South Dakota 57709, on or prior to November 15, 2024. Any proposal submitted must be in compliance with Rule 14a-8 of Regulation 14A of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Additionally, a shareholder may submit a proposal or director nominee for consideration at our 2025 annual meeting of shareholders, but not for inclusion of the proposal or director nominee in our proxy materials, if the shareholder gives timely written notice of such proposal in accordance with Article I, Section 9 of our Bylaws. In general, Article I, Section 9 provides that, to be timely, a shareholder's notice must be delivered to our Corporate Secretary in writing not less than 90 days nor more than 120 days prior to the anniversary date of the immediately preceding annual meeting of shareholders.

Our 2025 annual meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2025. Ninety days prior to the first anniversary of this date will be January 23, 2025, and 120 days prior to the first anniversary of this date will be December 24, 2024. For business to be properly requested by the shareholder to be brought before the 2025 annual meeting of shareholders, the shareholder must comply with all of the requirements of Article I, Section 9 of our Bylaws, not just the timeliness requirements set forth above. In addition to satisfying the foregoing requirements, to comply with the universal proxy rules, shareholders who intend to solicit proxies in support of director nominees other than the Board's nominees must provide notice that sets forth the information required by Rule 14a-19 under the exchange Act no later than February 24, 2025.

SHARED ADDRESS SHAREHOLDERS

In accordance with a notice sent to eligible shareholders who share a single address, we are sending only one annual report and proxy statement to that address unless we receive instructions to the contrary from any shareholder at that address. This practice, known as “householding,” is designed to reduce our printing and postage costs. However, if a shareholder of record residing at such an address wishes to receive a separate annual report or proxy statement in the future, he or she may contact Shareholder Relations at the below address.

Shareholder Relations
Black Hills Corporation
7001 Mount Rushmore Road
P.O. Box 1400
Rapid City, SD 57709
(605) 721-1700

Eligible shareholders of record receiving multiple copies of our annual report and proxy statement can request householding by contacting us in the same manner. Shareholders who own shares through a bank, broker or other nominee can request householding by contacting the nominee.

We hereby undertake to deliver promptly, upon written or oral request, a separate copy of the annual report to shareholders, or proxy statement, as applicable, to our shareholders at a shared address to which a single copy of the document was delivered.

Please vote your shares by telephone, by the Internet or by promptly returning the accompanying form of proxy, whether or not you expect to be present at the annual meeting.

ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K

A copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K (excluding exhibits) for the year ended December 31, 2023, which is required to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, will be made available to shareholders to whom this proxy statement is mailed, without charge, upon written or oral request to Shareholder Relations, Black Hills Corporation, 7001 Mount Rushmore Road, P.O. Box 1400, Rapid City, SD 57709, Telephone Number: (605) 721-1700. Our Annual Report on Form 10-K also may be accessed through our website at www.blackhillscorp.com.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE SHAREHOLDER MEETING TO BE HELD ON APRIL 23, 2024

Shareholders may view this proxy statement, our form of proxy and our 2023 Annual Report to Shareholders over the Internet by accessing our website at www.blackhillscorp.com. Information on our website does not constitute a part of this proxy statement.

By Order of the Board,

/s/ AMY K. KOENIG

Amy K. Koenig
Vice President - Governance, Corporate Secretary and Deputy
General Counsel

Dated: March 15, 2024

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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549
Form 10-K**

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023

Or

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number 001-31303

BLACK HILLS CORPORATION

Incorporated in South Dakota IRS Identification Number 46-0458824

**7001 Mount Rushmore Road
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702
Registrant's telephone number (605) 721-1700**

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

| Title of each class | Trading Symbol | Name of each exchange on which registered |
|----------------------------------|----------------|---|
| Common stock of \$1.00 par value | BKH | New York Stock Exchange |

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Large accelerated filer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Accelerated filer | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Non-accelerated filer | <input type="checkbox"/> | Smaller reporting company | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Emerging growth company | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the Registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed a report on and attestation to its management's assessment of the effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting under Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (15 U.S.C. 7262(b)) by the registered public accounting firm that prepared or issued its audit report.

If securities are registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act, indicate by check mark whether the financial statements of the registrant included in the filing reflect the correction of an error to previously issued financial statements.

Indicate by check mark whether any of those error corrections are restatements that required a recovery analysis of incentive-based compensation received by any of the registrant's executive officers during the relevant recovery period pursuant to §240.10D-1(b).

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

The aggregate market value of the voting common equity held by non-affiliates of the registrant on the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter, June 30, 2023, was \$4,016,297,084

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the registrant's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

| Class | Outstanding at January 31, 2024 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Common stock, \$1.00 par value | 68,196,551 shares |

Documents Incorporated by Reference

Portions of the registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement being prepared for the solicitation of proxies in connection with the 2024 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on April 23, 2024, are incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K.

10-K

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

The following terms and abbreviations appear in the text of this report and have the definitions described below:

| | |
|--|---|
| AC | Alternating Current |
| AFUDC | Allowance for Funds Used During Construction |
| AOCI | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) |
| APSC | Arkansas Public Service Commission |
| Arkansas Gas | Black Hills Energy Arkansas, Inc., an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Black Hills Utility Holdings, providing natural gas services to customers in Arkansas (doing business as Black Hills Energy). |
| ARO | Asset Retirement Obligation |
| ASC | Accounting Standards Codification |
| ASU | Accounting Standards Update as issued by the FASB |
| ATM | At-the-market equity offering program |
| Availability | The availability factor of a power plant is the percentage of the time that it is available to provide energy. |
| BHC | Black Hills Corporation; the Company |
| BHSC | Black Hills Service Company, LLC, a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of Black Hills Corporation (doing business as Black Hills Energy) |
| Black Hills Colorado IPP | Black Hills Colorado IPP, LLC, a 50.1% owned subsidiary of Black Hills Electric Generation |
| Black Hills Electric Generation | Black Hills Electric Generation, LLC, a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of Black Hills Non-regulated Holdings, providing wholesale electric capacity and energy primarily to our affiliate utilities. |
| Black Hills Energy | The name used to conduct the business of our Utilities |
| Black Hills Energy Renewable Resources (BHERR) | Black Hills Energy Renewable Resources, LLC, a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of Black Hills Non-regulated Holdings |
| Black Hills Energy Services | Black Hills Energy Services Company, an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Black Hills Utility Holdings, providing natural gas commodity supply for the Choice Gas Programs (doing business as Black Hills Energy). |
| Black Hills Non-regulated Holdings | Black Hills Non-regulated Holdings, LLC, a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of Black Hills Corporation |
| Black Hills Power | Black Hills Power, Inc., a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of Black Hills Corporation (doing business as Black Hills Energy). Also known as South Dakota Electric. |
| Black Hills Utility Holdings | Black Hills Utility Holdings, Inc., a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of Black Hills Corporation (doing business as Black Hills Energy) |
| Black Hills Wyoming | Black Hills Wyoming, LLC, a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of Black Hills Electric Generation |
| Blockchain Interruptible Service (BCIS) Tariff | A WPSC-approved tariff applicable to prospective new Wyoming Electric blockchain customers. The tariff allows customers to negotiate rates and terms and conditions for interruptible electric utility service of 10 MW or greater that would be interconnected with Wyoming Electric's system. Agreements under the BCIS tariff must be filed with the WPSC prior to the first customer billing, be at least 2 years in duration and include specific pricing for all electricity purchased (with pricing terms subject to renegotiation every three years). BCIS customers shall not participate in the PCA to the extent of service received under the tariff. |
| Btu | British thermal unit |
| Busch Ranch I | The 29 MW wind farm near Pueblo, Colorado, jointly owned by Colorado Electric and Black Hills Electric Generation. Colorado Electric and Black Hills Electric Generation each have a 50% ownership interest in the wind farm. Black Hills Electric Generation provides its share of energy from the wind farm to Colorado Electric through a PPA, which expires in October 2037. |
| Busch Ranch II | The 59.4 MW wind farm near Pueblo, Colorado owned by Black Hills Electric Generation to provide wind energy to Colorado Electric through a PPA expiring in November 2044. |

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|---|---|
| CACJA Adjustment | Clean Air Clean Jobs Act Adjustment is an adjustment mechanism that allows Colorado Electric to collect from customers the capital costs related to Pueblo Airport Generation CT #6. |
| CFTC | United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission |
| Cheyenne Light | Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power Company, a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of Black Hills Corporation, providing electric service in the Cheyenne, Wyoming area (doing business as Black Hills Energy). Also known as Wyoming Electric. |
| Cheyenne Prairie | Cheyenne Prairie Generating Station located in Cheyenne, Wyoming serves the utility customers of South Dakota Electric and Wyoming Electric. The facility includes one simple-cycle, 40 MW combustion turbine that is wholly-owned by Wyoming Electric and one combined-cycle, 100 MW unit that is jointly-owned by Wyoming Electric (42 MW) and South Dakota Electric (58 MW). |
| Choice Gas Program | Regulator-approved programs in Wyoming and Nebraska that allow certain utility customers to select their natural gas commodity supplier, providing the unbundling of the commodity service from the distribution delivery service. |
| City of Gillette | Gillette, Wyoming |
| Clean Energy Plan | 2030 Ready Plan that establishes a roadmap and preferred resource portfolio for Colorado Electric to cost-effectively achieve the State of Colorado's requirement calling upon electric utilities to reduce GHG emissions by a minimum of 80% from 2005 levels by 2030. Based on initial modeling, the preferred resource portfolio proposes the addition of approximately 400 MW of clean energy resources (100 MW of wind, 200-250 MW of solar and 50 MW of battery storage) to Colorado Electric's system. The final mix of resources will be determined by the results of a competitive solicitation that was issued in July 2023. Colorado legislation allows electric utilities to own up to 50% of the renewable generation assets added to comply with the Clean Energy Plan. |
| CO ₂ | Carbon dioxide |
| Chief Operating Decision Maker (CODM) | Chief Executive Officer |
| Colorado Electric | Black Hills Colorado Electric, LLC, a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of Black Hills Electric Parent Holdings, providing electric service to customers in Colorado (doing business as Black Hills Energy). |
| Colorado Gas | Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc., an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Black Hills Utility Holdings, providing natural gas services to customers in Colorado (doing business as Black Hills Energy). |
| Common Use System | The Common Use System is a jointly operated transmission system we participate in with Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Powder River Energy Corporation. The Common Use System provides transmission service over these utilities' combined 230-kilovolt (kV) and limited 69-kV transmission facilities within areas of southwestern South Dakota and northeastern Wyoming. |
| Consolidated Indebtedness to Capitalization Ratio | Any Indebtedness outstanding at such time, divided by capital at such time. Capital being consolidated net-worth (excluding non-controlling interest) plus consolidated indebtedness (including letters of credit and certain guarantees issued) as defined within the current Revolving Credit Facility. |
| Cooling Degree Day | A cooling degree day is equivalent to each degree that the average of the high and low temperature for a day is above 65 degrees. The warmer the climate, the greater the number of cooling degree days. Cooling degree days are used in the utility industry to measure the relative warmth of weather and to compare relative temperatures between one geographic area and another. Normal degree days are based on the National Weather Service data for selected locations. |
| Corriedale | The 52.5 MW wind farm near Cheyenne, Wyoming, jointly owned by South Dakota Electric (32.5 MW) and Wyoming Electric (20 MW), serving as the dedicated wind energy supply to the Renewable Ready program, which is a voluntary renewable energy subscription program for large commercial, industrial and governmental customers in South Dakota and Wyoming. |
| CP Program | Commercial Paper Program |
| CPCN | Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity |
| CPUC | Colorado Public Utilities Commission |
| CSAPR | The United States Environmental Protection Agency's Cross-State Air Pollution Rule |

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| CT | Combustion Turbine |
| Cushion Gas | The portion of natural gas necessary to force saleable gas from a storage field into the transmission system and for system balancing, representing a permanent investment necessary to use storage facilities and maintain reliability. |
| Cybersecurity incident | An unauthorized occurrence, or a series of related unauthorized occurrences, on or conducted through a registrant's information systems that jeopardizes the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of a registrant's information systems or any information residing therein. |
| Cybersecurity threat | Any potential unauthorized occurrence on or conducted through a registrant's information systems that may result in adverse effects on the confidentiality, integrity or availability of a registrant's information systems or any information residing therein. |
| DC | Direct Current |
| Dividend Payout Ratio | Annual dividends paid on common stock divided by net income from continuing operations available for common stock |
| DRSPP | Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan |
| DSM | Demand Side Management |
| Dth | Dekatherm. A unit of energy equal to 10 therms or one million British thermal units (MMBtu). |
| EBITDA | Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, a non-GAAP measure. |
| ECA | Energy Cost Adjustment is an adjustment that allows us to pass the prudently-incurred cost of fuel and purchased energy through to customers. |
| Economy Energy | Purchased energy that costs less than that produced with the utilities' owned generation. |
| EECR | Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery is an adjustment mechanism that allows us to recover from customers the costs associated with providing energy efficiency programs. |
| EIA | Environmental Improvement Adjustment is an annual adjustment mechanism that allows us to recover from customers eligible investments in, and expense related to, new environmental measures. |
| EGU | Electric generating unit |
| Energy Assistance Benefit Charge | Energy Assistance Benefit Charge is a Colorado statutory-created surcharge to provide additional funding for bill assistance and weatherization for income-qualified customers. We collect these funds and remit them to a Colorado non-profit organization that assists low-income residents with utility bills, repairs, and energy efficiency upgrades. |
| Energy Transition | The global energy sector's shift from fossil-based systems of energy production and consumption, including oil, natural gas and coal to renewable energy sources like wind and solar, as well as battery storage solutions. |
| EPA | United States Environmental Protection Agency |
| ESG | Environmental, Social and Governance |
| EV | Electric Vehicle |
| EWG | Exempt Wholesale Generator |
| FASB | Financial Accounting Standards Board |
| FERC | United States Department of Energy's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission |
| Fitch | Fitch Ratings Inc. |
| GAAP | Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America |
| Gas Price Risk Management Rider | Gas Price Risk Management Rider is a mechanism that is similar to GCA but designed to also provide a price floor and price ceiling. |
| GCA | Gas Cost Adjustment is an adjustment that allows us to pass the prudently-incurred cost of gas and certain services through to customers. |
| GHG | Greenhouse gases |
| Gillette Energy Complex | The Gillette Energy Complex located in Gillette, Wyoming includes 793 MW of coal-fired generating facilities (Neil Simpson II, Wygen I, Wygen II, Wygen III, Wyodak Plant) which are supplied by WRDC and a 40 MW gas-fired generation facility (Neil Simpson CT). We operate and own majority interests in five of the six facilities and own 20% of Wyodak Plant. |

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Global Settlement | Settlement with a utility's commission where the revenue requirement is agreed upon, but the specific adjustments used by each party to arrive at the amount are not specified in public rate orders. |
| GWh | Gigawatt Hours |
| Heating Degree Day | A heating degree day is equivalent to each degree that the average of the high and the low temperatures for a day is below 65 degrees. The colder the climate, the greater the number of heating degree days. Heating degree days are used in the utility industry to measure the relative coldness of weather and to compare relative temperatures between one geographic area and another. Normal degree days are based on the National Weather Service data for selected locations. |
| HomeServe | We offer HomeServe products to our natural gas residential customers interested in purchasing additional home repair service plans. |
| Information systems | Electronic information resources, owned or used by the registrant, including physical or virtual infrastructure controlled by such information resources, or components thereof, organized for the collection, processing, maintenance, use, sharing, dissemination, or disposition of the registrant's information to maintain or support the registrant's operations. |
| Integrated Generation | Non-regulated power generation and mining businesses (Black Hills Electric Generation and WRDC) that are vertically integrated within our Electric Utilities segment. |
| Iowa Gas | Black Hills Iowa Gas Utility Company, LLC, a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of Black Hills Utility Holdings, providing natural gas services to customers in Iowa (doing business as Black Hills Energy). |
| IPP | Independent Power Producer |
| IRA | Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 |
| IRC | Internal Revenue Code |
| IRP | Integrated Resource Plan |
| IRS | United States Internal Revenue Service |
| ITC | Investment Tax Credit |
| Kansas Gas | Black Hills Kansas Gas Utility Company, LLC, a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of Black Hills Utility Holdings, providing natural gas services to customers in Kansas (doing business as Black Hills Energy). |
| kV | Kilovolt |
| LIBOR | London Interbank Offered Rate |
| Mcf | Thousand cubic feet |
| Mcfd | Thousand cubic feet per day |
| MDU | Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a subsidiary of MDU Resources Group, Inc. |
| MEAN | Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska |
| MMBtu | Million British thermal units |
| Moody's | Moody's Investors Service, Inc. |
| MSHA | United States Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration |
| MW | Megawatts |
| MWh | Megawatt-hours |
| N/A | Not Applicable |
| NAAQS | National Ambient Air Quality Standards |
| NAV | Net Asset Value |
| Nebraska Gas | Black Hills Nebraska Gas, LLC, an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Black Hills Utility Holdings, providing natural gas services to customers in Nebraska (doing business as Black Hills Energy). |
| Neil Simpson II | A mine-mouth, coal-fired power plant owned and operated by South Dakota Electric with a total capacity of 90 MW located at our Gillette Energy Complex. |
| NERC | North American Electric Reliability Corporation |
| NO _x | Nitrogen oxide |

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| NOL | Net Operating Loss |
| Northern Iowa Windpower | Northern Iowa Windpower, LLC, a 87.1 MW wind farm located near Joice, Iowa, previously owned by Black Hills Electric Generation. In March 2023, Black Hills Electric Generation completed the sale of Northern Iowa Windpower assets to a third-party. |
| OCI | Other Comprehensive Income |
| OPEB | Other Post-Employment Benefits |
| OSHA | United States Department of Labor's Occupational Safety & Health Administration |
| OSM | United States Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining |
| PacifiCorp | PacifiCorp, a wholly owned subsidiary of MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company, itself an affiliate of Berkshire Hathaway. |
| PCA | Power Cost Adjustment is an annual adjustment mechanism that allows us to pass a portion of prudently-incurred delivered power costs, including fuel, purchased capacity and energy, and transmission costs, through to customers. |
| PCCA | Power Capacity Cost Adjustment is an annual adjustment that allows us to pass the prudently-incurred purchased capacity costs, incremental to costs included in base rates, through to customers. |
| Peak View | The 60.8 MW wind farm owned by Colorado Electric. |
| PHMSA | United States Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration |
| PPA | Power Purchase Agreement |
| PSA | Power Sales Agreement |
| PTC | Production Tax Credit |
| Pueblo Airport Generation | Pueblo Airport Generating Station located in Pueblo, Colorado includes 440 MW of combined cycle gas-fired power generation plants jointly owned by Colorado Electric (240 MW) and Black Hills Colorado IPP (200 MW). Black Hills Colorado IPP owns and operates this facility. The plants commenced operation on January 1, 2012. |
| PUHCA 2005 | Public Utility Holding Company Act of 2005 |
| <i>Ready</i> | The Company's branding platform which emphasizes that we will 1) prioritize our customers; 2) act as a thoughtful, responsible leader; 3) listen first and lead with a focus on relationships; and 4) be creative in our approach to solutions. |
| <i>Ready Wyoming</i> | A 260-mile, multi-phase transmission expansion project in Wyoming. This transmission project is expected to serve the growing needs of customers by enhancing resiliency of Wyoming Electric's overall electric system and expanding access to power markets and renewable resources. The project is expected to help Wyoming Electric maintain top-quartile reliability and enable economic development in the Cheyenne, Wyoming region. |
| RESA | Renewable Energy Standard Adjustment is an incremental retail rate limited to 2% for Colorado Electric customers that provides funding for renewable energy projects and programs to comply with Colorado's Renewable Energy Standard. |
| Revolving Credit Facility | Our \$750 million credit facility used to fund working capital needs, letters of credit and other corporate purposes, which was amended on May 9, 2023 and will terminate on July 19, 2026. This facility includes an accordion feature that allows us to increase total commitments up to \$1.0 billion with the consent of the administrative agent, the issuing agents and each bank increasing or providing a new commitment. |
| RMNG | Rocky Mountain Natural Gas LLC, an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Black Hills Utility Holdings, providing natural gas transmission and wholesale services in western Colorado (doing business as Black Hills Energy). |
| RNG | Renewable natural gas |
| RTO | Regional Transmission Organization |
| SDPUC | South Dakota Public Utilities Commission |
| SEC | United States Securities and Exchange Commission |
| Service Guard Comfort Plan | Appliance protection plan that provides home appliance repair services through on-going monthly service agreements to residential utility customers. |
| SO ₂ | Sulfur dioxide |

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| SOFR | Secured Overnight Financing Rate |
| S&P | S&P Global Ratings, a division of S&P Global Inc. |
| South Dakota Electric | Black Hills Power, Inc., a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of Black Hills Corporation, providing electric service to customers in Montana, South Dakota and Wyoming (doing business as Black Hills Energy). |
| SPP | Southwest Power Pool, a regional transmission organization (RTO) that oversees the bulk electric grid and wholesale power market in the central United States. |
| SSIR | System Safety and Integrity Rider is a mechanism that allows us to recover the costs associated with certain pipeline safety and integrity investments, including the replacement of higher risk pipe, the improvement of the data management system, and the mitigation of other safety issues identified on our natural gas system. |
| System Peak Demand | Represents the highest point of retail customer usage for a single hour. |
| TCA | Transmission Cost Adjustment is an annual adjustment mechanism that allows us to recover from customers eligible transmission investments prior to the next rate review. |
| TCAM | Transmission Cost Adjustment Mechanism is a WPSC-approved tariff based on a formulaic approach that determines the recovery of Wyoming Electric's transmission costs. |
| TCJA | Tax Cuts and Jobs Act enacted on December 22, 2017, which reduced the U.S. federal corporate tax rate from 35% to 21%. As such, we remeasured our deferred income taxes at the 21% federal tax rate as of December 31, 2017. |
| Tech Services | Non-regulated product lines delivered by our Utilities that 1) provide electrical system construction services to large industrial customers of our electric utilities, and 2) serve gas transportation customers throughout its service territory by constructing and maintaining customer-owned gas infrastructure facilities, typically through one-time contracts. |
| TEPR | Transportation Electrification Program Rider is a CPUC-approved mechanism associated with Colorado Electric's EV program. |
| TFA | Transmission Facility Adjustment is an annual adjustment mechanism that allows us to recover charges for qualifying new and modified transmission facilities from customers. |
| Transmission Tie | South Dakota Electric owns 35% of a AC-DC-AC transmission tie that interconnects the Western and Eastern transmission grids, which are independently-operated transmission grids serving the western and eastern United States, respectively. Basin Electric Power Cooperative owns the remaining ownership percentage. This transmission tie allows us to buy and sell energy in the Eastern grid without having to isolate and physically reconnect load or generation between the two transmission grids, thus enhancing the reliability of our system. It accommodates scheduling transactions in both directions simultaneously, provides additional opportunities to sell excess generation or to make economic purchases to serve our native load and contract obligations, and enables us to take advantage of power price differentials between the two grids. The total transfer capacity of the tie is 400 MW, including 200 MW from West to East and 200 MW from East to West. |
| TSA | United States Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration |
| Utilities | Black Hills' Electric and Gas Utilities |
| VEBA | Voluntary Employee Benefit Association |
| VIE | Variable Interest Entity |
| WEIS | Western Energy Imbalance Service |
| Wind Capacity Factor | Measures the amount of electricity a wind turbine produces in a given time period relative to its maximum potential |
| Winter Storm Uri | February 2021 winter weather event that caused extreme cold temperatures in the central United States and led to unprecedented fluctuations in customer demand and market pricing for natural gas and energy. |
| Working Capacity | Total gas storage capacity minus cushion gas |
| WPSC | Wyoming Public Service Commission |
| WRDC | Wyodak Resources Development Corp., a coal mine which is a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of Black Hills Non-regulated Holdings, providing coal supply primarily to five on-site, mine-mouth generating facilities at our Gillette Energy Complex (doing business as Black Hills Energy). |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Wygen I | A mine-mouth, coal-fired generating facility with a total capacity of 90 MW located at our Gillette Energy Complex. Black Hills Wyoming owns 76.5% of the facility and Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) owns the remaining 23.5%. |
| Wygen II | A mine-mouth, coal-fired power plant owned by Wyoming Electric with a total capacity of 95 MW located at our Gillette Energy Complex. |
| Wygen III | A mine-mouth, coal-fired power plant operated by South Dakota Electric with a total capacity of 116 MW located at our Gillette Energy Complex. South Dakota Electric owns 52% of the power plant, MDU owns 25% and the City of Gillette owns the remaining 23%. |
| Wyodak Plant | The 402.3 MW mine-mouth, coal-fired generating facility located at our Gillette Energy Complex, jointly owned by PacifiCorp (80%) and South Dakota Electric (20%). WRDC supplies all of the fuel for the facility. |
| Wyoming Electric | Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power Company, a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of Black Hills Corporation, providing electric service to customers in the Cheyenne, Wyoming area (doing business as Black Hills Energy). |
| Wyoming Gas | Black Hills Wyoming Gas, LLC, an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Black Hills Utility Holdings, providing natural gas services to customers in Wyoming (doing business as Black Hills Energy). |
| Wyoming Integrity Rider | The Wyoming Integrity Rider (WIR) is a WPSC-approved tariff that allows Wyoming Gas to recover costs from customers associated with ongoing infrastructure replacement, gas meter and yard line replacement projects driven by federal regulation. |

WEBSITE ACCESS TO REPORTS

The reports we file with the SEC are available free of charge at our website www.blackhillscorp.com as soon as reasonably practicable after they are filed. In addition, the charters of our Audit, Governance and Compensation Committees are located on our website along with our Code of Business Conduct, Code of Ethics for our Chief Executive Officer and Senior Finance Officers, Corporate Governance Guidelines of the Board of Directors and Policy for Director Independence. The information contained on our website is not part of this document.

FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

This Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements as defined by the SEC. Forward-looking statements are all statements other than statements of historical fact, including, without limitation, those statements that are identified by the words “anticipates,” “estimates,” “expects,” “intends,” “plans,” “predicts” and similar expressions and include statements concerning plans, objectives, goals, strategies, future events or performance, and underlying assumptions and other statements that are other than statements of historical facts. From time to time, the Company may publish or otherwise make available forward-looking statements of this nature, including statements contained within Item 7 - Management’s Discussion & Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results or outcomes to differ materially from those expressed. The Company’s expectations, beliefs and projections are expressed in good faith and are believed by the Company to have a reasonable basis, including, without limitation, management’s examination of historical operating trends, data contained in the Company’s records and other data available from third parties. Nonetheless, the Company’s expectations, beliefs or projections may not be achieved or accomplished.

Any forward-looking statement contained in this document speaks only as of the date on which the statement is made and the Company undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statement or statements to reflect events or circumstances that occur after the date on which the statement is made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. New factors emerge from time to time, such as adverse macroeconomic conditions, global pandemics or severe weather events, and it is not possible for management to predict all of the factors, nor can it assess the effect of each factor on the Company’s business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement. All forward-looking statements, whether written or oral and whether made by or on behalf of the Company, are expressly qualified by the risk factors and cautionary statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, including statements contained within Item 1A - Risk Factors.

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

History and Organization

Black Hills Corporation, a South Dakota corporation (together with its subsidiaries, referred to herein as the “Company,” “we,” “us” or “our”), is a customer-focused, growth-oriented utility company headquartered in Rapid City, South Dakota (incorporated in South Dakota in 1941).

We operate our business in the United States, reporting our operating results through our Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities segments. Certain unallocated corporate expenses that support our operating segments are presented as Corporate and Other.

Our Electric Utilities segment generates, transmits and distributes electricity to approximately 222,000 electric utility customers in Colorado, Montana, South Dakota and Wyoming. Our Electric Utilities own 1,394 MW of generation and 9,106 miles of electric transmission and distribution lines.

Our Gas Utilities segment serves approximately 1,116,000 natural gas utility customers in Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Wyoming. Our Gas Utilities own and operate 4,663 miles of intrastate gas transmission pipelines and 42,514 miles of gas distribution mains and service lines, seven natural gas storage sites, more than 50,000 horsepower of compression and 516 miles of gathering lines.

Electric Utilities

We conduct electric utility operations through our Colorado, South Dakota and Wyoming subsidiaries. Our Electric Utilities generate, transmit and distribute electricity to our retail customers. Our electric generating facilities and power purchase agreements provide for the supply of electricity principally to our retail customers. We also sell excess power to other utilities and marketing companies, including our affiliates. Additionally, we provide non-regulated services to our retail customers under the Service Guard Comfort Plan and Tech Services.

We also own and operate non-regulated power generation and mining assets that are vertically integrated into and primarily support our Electric Utilities. All of these operations are located at our electric generating complexes and are physically integrated into our Electric Utilities’ operations.

| Retail Customers | As of December 31, | | |
|--|--------------------|---------|---------|
| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
| Residential | 190,776 | 188,921 | 186,852 |
| Commercial | 30,491 | 30,404 | 30,326 |
| Industrial | 84 | 82 | 81 |
| Other | 989 | 1,024 | 1,010 |
| Total Electric Retail Customers at End of Year | 222,340 | 220,431 | 218,269 |

| Retail Customers | As of December 31, | | |
|--|--------------------|---------|---------|
| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
| Colorado Electric | 100,907 | 100,573 | 99,709 |
| South Dakota Electric | 76,479 | 75,169 | 74,509 |
| Wyoming Electric | 44,954 | 44,689 | 44,051 |
| Total Electric Retail Customers at End of Year | 222,340 | 220,431 | 218,269 |

Capacity and Demand. System Peak Demand for the Electric Utilities’ retail customers for each of the last three years are listed below:

| | System Peak Demand (in MW) | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 2023 ^(a) | | 2022 | | 2021 | |
| | Summer | Winter | Summer | Winter | Summer | Winter |
| Colorado Electric | 411 | 297 | 410 | 334 | 407 | 279 |
| South Dakota Electric | 378 | 289 | 403 | 355 | 397 | 299 |
| Wyoming Electric | 312 | 301 | 294 | 281 | 274 | 246 |

(a) In 2023, Wyoming Electric set new summer and winter peak loads. See recent peak discussion in the Recent Developments section of Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in Item 7 in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for additional information.

As of December 31, 2023, our Electric Utilities' ownership interests in electric generating plants were as follows:

| Unit | Fuel Type | Location | Ownership Interest % ^(d) | Owned Nameplate Capacity (MW) | In Service Date |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Colorado Electric: | | | | | |
| Busch Ranch I ^(a) | Wind | Pueblo, Colorado | 50% | 14.5 | 2012 |
| Peak View ^{(b)(c)} | Wind | Pueblo, Colorado | 100% | 60.8 | 2016 |
| Pueblo Airport Generation #1-2 | Natural Gas | Pueblo, Colorado | 100% | 200.0 | 2011 |
| Pueblo Airport Generation CT #6 | Natural Gas | Pueblo, Colorado | 100% | 40.0 | 2016 |
| AIP Diesel | Diesel Oil | Pueblo, Colorado | 100% | 10.0 | 2001 |
| Diesel #1 and #3-5 | Diesel Oil | Pueblo, Colorado | 100% | 8.0 | 1964 |
| Diesel #1-5 | Diesel Oil | Rocky Ford, Colorado | 100% | 10.0 | 1964 |
| South Dakota Electric: | | | | | |
| Cheyenne Prairie | Natural Gas | Cheyenne, Wyoming | 58% | 58.0 | 2014 |
| Corriedale ^(c) | Wind | Cheyenne, Wyoming | 62% | 32.5 | 2020 |
| Wygen III | Coal | Gillette, Wyoming | 52% | 60.3 | 2010 |
| Neil Simpson II | Coal | Gillette, Wyoming | 100% | 90.0 | 1995 |
| Wyodak Plant | Coal | Gillette, Wyoming | 20% | 80.5 | 1978 |
| Neil Simpson CT | Natural Gas | Gillette, Wyoming | 100% | 40.0 | 2000 |
| Lange CT | Natural Gas | Rapid City, South Dakota | 100% | 40.0 | 2002 |
| Ben French Diesel #1-5 | Diesel Oil | Rapid City, South Dakota | 100% | 10.0 | 1965 |
| Ben French CTs #1-4 | Natural Gas/Diesel Oil | Rapid City, South Dakota | 100% | 100.0 | 1977-1979 |
| Wyoming Electric: | | | | | |
| Cheyenne Prairie | Natural Gas | Cheyenne, Wyoming | 42% | 42.0 | 2014 |
| Cheyenne Prairie CT | Natural Gas | Cheyenne, Wyoming | 100% | 40.0 | 2014 |
| Corriedale ^(c) | Wind | Cheyenne, Wyoming | 38% | 20.0 | 2020 |
| Wygen II | Coal | Gillette, Wyoming | 100% | 95.0 | 2008 |
| Integrated Generation: | | | | | |
| Wygen I | Coal | Gillette, Wyoming | 76.5% | 68.9 | 2003 |
| Pueblo Airport Generation #4-5 | Natural Gas | Pueblo, Colorado | 50.1% ^(e) | 200.0 | 2012 |
| Busch Ranch I ^(a) | Wind | Pueblo, Colorado | 50% | 14.5 | 2012 |
| Busch Ranch II ^(c) | Wind | Pueblo, Colorado | 100% | 59.4 | 2019 |
| Total MW Capacity | | | | <u>1,394.4</u> | |

- (a) In 2013, Busch Ranch I was awarded a one-time cash grant in lieu of ITCs under the Section 1603 program created under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
- (b) The PTCs for Peak View flow back to customers through a rider mechanism as a reduction to Colorado Electric's margins.
- (c) This facility qualifies for PTCs at \$28/MWh under IRC 45 during the 10-year period beginning on the date the facility was originally placed in service.
- (d) Jointly owned facilities are discussed in Note 6 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.
- (e) In 2016, Black Hills Electric Generation sold a 49.9% non-controlling interest in Black Hills Colorado IPP to a third party. See Note 12 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for additional information.

Our Electric Utilities' power supply by resource as a percent of the total power supply for our energy needs for the years ended December 31 was as follows:

| Power Supply | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|
| Coal | 35.0% | 35.1% | 34.2% |
| Natural Gas | 26.4% | 18.8% | 24.4% |
| Wind ^(a) | 8.9% | 11.4% | 11.3% |
| Total Generated ^(b) | 70.3% | 65.3% | 69.9% |
| Coal, Natural Gas, Diesel Oil and Other Market Purchases | 24.1% | 29.6% | 25.1% |
| Wind and Solar Purchases | 5.6% | 5.1% | 5.0% |
| Total Purchased | 29.7% | 34.7% | 30.1% |
| Total | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |

- (a) Wind generation decreased due to the sale of Northern Iowa Windpower assets in March 2023.
- (b) The diesel oil-fueled generating units are generally used as supplemental peaking units. Power generated from these units, as a percentage of total power supply, was 0.0% for each of the years presented.

Our Electric Utilities' weighted average cost of fuel utilized to generate electricity and the average price paid for purchased power (excluding contracted capacity) per MWh for the years ended December 31 were as follows:

| Fuel and Purchased Power (dollars per MWh) | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Coal | \$ 13.40 | \$ 12.76 | \$ 11.55 |
| Natural Gas | 20.20 | 37.09 | 33.65 |
| Total Generated Weighted Average Fuel Cost | 14.27 | 17.57 | 17.40 |
| Coal, Natural Gas, Diesel Oil and Other Market Purchases | 55.61 | 66.35 | 64.85 |
| Wind and Solar Purchases | 34.99 | 33.78 | 34.69 |
| Total Purchased Power Weighted Average Cost | 51.68 | 61.56 | 59.84 |
| Total Weighted Average Fuel and Purchased Power Cost | \$ 25.39 | \$ 32.82 | \$ 30.17 |

Purchased Power. We have executed various PPAs to support our Electric Utilities' capacity and energy needs beyond our regulated power plants' generation, which include long-term related party agreements with our non-regulated power generation businesses. See additional information in Note 3 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Coal Mining. We own and operate a single coal mine through our WRDC subsidiary which is reported within our Electric Utilities segment. We surface mine, process and sell low-sulfur sub-bituminous coal at our mine located immediately adjacent to our Gillette Energy Complex in the Powder River Basin in northeastern Wyoming, where our five coal-fired power plants are located. We produced approximately 3.7 million tons of coal in 2023.

The mine provides low-sulfur coal directly to these five power plants via a conveyor belt system, minimizing transportation costs. The fuel can be delivered to our adjacent power plants at very cost competitive prices (i.e., \$1.14 per MMBtu for year ended December 31, 2023) when compared to alternatives. Nearly all of the mine's production is sold to our on-site generation facilities under long-term supply contracts.

As of December 31, 2023, we estimated our recoverable reserves to be approximately 179 million tons, based on a life-of-mine engineering study utilizing currently available drilling data and geological information prepared by internal engineering analyses. The recoverable reserve life is equal to approximately 48 years at the current production levels.

Transmission and Distribution. Through our Electric Utilities, we own electric transmission and distribution systems composed of high voltage lines (greater than 69 kV) and low voltage lines (69 kV or less). We also jointly operate an electric transmission system, referred to as the Common Use System, with Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Powder River Energy Corporation. Each participant in the Common Use System individually owns assets that are operated together for a single system. The Common Use System also provides transmission service to our Transmission Tie. South Dakota Electric owns 35% of the Transmission Tie. The Transmission Tie is further discussed in Note 6 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

At December 31, 2023, our Electric Utilities owned the electric transmission and distribution lines shown below:

| Utility | State | Transmission ^(a) (in Line Miles) | Distribution (in Line Miles) |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| Colorado Electric | Colorado | 599 | 3,213 |
| South Dakota Electric ^(b) | South Dakota, Wyoming | 1,232 | 2,616 |
| Wyoming Electric | Wyoming | 86 | 1,360 |
| | | 1,917 | 7,189 |

(a) Electric transmission line miles include voltages of 69 kV and above.

(b) South Dakota Electric transmission line miles include 43 miles within the Common Use System.

Material transmission services agreements are included in our disclosures in Note 3 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Seasonal Variations of Business. Our Electric Utilities are seasonal businesses and weather patterns may impact their operating results. Demand for electricity is sensitive to seasonal cooling, heating and industrial load requirements, as well as market price. In particular, cooling demand is often greater in the summer and heating demand is often greater in the winter.

Competition. We generally have limited competition for the retail generation and distribution of electricity in our service areas. Various legislative or regulatory restructuring and competitive initiatives have been discussed in several of the states in which our utilities operate. These initiatives would be aimed at increasing competition or providing for distributed generation. To date, these initiatives have not had a material impact on our utilities. In Colorado, our electric utility is subject to rules which may require competitive bidding for generation supply. Because of these rules, we face competition from other utilities and non-affiliated IPPs for the right to supply electric energy and capacity for Colorado Electric when resource plans require additional resources. Additionally, electrification initiatives in our service territories could increase demand for electricity and increase customer growth.

The independent power industry consists of many strong and capable competitors, some of which may have more extensive operations or greater financial resources than we possess. With respect to the merchant power sector, FERC has taken steps to increase access to the national transmission grid by utility and non-utility purchasers and sellers of electricity to foster competition within the wholesale electricity markets. Our non-regulated power generation businesses could face greater competition if utilities are permitted to robustly invest in power generation assets. Conversely, state regulations requiring utilities to competitively bid generation resources may provide opportunity for IPPs in some regions. To date, these initiatives have not had a material impact on our non-regulated power generation businesses.

Our mining business strategy is to sell nearly all of our production to on-site generation facilities under long-term supply contracts. Historically, any off-site sales have been to consumers within close proximity to WRDC. Coal competes with other energy sources, such as natural gas, nuclear, wind, solar and hydropower. Costs and other factors relating to these alternative fuels, such as safety, environmental and availability considerations affect the overall demand for coal as a fuel.

Operating Statistics. See a summary of key operating statistics in the Electric Utilities segment operating results within Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in Item 7 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Gas Utilities

We conduct natural gas utility operations through our Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming subsidiaries. Our Gas Utilities transport and distribute natural gas through our distribution network to our retail customers. Additionally, we sell contractual pipeline capacity and gas commodities to other utilities and marketing companies, including our affiliates, on an as-available basis.

We also provide non-regulated services to our regulated customers. Black Hills Energy Services provides natural gas supply to approximately 53,000 retail distribution customers under the Choice Gas Program in Nebraska and Wyoming. Additionally, we provide services under the Service Guard Comfort Plan, Tech Services and HomeServe.

| Retail Customers | As of December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
| Residential | 871,930 | 864,038 | 853,908 |
| Commercial | 84,917 | 85,203 | 84,234 |
| Industrial | 2,179 | 2,189 | 2,158 |
| Transportation | 157,367 | 155,685 | 153,929 |
| Total Natural Gas Retail Customers at End of Year | 1,116,393 | 1,107,115 | 1,094,229 |

| Retail Customers | As of December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
| Arkansas Gas | 186,216 | 183,270 | 180,216 |
| Colorado Gas | 211,155 | 208,060 | 202,747 |
| Iowa Gas | 163,281 | 162,801 | 161,905 |
| Kansas Gas | 119,407 | 118,599 | 117,862 |
| Nebraska Gas | 302,167 | 301,007 | 298,832 |
| Wyoming Gas | 134,167 | 133,378 | 132,667 |
| Total Natural Gas Retail Customers at End of Year | 1,116,393 | 1,107,115 | 1,094,229 |

We procure natural gas for our distribution customers from a diverse mix of producers, processors and marketers and generally use hedging, physical fixed-price purchases and market-based price purchases to achieve dollar-cost averaging within our natural gas portfolio. The majority of our procured natural gas is transported in interstate pipelines under firm transportation service agreements.

In addition to company-owned regulated underground natural gas storage assets in Arkansas, Colorado and Wyoming, we also contract with third-party transportation providers for natural gas storage service to provide gas supply during the winter heating season and to meet peak day customer demand for natural gas.

The following table summarizes certain information regarding our company-owned regulated underground gas storage facilities as of December 31, 2023:

| | Working Capacity (Mcf) | Cushion Gas (Mcf) | Total Capacity (Mcf) | Maximum Daily Withdrawal Capability (Mcf/d) |
|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Arkansas Gas | 8,442,700 | 13,149,040 | 21,591,740 | 196,000 |
| Colorado Gas | 2,360,895 | 6,165,315 | 8,526,210 | 30,000 |
| Wyoming Gas | 5,733,900 | 17,545,600 | 23,279,500 | 36,000 |
| Total | 16,537,495 | 36,859,955 | 53,397,450 | 262,000 |

The following table summarizes certain information regarding our system infrastructure as of December 31, 2023:

| | Intrastate Gas Transmission Pipelines (in line miles) | Gas Distribution Mains (in line miles) | Gas Distribution Service Lines (in line miles) |
|--------------|---|--|--|
| Arkansas Gas | 875 | 5,197 | 1,380 |
| Colorado Gas | 694 | 7,188 | 1,861 |
| Iowa Gas | 173 | 2,890 | 2,765 |
| Kansas Gas | 339 | 3,026 | 1,400 |
| Nebraska Gas | 1,315 | 8,611 | 2,845 |
| Wyoming Gas | 1,267 | 3,625 | 1,726 |
| Total | 4,663 | 30,537 | 11,977 |

Seasonal Variations of Business. Our Gas Utilities are seasonal businesses and weather patterns may impact their operating results. Demand for natural gas is sensitive to seasonal heating and industrial load requirements, as well as market price. In particular, demand is often greater in the winter months for heating. Natural gas is used primarily for residential and commercial heating, and demand for this product can depend heavily upon weather throughout our service territories. As a result, a significant amount of natural gas revenue is normally recognized in the heating season consisting of the first and fourth quarters. Demand for natural gas can also be impacted by summer temperatures and precipitation, which can affect demand for irrigation.

Competition. We generally have limited competition for the retail distribution of natural gas in our service areas. Various restructuring and competitive initiatives have been discussed in several of the states in which our utilities operate. These initiatives are aimed at increasing competition. Additionally, electrification initiatives in our service territories could negatively impact demand for natural gas and decrease future growth. To date, these initiatives have not had a material impact on our utilities. Although we face competition from independent marketers for the sale of natural gas to our industrial and commercial customers, in instances where independent marketers displace us as the seller of natural gas, we still collect fees for transporting the gas through our distribution network.

Operating statistics. See a summary of key operating statistics in the Gas Utilities segment operating results within Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in Item 7 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Utility Regulation Characteristics

Our Utilities are subject to regulation by a number of federal, state and other organizations, including, but not limited to, the following:

- State public utility commissions, which have jurisdiction over services and facilities, rates and charges, accounting, valuation of property, depreciation rates and various other matters;
- the FERC, which oversees the acquisition and disposition of generation, transmission and other facilities, transmission of electricity and natural gas in interstate commerce, proposals to build and operate interstate natural gas pipelines and storage facilities, and wholesale purchases and sales of electric energy, among other things;
- the NERC, which, through its regional entities, establishes and enforces mandatory reliability standards, subject to approval by the FERC, to ensure the reliability of the U.S. electric transmission and generation system and to prevent major system blackouts;
- the EPA, which has the responsibility to maintain and enforce national standards under a variety of environmental laws, in some cases delegating authority to state agencies. The EPA also works with industries and all levels of government, including federal and state governments, in a wide variety of voluntary pollution prevention programs and energy conservation efforts;
- the TSA, which regulates certain activities related to the safety and security of natural gas pipelines. In May and July 2021 the TSA issued security directives that included several new cybersecurity requirements for critical pipeline owners and operators; and
- the PHMSA, which is responsible for administering the federal regulatory program to help ensure the safe transportation of natural gas, petroleum and other hazardous materials by pipelines, including pipelines associated with natural gas storage, and develops regulations and other approaches to risk management to help ensure safety in design, construction, testing, operation, maintenance and emergency response of pipeline facilities.

Rates and Regulation

Our Utilities are subject to the jurisdiction of the public utility commissions in the states where they operate and the FERC for certain assets and transactions. These commissions oversee services and facilities, rates and charges, accounting, valuation of property, depreciation rates and various other matters. Rate decisions are influenced by many factors, including the cost of providing service, capital expenditures, the prudence of costs we incur, views concerning appropriate rates of return, general economic conditions and the political environment. Certain commissions also have jurisdiction over the issuance of debt or securities and the creation of liens on property located in their states to secure bonds or other securities.

The regulatory provisions for recovering the costs of service vary by jurisdiction. Our Utilities have cost recovery mechanisms that allow us to pass the prudently-incurred cost of natural gas, fuel and purchased power to customers. These mechanisms allow the utility operating in that state to collect or refund the difference between the cost of commodities and certain services embedded in our base rates and the actual cost of the commodities and certain services without filing a general rate review. In addition, some jurisdictions allow us to recover certain costs or earn a return on capital investments placed in service between base rate reviews through approved rider tariffs, such as energy efficiency plan costs and system safety and integrity investments. These tariffs allow the utility a return on the investment.

Electric Utilities

The following table provides regulatory information for each of our Electric Utilities:

| Subsidiary | Jurisdiction | Authorized Rate of Return on Equity | Authorized Return on Rate Base | Authorized Capital Structure Debt/Equity | Authorized Rate Base (in millions) | Effective Date | Additional Regulatory Mechanisms | Percentage of Power Marketing Profit Shared with Customers |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|----------------|--|--|
| Colorado Electric | CO | 9.37% | 7.43% | 48%/52% | \$653.7 ^(a) | 1/2017 | ECA, TCA, PCCA, EECR/DSM, RESA, TEPR, Energy Assistance Benefit Charge | 90% |
| | CO | 9.37% | 6.02% | 67%/33% | \$57.9 | 1/2017 | CACJA Adjustment Rider | N/A |
| | FERC | 9.80% | 6.45% | 53%/47% | (a) | 9/2022 | FERC Transmission Tariff | N/A |
| South Dakota Electric | WY | 9.90% | 8.13% | 47%/53% | \$46.8 | 10/2014 | ECA | 65% |
| | SD | Global Settlement | 7.76% | Global Settlement | \$543.9 | 10/2014 | ECA, TFA, EIA | 70% |
| | FERC | 10.80% | 8.76% | 43%/57% | \$197.7 ^(b) | 2/2009 | FERC Transmission Tariff | N/A |
| Wyoming Electric ^(c) | WY | 9.75% | 7.48% | 48%/52% | \$551.2 ^(a) | 3/2023 | PCA, EECR/DSM, Rate Base Recovery on Acquisition Adjustment, TCAM | N/A |
| | FERC | 9.90% | 8.77% | 44%/56% | (a) | 1/2019 | FERC Transmission Tariff | N/A |

- (a) For both Wyoming Electric and Colorado Electric retail customers, transmission investments are recovered through retail rates rather than FERC Transmission Tariffs. Transmission investments are recovered from wholesale transmission customers under the FERC Formula Transmission rate. The rate base associated with FERC assets is not displayed separate from that collected through the state recovery mechanisms, to avoid double counting. The rate base amounts for Colorado Electric and Wyoming Electric include rate base recovered through base rates and the authorized regulatory mechanisms.
- (b) Includes \$180.6 million in 2023 rate base for the 2023 Projected Common Use System formula rate that is updated annually and \$17.1 million in rate base for the Transmission Tie that is based on the approved stated rate from 2005.
- (c) For additional information regarding recent rate review updates, see Note 2 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

The following table summarizes the mechanisms we have in place for each of our Electric Utilities:

| Electric Utility Jurisdiction | Cost Recovery Mechanisms | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Environmental Cost | EECR/DSM | Transmission Expense | Fuel Cost | Transmission Capital | Purchased Power | RESA |
| Colorado Electric ^(a) | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Colorado Electric (FERC) ^(a) | | | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | |
| South Dakota Electric (SD) ^(b) | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| South Dakota Electric (WY) ^(c) | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| South Dakota Electric (FERC) | | | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Wyoming Electric ^(a) | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Wyoming Electric (FERC) ^(a) | | | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | |

- (a) For both Wyoming Electric and Colorado Electric retail customers, transmission investments are recovered through retail rates rather than FERC Transmission Tariffs. Transmission investments are recovered from wholesale transmission customers under the FERC Formula Transmission rate.
- (b) South Dakota Electric's EIA and TFA tariffs were suspended for a six-year moratorium period effective July 1, 2017. On January 7, 2020, South Dakota Electric received approval from the SDPUC to extend the 6-year moratorium period by an additional 3 years whereby these recovery mechanisms will not be effective prior to July 1, 2026.
- (c) South Dakota Electric has WPSC authorization to accumulate certain energy efficiency costs in a regulatory asset with determination of recovery to be made in the next rate review.

Gas Utilities

The following table provides regulatory information for each of our Gas Utilities:

| Subsidiary | Jurisdiction | Authorized Rate of Return on Equity | Authorized Return on Rate Base | Authorized Capital Structure Debt/Equity | Authorized Rate Base (in millions) | Effective Date | Additional Regulatory Mechanisms |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Arkansas Gas ^(a) | AR | 9.60% | 6.20% ^(b) | 55%/45% | \$674.6 ^(c) | 10/2022 | GCA, Safety and Integrity Rider, EECR, Weather Normalization Adjustment, Billing Determinant Adjustment |
| Colorado Gas ^(a) | CO | 9.20% | 6.56% | 50%/50% | \$303.2 | 1/2022 | GCA, SSIR, DSM, Gas Price Risk Management Rider, Energy Assistance Benefit Charge |
| RMNG ^(a) | CO | 9.50%-9.70% | 6.93% | 48%-50%/50%-52% | \$209.3 | 7/2023 | Liquids/Off-system/Market Center Services Revenue Sharing |
| Iowa Gas | IA | 9.60% | 6.75% | 50%/50% | \$300.9 | 1/2022 | GCA, EECR, System Safety and Maintenance Adjustment Rider, Gas Supply Optimization revenue sharing |
| Kansas Gas | KS | Global Settlement | Global Settlement | Global Settlement | Global Settlement | 1/2022 | GCA, Weather Normalization Tariff, Gas System Reliability Surcharge, Ad Valorem Tax Surcharge, Cost of Bad Debt Collected through GCA, Pension Levelized Adjustment, Tax Adjustment Rider, Gas Supply Optimization revenue sharing |
| Nebraska Gas ^(d) | NE | 9.50% | 6.71% | 50%/50% | \$504.2 ^(e) | 3/2021 | GCA, Cost of Bad Debt Collected through GCA, Infrastructure System Replacement Cost Recovery Surcharge, Choice Gas Program, SSIR, Bad Debt expense recovered through Choice Supplier Fee, Line Locate Surcharge, HEAT Program |
| Wyoming Gas ^{(a)(d)} | WY | 9.85% | 7.33% | 49%/51% | \$450.8 | 1/2024 | GCA, EECR, Rate Base Recovery on Acquisition Adjustment, Wyoming Integrity Rider, Choice Gas Program |

- (a) Colorado Gas regulatory information presented above does not reflect the recent settlement agreement which is subject to CPUC approval. For additional information regarding recent rate review updates, see Note 2 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.
- (b) Arkansas Gas return on rate base is adjusted to remove certain liabilities from rate review capital structure for comparison with other subsidiaries.
- (c) Arkansas Gas rate base is adjusted to include certain liabilities for comparison with other subsidiaries.
- (d) The Choice Gas Program mechanisms are applicable to only a portion of Nebraska Gas and Wyoming Gas customers.
- (e) Excludes amounts to serve non-jurisdictional and agriculture customers.

The following table summarizes the mechanisms we have in place for each of our Gas Utilities:

| Gas Utility Jurisdiction | Cost Recovery Mechanisms | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| | EECR/DSM | Integrity Additions | Bad Debt | Weather Normal | Pension Recovery | Gas Cost ^(a) | Revenue Decoupling |
| Arkansas Gas | ☑ | ☑ | | ☑ | | ☑ | ☑ |
| Colorado Gas | ☑ | ☑ | | | | ☑ | |
| RMNG | | | | | | | |
| Iowa Gas | ☑ | ☑ | | | | ☑ | |
| Kansas Gas | | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | |
| Nebraska Gas | | ☑ | ☑ | | | ☑ | |
| Wyoming Gas | ☑ | ☑ | | | | ☑ | |

- (a) All of our Gas Utilities, except where the Choice Gas Program is the only option, have GCAs that allow us to pass the prudently-incurred cost of gas and certain services through to the customer between rate reviews.

Recent Tariff Filings

See Note 2 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for information regarding current regulatory activity.

FERC

The Federal Power Act gives FERC exclusive rate-making jurisdiction over wholesale sales of electricity and the transmission of electricity in interstate commerce. Pursuant to the Federal Power Act, all public utilities subject to FERC's jurisdiction must maintain tariffs and rate schedules on file with FERC that govern the rates, and terms and conditions for the provision of FERC-jurisdictional wholesale power and transmission services. Public utilities are also subject to accounting, record-keeping and reporting requirements administered by FERC. FERC also places certain limitations on transactions between public utilities and their affiliates. Our electric utility subsidiaries provide FERC-jurisdictional services subject to FERC's oversight.

Our Electric Utilities entities are authorized by FERC to make wholesale sales of electric capacity and energy at market-based rates under tariffs on file with FERC. As a condition of their market-based rate authority, Electric Quarterly Reports are filed with FERC. Our Electric Utilities own and operate FERC-jurisdictional interstate transmission facilities and provide open access transmission service under tariffs on file with FERC. Our Electric Utilities are subject to routine audit by FERC with respect to their compliance with FERC's regulations.

PUHCA 2005 provides FERC authority with respect to the books and records of a utility holding company. As a utility holding company whose assets consist primarily of investments in our subsidiaries, including subsidiaries that are public utilities and also a centralized service company subsidiary, BHSC, we are subject to FERC's authority under PUHCA 2005.

PUHCA 2005 reiterated the definition and benefits of EWG status. Under PUHCA 2005, an EWG is an entity or generator engaged, directly or indirectly through one or more affiliates, exclusively in the business of owning, operating or both owning and operating all or part of one or more eligible facilities and selling electric energy at wholesale. Though EWGs are public utilities within the definition set forth in the Federal Power Act and are subject to FERC regulation of rates and charges, they are exempt from other FERC requirements. Through its subsidiaries, Black Hills Corporation is affiliated with two EWGs, Wygen I and Pueblo Airport Generation (facilities #4-5). Both of these EWGs have been granted market-based rate authority.

NERC

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 included provisions to create an Electric Reliability Organization, which is required to promulgate mandatory reliability standards governing the operation of the bulk power system in the U.S. FERC certified NERC as the Electric Reliability Organization and also issued an initial order approving many reliability standards that went into effect in 2007. Entities that violate standards can be subject to fines and can also be assessed non-monetary penalties, depending upon the nature and severity of the violation.

Pipeline Security

In May and July 2021, the TSA issued security directives in response to a ransomware attack on the Colonial Pipeline that occurred earlier in 2021 that included several new cybersecurity requirements for critical pipeline owners and operators. Among these requirements is the implementation of specific mitigation measures to protect against ransomware attacks and other known threats to information and operational technology systems; development and implementation of a cybersecurity contingency and recovery plan; and performance of a cybersecurity architecture design review. Compliance with these measures has not had a material impact on our operations. We continue to evaluate the potential effect of these directives on our operations and facilities and will continue to monitor for any clarifications or amendments to these directives.

Gas Pipeline and Storage Integrity and Safety

We are subject to regulation by PHMSA, which requires the following for certain gas distribution and transmission pipelines and underground storage facilities: inspection and maintenance plans; integrity management programs, including the determination of pipeline integrity risks and periodic assessments on certain pipeline segments; an operator qualification program, which includes certain trainings; a public awareness program that provides certain information; and a control room management plan. If we fail to comply with applicable statutes and the PHMSA Office of Pipeline Safety's rules and related regulations and orders, we could be subject to significant penalties and fines.

Environmental Matters

We have clean energy goals to reduce GHG emissions that are based on prudent and proven solutions while minimizing cost impacts to and ensuring safety of our customers. See more information in Key Elements of our Business Strategy within Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in Item 7 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

We are subject to significant state and federal environmental regulations that encourage the use of clean energy technologies and regulate emissions of GHGs. We have undertaken initiatives to meet current requirements and to prepare for anticipated future regulations, reduce GHG emissions, and respond to state renewable and energy efficiency goals. Compliance with future environmental regulations could result in substantial cost.

In July of 2019, the EPA adopted the Affordable Clean Energy rule, which requires states to develop plans by 2022 for GHG reductions from coal-fired power plants. On May 23, 2023, the EPA proposed to repeal the Affordable Clean Energy rule and at the same time issued a replacement rule to establish emissions limits for GHG emissions from existing coal-fired and oil/gas-fired electric power generating boilers. The EPA also proposed GHG emission limits for existing stationary combustion turbines. The proposed emissions limitations are based upon the application of carbon capture controls or the use of hydrogen fuel beginning in 2030. The EPA is expected to issue a final rule in the first half of 2024. We will continue to monitor any related guidelines and rulemakings issued by the EPA or state regulatory authorities.

In February 2022, the EPA proposed the Good Neighbor Rule Provisions, which are part of the CSAPR framework and is intended to address ozone transport for the 2015 ozone NAAQS. The proposed rule included the state of Wyoming and imposed a NOx emissions trading program on fossil fueled electricity generating plants within the state. The EPA’s consideration of revised NOx emissions inventories and revised ozone modeling resulted in Wyoming’s exclusion from the final Good Neighbor Rule published on June 5, 2023. In a subsequent action published on August 14, 2023, the EPA approved Wyoming’s State Implementation Plan submission addressing interstate transport for the 2015 8-hour ozone NAAQS, and Wyoming sources will not be subject to the CSAPR.

Environmental risk changes constantly with the implementation of new or modified regulations, changing stakeholder interests and needs, and through the introduction of innovative work practices and technologies. We continually assess risk and develop mitigation strategies to manage and ensure compliance across the enterprise successfully and responsibly. For additional information on environmental matters, see Item 1A and Note 3 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Human Capital Resources

Overview

We are committed to retaining, attracting and cultivating a talented, engaged and thriving team. By making our people and culture a strategic priority, our employees are engaged and empowered to contribute to the success of our business.

| Our Team | As of December 31, 2023 | As of December 31, 2022 |
|--|---|---|
| Total employees | 2,874 | 2,982 |
| Women in executive leadership positions ^(a) | 29% | 33% |
| Gender diversity (women as a % of total employees) | 24% | 25% |
| Represented by a union | 25% | 25% |
| Military veterans | 10% | 11% |
| Ethnic diversity (non-white employees as a % of total) | 15% | 14% |
| | For the year ended December 31, 2023 | For the year ended December 31, 2022 |
| Number of external hires | 293 | 487 |
| External hires gender diversity (as a % of total external hires) | 27% | 30% |
| External hires ethnic diversity (as a % of total external hires) | 24% | 23% |
| Turnover rate ^(b) | 12% | 13% |
| Retirement rate | 3% | 3% |

(a) Executive leadership positions are defined as positions with Vice President, Senior Vice President or Chief in their title.

(b) Includes voluntary and involuntary separations but excludes internships.

Total Employees

| | Number of Employees As of December 31, 2023 |
|---------------------|--|
| Electric Utilities | 425 |
| Gas Utilities | 1,198 |
| Corporate and Other | 1,251 |
| Total | 2,874 |

At December 31, 2023, approximately 18% of our total employees and 20% of our Electric and Gas Utilities employees were eligible for retirement (age 55 with at least 5 years of service).

Collective Bargaining Agreements

At December 31, 2023, certain employees of our Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities were covered by the collective bargaining agreements as shown in the table below. We have not experienced any labor stoppages in decades.

| Utility | Number of Employees | Union Affiliation | Expiration Date of Collective Bargaining Agreement |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| Colorado Electric | 108 | IBEW Local 667 | April 15, 2027 |
| South Dakota Electric | 122 | IBEW Local 1250 | March 31, 2027 |
| Wyoming Electric | 29 | IBEW Local 111 | June 30, 2024 |
| Total Electric Utilities | 259 | | |
| Iowa Gas | 129 | IBEW Local 204 | January 31, 2026 |
| Kansas Gas | 15 | Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO Local 6407 | December 31, 2024 |
| Nebraska Gas | 92 | IBEW Local 244 | March 13, 2025 |
| Nebraska Gas | 134 | CWA Local 7476 | October 30, 2026 |
| Wyoming Gas | 16 | IBEW Local 111 | June 30, 2024 |
| Wyoming Gas | 80 | CWA Local 7476 | October 30, 2026 |
| Total Gas Utilities | 466 | | |
| Total | 725 | | |

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

We believe the benefits of diversity, equity and inclusion can be powerful, and we are committed to building a workforce whose diversity is representative of the communities we serve. Our recruiting strategies support our efforts to attract qualified individuals with targeted efforts to reach underrepresented talent. Our internship program and our partnerships and participation in outreach programs with local schools and colleges attract students to careers in the energy industry. Our commitment to equitable and inclusive hiring practices, including diverse candidate slates and interview panels and pay equity reviews, further supports our vision of retaining, attracting and cultivating an engaged and thriving team driven by improving life with energy. We continuously evaluate our recruitment strategies to determine their effectiveness to attract and build a talented, diverse workforce. Workforce diversity trends, which include new hires, promotions and turnover, are monitored at regular intervals throughout the year.

Development and Retention

Developing and retaining talent is critical to our continued success. Our development and retention efforts include internal and external skills training, career development programs, and competitive compensation. Our compensation programs are designed to be strategically aligned, externally competitive, internally equitable, personally motivating, cost effective and legally compliant. We monitor employee engagement through bi-annual engagement surveys and quarterly pulse surveys. Every leader is responsible for creating and implementing an action plan based on their team's engagement survey results. Our career development programs include management onboarding, leadership development programs, mentoring programs, individual development assessments, stretch opportunities, talent sharing and more. Internal training opportunities include corporate-wide and specialized training opportunities for different job functions. Our Field Career Path Program (FCPP) promotes career growth for our frontline customer-facing employees through established standards of knowledge, skills, abilities and performance.

Employee Safety and Wellness

Safety is one of our company values, a top priority in all we do and deeply embedded in our culture. Meetings of three or more employees begin with a safety share, a practice which contributes to keeping safety top of mind. Since 2009, we have reduced workplace injuries by more than 64% and continue to see long-term, sustained improvements in our safety practices and performance.

| | For the year ended December 31, 2023 |
|--|---|
| Total Case Incident Rate (incidents per 200,000 hours worked) | 1.51 |
| Preventable Motor Vehicle Incident Rate (vehicle accidents per 1 million miles driven) | 1.65 |
| Proactive Safety Activities per Employee | 4 |
| % of injuries reported within 1 day | 93.3% |

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

The nature of our business subjects us to a number of uncertainties and risks. Risks that may adversely affect our business operations, financial condition, results of operations or cash flows are described below. These risk factors, along with other risk factors that we discuss in our periodic reports filed with the SEC should be considered for a better understanding of our Company.

STRATEGIC RISK

Our continued success is dependent on execution of our business plan and growth strategy, including our capital investment program.

Our continued success depends, in significant part, on our ability to execute our strategic business plans. Our strategy is centered on four critical priorities: *Growth*—to grow strategically and achieve strong financial performance, *Operational Excellence*—delivering safe, reliable and cost-effective energy to meet our customers' needs, *Transformation*—be a simple and connected company positioned for growth, and *People & Culture*—retain and attract a talented, engaged and thriving team. Our current plans and strategy may be negatively impacted by disruptive forces and innovations in the marketplace, workforce capabilities, changing political, business or regulatory conditions and technology advancements.

In addition, we have significant capital investment programs planned for the next five years that are key to our strategic business plans. The successful execution of our capital investment program depends on, or could be affected by, a variety of factors that include, but are not limited to: access to capital to fund projects, weather conditions, effective management of projects, availability of qualified construction personnel including contractors, changes in commodity and other prices, impacts of supply chain disruptions on availability and cost of materials, governmental approvals and permitting, regulatory cost recovery and return on investment.

An inability to successfully and timely adapt to changing conditions and execute our strategic plans could materially affect our financial operating results including earnings, cash flow and liquidity.

REGULATORY, LEGISLATIVE AND LEGAL RISKS

We may be subject to unfavorable or untimely federal and state regulatory outcomes.

Our regulated Utilities are subject to cost-of-service/rate-of-return regulation and earnings oversight from federal and eight state utility commissions. This regulatory treatment does not provide any assurance as to achievement of desired earnings levels. Our customer rates are regulated based on an analysis of our costs and investments, as reviewed and approved in regulatory proceedings. While rate regulation is premised on the full recovery of prudently incurred costs and a reasonable rate of return on invested capital, there can be no assurance that our various regulatory authorities will judge all of our costs to have been prudently incurred or that the regulatory process in which rates are determined will result in full or timely recovery of our costs with a reasonable return on invested capital. In addition, adverse rate decisions, including rate moratoriums, rate refunds, limits on rate increases, lower allowed returns on investments or rate reductions, could be influenced by competitive, economic, political, legislative, public perception and regulatory pressures and adversely impact earnings, cash flow and liquidity.

Each of our Utilities are permitted to recover certain costs (such as increased fuel and purchased power costs, including costs from certain severe weather events, or integrity capital investments) outside of a base rate review in order to stabilize customer rates and reduce regulatory lag. If regulators decide to discontinue these tariff-based recovery mechanisms, it could negatively impact earnings, cash flow and liquidity.

Costs could significantly increase to achieve or maintain compliance with existing or future environmental laws, regulations or requirements including those associated with climate change.

Our business segments are subject to numerous environmental laws and regulations affecting many aspects of present and future operations, including air emissions (i.e., SO₂, NO_x, volatile organic compounds, particulate matter and GHG), water quality, wastewater discharges, solid waste and hazardous waste.

These laws and regulations may result in increased capital, operating and other costs. These laws and regulations generally require the business segments to obtain and comply with a wide variety of environmental licenses, permits, inspections and other government approvals. Compliance with environmental laws and regulations may require significant expenditures, including expenditures for cleanup costs and damages arising from contaminated properties. Failure or inability to comply with evolving environmental regulations may result in the imposition of fines, penalties and injunctive measures affecting operating assets.

Our business segments may not be successful in recovering increased capital and operating costs incurred to comply with new environmental regulations through existing regulatory rate structures and contracts with customers. More stringent environmental laws or regulations could result in additional costs of operation for existing facilities or impede the development of new facilities.

There is significant uncertainty regarding if and when new climate legislation, regulations or administrative policies will be adopted to reduce or limit GHG and the impact any such regulations would have on us. New or more stringent regulations or other energy efficiency requirements could require us to incur significant additional costs relating to, among other things, the installation of additional emission control equipment, the acceleration of capital expenditures, the purchase of additional emissions allowances or offsets, the acquisition or development of additional energy supply from renewable resources, the closure or capacity reductions of coal-fired power generation facilities or conversion to alternative fuels, and potential increased production from our combined cycle natural gas-fired generating units. Additional rules and regulations associated with fossil fuels and GHG emissions could result in the impairment or retirement of some of our existing or future transmission, distribution, generation and natural gas storage facilities or our coal mine. Further, these rules could create the need to purchase or build clean-energy fuel sources to fulfill obligations to our customers. These actions could also result in increased operating costs which could adversely impact customers and our financial operating results including earnings, cash flow and liquidity. We cannot definitively estimate the effect of GHG legislation or regulation on our earnings, cash flow and liquidity.

Legislative and regulatory requirements may result in compliance penalties.

Business activities in the energy sector are heavily regulated, primarily by agencies of the federal government. Many agencies employ mandatory civil penalty structures for regulatory violations. The FERC, NERC, PHMSA, CFTC, EPA, OSHA, SEC, TSA and MSHA may impose significant civil and criminal penalties to enforce compliance requirements relative to our business, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial operating results including earnings, cash flow and liquidity.

Municipal governments may seek to limit or deny our franchise privileges.

Municipal governments within our utility service territories possess the power of condemnation and could establish a municipal utility within a portion of our current service territories by limiting or denying franchise privileges for our operations and exercising powers of condemnation over all or part of our utility assets within municipal boundaries. We regularly engage in negotiations on renewals of franchise agreements with our municipal governments. We have from time to time faced challenges or ballot initiatives on franchise renewals. To date, we have been successful in resolving or defending most of these challenges. Although condemnation is a process that is subject to constitutional protections requiring just and fair compensation, as with any judicial procedure, the outcome is uncertain. If a municipality sought to pursue this course of action, we cannot assure that we would secure adequate recovery of our investment in assets subject to condemnation. We also cannot quantify the impact that such action would have on the remainder of our business operations.

Changes in Federal tax law may significantly impact our business.

We are subject to taxation by the various taxing authorities at the federal, state and local levels where we operate. Sweeping legislation or regulation could be enacted by any of these governmental authorities which may affect our tax burden. Changes may include numerous provisions that affect businesses, including changes to corporate tax rates, business-related exclusions, and deductions and credits. The outcome of regulatory proceedings regarding the extent to which a change in corporate tax rate will affect our utility customers and the time period over which that change will occur could significantly impact future earnings and cash flows. Separately, a challenge by a taxing authority, changes in taxing authorities' administrative interpretations, decisions, policies and positions, our ability to utilize tax benefits such as carryforwards or tax credits, or a deviation from other tax-related assumptions may cause actual financial results to deviate from previous estimates.

OPERATING RISKS

Failure to attract and retain an appropriately qualified workforce could have a negative impact on our operations and long-term business strategy.

Recent trends, such as a competitive and tight labor market and an aging workforce may lead to higher costs and increased risk of negative outcomes for safety, compliance, customer service, and operations. Our ability to transition and replace our retirement-eligible utility employees is a risk; at December 31, 2023, approximately 18% of our employees were eligible for retirement. Our ability to avoid or minimize work stoppages and labor disputes is also a risk with approximately 25% of our employees represented by unions. Failure to hire and retain qualified employees, including the ability to transfer significant internal historical knowledge and expertise to new employees, may adversely affect our ability to manage and operate our business. If we are unable to successfully attract and retain an appropriately qualified workforce and maintain satisfactory collective bargaining agreements, safety, service reliability, customer satisfaction and our results of operations could be adversely affected. As part of our strategic business plans, we will need to attract and retain personnel who are qualified to implement our strategy and may need to retrain or re-skill certain employees to support our long-term objectives.

Supply chain challenges could negatively impact our operations.

We rely on various suppliers in our supply chain for the materials necessary to execute on our capital investment program that is key to our strategic business plans and to respond to a significant unplanned event such as a natural disaster. Our largest customers also rely on our supply chain and delays in critical materials could impact their ability to operate and grow as planned. Our supply chain, material costs, and capital investment program may be negatively impacted by:

- Unanticipated price increases due to recent macroeconomic factors, such as inflation, including wage inflation, or rising demand for raw materials associated with the Energy Transition; and
- Supply restrictions beyond our control or the control of our suppliers such as disruption of the freight system (e.g. labor union strikes), increased environmental threats from weather-related disasters, rising demand for raw materials associated with the Energy Transition and/or geopolitical unrest (e.g. Russia-Ukraine and Middle East conflicts).

An inability to successfully manage challenges in our supply chain network could materially affect our ability to execute our business plan and growth strategy and our financial operating results including earnings, cash flow and liquidity.

Our financial performance depends on the successful operation of electric generating facilities, electric and natural gas transmission and distribution systems, natural gas storage facilities and a coal mine.

The risks associated with managing these operations include:

- Operating hazards. Operating hazards such as leaks, mechanical problems and accidents, including fires or explosions, could impact employee and public safety, reliability and customer confidence;
- Inherent dangers. Electricity and natural gas can be dangerous to employees and the general public. Failures of or contact with power lines, natural gas pipelines or service facilities and equipment may result in fires, explosions, property damage and personal injuries, including death. While we maintain liability and property insurance coverage, such policies are subject to certain limits and deductibles. The occurrence of any of these events may not be fully covered by our insurance;
- Weather, natural conditions and disasters including impacts from climate change (discussed below);
- Acts of sabotage, terrorism or other malicious physical attacks. Damage to our facilities due to deliberate acts could lead to outages or other adverse effects;
- Equipment and processes. Breakdown or failure of equipment or processes, unavailability or increased cost of equipment, and performance below expected levels of output or efficiency could negatively impact our results of operations;
- Disrupted transmission and distribution. We depend on transmission and distribution facilities, including those operated by unaffiliated parties, to deliver the electricity and natural gas that we sell to our retail and wholesale customers. If transmission is interrupted physically, mechanically or with cyber means, our ability to sell or deliver utility services and satisfy our contractual obligations may be hindered;
- Natural gas supply for generation and distribution. Our regulated Utilities and non-regulated entities purchase natural gas from a number of suppliers for our generating facilities and for distribution to our customers. Our results of operations could be negatively impacted by the lack of availability and cost of natural gas, and disruptions in the delivery of natural gas due to various factors, including but not limited to, transportation delays, labor relations, weather, sabotage, cyber-attacks and environmental regulations;

- Replacement power. The cost of supplying or securing replacement power during scheduled and unscheduled outages of generation facilities could negatively impact our results of operations;
- Governmental permits. The inability to obtain required governmental permits and approvals along with the cost of complying with or satisfying conditions imposed upon such approvals could negatively impact our ability to operate and our results of operations;
- Operational limitations. Operational limitations imposed by environmental and other regulatory requirements and contractual agreements, including those that restrict the timing of generation plant scheduled outages, could negatively impact our results of operations;
- Increased costs. Increased capital and operating costs to comply with increasingly stringent laws and regulations, unexpected engineering, environmental and geological problems, and unanticipated cost overruns could negatively impact our results of operations;
- Supply chain challenges (discussed above);
- Workforce capabilities and labor relations (discussed above); and
- Public opposition. Opposition by members of public or special-interest groups could negatively impact our ability to operate our businesses.

Any of these risks described above could damage our reputation and public confidence. These risks could also cause us to incur significant costs or be unable to deliver energy and/or operate below expected capacity levels, which in turn could reduce revenues or cause us to incur higher operating and maintenance costs and penalties. While we maintain insurance, obtain warranties from vendors and obligate contractors to meet certain performance levels, the proceeds of such insurance and our rights under contracts, warranties or performance guarantees may not be timely or adequate to cover lost revenues, increased expenses, liability or liquidated damage payments.

The nature of our business subjects us to climate-related risk, stemming from both physical risk and transition risk of climate change, over varying time horizons.

Physical risks of climate change refer to risks to our facilities or operations that may result from changes in the physical climate, such as changes to temperature and weather patterns. Our utility businesses are seasonal businesses and weather conditions and patterns can have a material impact on our operating results. To the extent weather conditions are affected by climate change, fluctuations in commodity prices and customers' energy usage could be magnified. Climate change may lead to increased intensity and frequency of storms, resulting in increased likelihood of fire, wind and extreme temperature events. Severe weather events, such as snow and ice storms (e.g., Winter Storm Uri), fire, and strong winds could negatively impact our operations, including our ability to provide energy safely, reliably and profitably and our ability to complete construction, expansion or refurbishment of facilities as planned. Climate change may intensify these events or increase the frequency of their occurrence. Over time, we may need to make additional investments to protect our facilities from physical risks of climate change.

Transition risks of climate change include changes to the energy systems as a result of new technologies, changing customer demand and/or expectations and voluntary GHG reduction goals, as well as local, state or federal regulatory requirements (discussed above). Policies such as a carbon or methane tax could increase costs associated with fossil fuel usage, resulting in higher operating costs including costs of energy generation, construction, and transportation. Risks of the transition to a low-carbon economy could result in shrinking customer demand for fossil fuel-based energy sources. This could come from increased use of behind the meter technology, such as residential solar and storage. Risk of investor pressure over climate risk and/or ESG standards, activist campaigns against coal producers, employee preferences to work for companies with certain sustainability goals and consumers preference for renewable energy could impact our reputation, ability to attract and retain an appropriately trained workforce, and overall access to capital and/or adequate insurance policies.

Cybersecurity incidents, terrorism, or other malicious acts targeting our key technology systems could disrupt our operations or lead to a loss or misuse of confidential and proprietary information.

To effectively operate our business, we rely upon a sophisticated electronic control system, information and operation technology systems and network infrastructure to generate, distribute and deliver energy, and collect and retain sensitive information including personal information about our customers and employees. Cybersecurity incidents, terrorism or other malicious acts targeting electronic control systems could result in a full or partial disruption of our electric and/or natural gas operations. Attacks targeting other key technology systems, including our third-party vendors' information systems, could further add to a full or partial disruption of our operations. The utility industry has been the target of several cyberattacks on operational systems and has seen an increased volume and sophistication of cybersecurity incidents from international activist organizations, other nation state actors and individuals. To date, we have not experienced a cybersecurity incident that has had a material impact on our business or results of operations. Any disruption of our electric and/or natural gas operations could result in a loss of service to customers and associated revenues, as well as significant expense to repair damages and remedy security breaches. In addition, any theft, loss and/or fraudulent use of customer, shareowner, employee or proprietary data could subject us to significant litigation, liability and costs, as well as adversely impact our reputation with customers and regulators, among others. We maintain cyber risk insurance to mitigate a portion, but not all, of these risks and losses.

As discussed in Utility Regulation Characteristics above, in 2021 the TSA issued security directives that included several new cybersecurity requirements for critical pipeline owners and operators. Such directives or other requirements may require expenditure of significant additional resources to respond to cybersecurity incidents, to continue to modify or enhance protective measures, or to assess, investigate and remediate any critical infrastructure security vulnerabilities. Any failure to comply with such government regulations or failure in our cybersecurity protective measures may result in enforcement actions that may have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. In addition, there is no certainty that costs incurred related to securing against threats will be recovered through rates.

As discussed in Item 1C in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, we have instituted security measures and safeguards to protect our operational systems and information technology assets against cybersecurity threats, including certain safeguards required by NERC. Despite our implementation of security measures and safeguards, all of our technology systems may still be vulnerable to disability, failures or unauthorized access.

Our operations are subject to various conditions that can result in fluctuations in customer usage, including customer growth and general economic conditions in our service territories, weather conditions, and responses to price increases and technological improvements.

Our results of operations and cash flows are affected by the demand for electricity and natural gas, which can vary greatly based upon:

- Fluctuations in customer growth and general economic conditions in our service territories. Customer growth and energy use can be negatively impacted by population declines as well as adverse economic factors in our service territories, including recession, inflation, workforce reductions, stagnant wage growth, changing levels of support from state and local government for economic development, business closings, and reductions in the level of business investment. Our Utilities are impacted by economic cycles and the competitiveness of the commercial and industrial customers we serve. Any economic downturn, inflation, disruption of financial markets, or reduced incentives by state government for economic development could adversely affect the financial condition of our customers and demand for their products or services. These risks could directly influence the demand for electricity and natural gas as well as the need for additional power generation and generating facilities. We could also be exposed to greater risks of accounts receivable write-offs if customers are unable to pay their bills.
- Weather conditions. Our Utilities are seasonal businesses and weather conditions and patterns can have a material impact on our operating performance. Demand for electricity is typically greater in the summer and winter months associated with cooling and heating, respectively. Demand for natural gas depends heavily upon winter-weather patterns throughout our service territory and a significant amount of natural gas revenues are recognized in the first and fourth quarters related to the heating season. Accordingly, our Utilities have historically generated lower revenues, income and cash flows when weather conditions are cooler than normal in the summer and warmer than normal in the winter. Demand for natural gas is also impacted by summer weather patterns that are cooler than normal and provide higher than normal precipitation; both of which can reduce natural gas demand for irrigation. Unusually mild summers and winters, therefore, could have an adverse effect on our financial operating results, including earnings, cash flow and liquidity.

- Our customers' focus on energy conservation. Customer growth and usage may be impacted by the voluntary reduction in consumption of electricity and natural gas by our customers in response to increases in prices and energy efficiency programs, electrification initiatives that could negatively impact the demand for natural gas, economic conditions (i.e., inflation, recession) impacting customers' disposable income and the use of distributed generation resources or other emerging technologies. Continued technological improvements may make customer and third-party distributed generation and energy storage systems, including fuel cells, micro-turbines, wind turbines, solar cells and batteries, more cost effective and feasible for our customers. If more customers utilize their own generation, demand for energy from us could decline. Such developments could affect the price and/or delivery of energy, require further improvements to our distribution systems to address changing load demands and could make portions of our electric system power supply and transmission and/or distribution facilities obsolete prior to the end of their useful lives.

Each of these factors described above could materially affect demand for electricity and natural gas which would impact our financial operating results including earnings, cash flow and liquidity.

If macroeconomic or other conditions adversely affect operations or require us to make changes to our strategic business plan, we may be forced to record a non-cash goodwill impairment charge.

We had approximately \$1.3 billion of goodwill on our consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2023. If we make changes in our strategic business plan and growth strategy, or if macroeconomic or other conditions adversely affect operations in any of our businesses, we may be required to record a non-cash impairment charge. Goodwill is tested for impairment annually or whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate impairment may have occurred. If the testing performed indicates that impairment has occurred, we are required to record an impairment charge for the difference between the carrying value of the goodwill and the implied fair value of the goodwill in the period the determination is made. The testing of goodwill for impairment requires us to make significant estimates about our future performance and cash flows, as well as other assumptions. These estimates can be affected by numerous factors, including: future business operating performance, changes in macroeconomic conditions including recession, inflation and interest rates, changes in our regulatory environment, industry-specific market conditions, changes in business operations, changes in competition or changes in technologies. Any changes in key assumptions, or actual performance compared with key assumptions, about our business and its future prospects could affect the fair value of either or both of our operating segments, which may result in an impairment charge. See additional information in "Critical Accounting Estimates" under Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and Note 1 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

FINANCIAL RISKS

A sub-investment grade credit rating could impact our ability to access capital markets.

Our senior unsecured debt rating is Baa2 (Stable outlook) by Moody's; BBB+ (Stable outlook) by S&P; and BBB+ (Negative outlook) by Fitch. Reduction of our investment grade credit ratings could impair our ability to refinance or repay our existing debt and complete new financings on reasonable terms. A credit rating downgrade, particularly to sub-investment grade, could also result in counterparties requiring us to post additional collateral under existing or new contracts. In addition, a ratings downgrade would increase our interest expense under some of our existing debt obligations, including borrowings under our credit facilities, potentially significantly increasing our cost of capital and other associated operating costs which may not be recoverable through existing regulatory rate structures and contracts with customers.

We may be unable to obtain financing on reasonable terms needed to refinance debt, fund planned capital expenditures or otherwise execute our operating strategy.

Our ability to execute our operating strategy is highly dependent upon our access to capital. Historically, we have addressed our liquidity needs (including funds required to make scheduled principal and interest payments, refinance debt, pay dividends and fund working capital and planned capital expenditures) with operating cash flow, borrowings under credit facilities, proceeds of debt and equity offerings and proceeds from asset sales. Our ability to access capital markets and the costs and terms of available financing depend on many factors, including changes in our credit ratings, general macroeconomic conditions which may drive changes in interest rates and cause volatility in our stock price, changes in the federal or state regulatory environment affecting energy companies and volatility in commodity prices.

In addition, because we are a holding company and our utility assets are owned by our subsidiaries, if we are unable to adequately access the credit markets, we could be required to take additional measures designed to ensure that our utility subsidiaries are adequately capitalized to provide safe and reliable service. Possible additional measures would be evaluated in the context of then-prevailing market conditions, prudent financial management and any applicable regulatory requirements.

Costs associated with our healthcare plans and other benefits could increase significantly.

The costs of providing healthcare benefits to our employees and retirees have increased substantially in recent years. We believe that our employee benefit costs, including costs related to healthcare plans for our employees and former employees, will continue to rise. Significant regulatory developments have required, and likely will continue to require, changes to our current employee benefit plans and supporting administrative processes. Our electric and natural gas utility rates are regulated on a state-by-state basis by the relevant state regulatory authorities based on an analysis of our costs, as reviewed and approved in a regulatory proceeding. Within our utility rates, we have generally recovered the cost of providing employee benefits. As benefit costs continue to rise, however, there is no assurance that the utility commissions will allow recovery of these increased costs. The rising employee benefit costs, or inadequate recovery of such costs, may adversely affect our financial operating results including earnings, cash flow, and liquidity.

We may be unable to obtain insurance coverage, and the coverage we currently have may not apply or may be insufficient to cover a significant loss.

Our ability to obtain insurance, as well as the cost of such insurance, could be impacted by developments affecting the insurance industry and the financial condition of insurers. Additionally, insurance providers could deny coverage or decline to extend coverage under the same or similar terms that are presently available to us. A loss for which we are not adequately insured could materially affect our financial results. The coverage we currently have in place may not apply to a particular loss, or it may not be sufficient to cover all liabilities to which we may be subject, including liability and losses associated with wildfires, natural gas and storage field explosions, cyber-security breaches, environmental hazards and natural disasters.

We have a holding company corporate structure with multiple subsidiaries. Corporate dividends and debt payments are dependent upon cash distributions to the holding company from the subsidiaries.

As a holding company, our investments in our subsidiaries are our primary assets. Our operating cash flow and ability to service our indebtedness depend on the operating cash flow of our subsidiaries and the payment of funds by them to us in the form of dividends or advances. Our subsidiaries are separate legal entities that have no obligation to make any funds available for that purpose, whether by dividends or otherwise. In addition, each subsidiary's ability to pay dividends to us depends on any applicable contractual or regulatory restrictions that may include requirements to maintain minimum levels of cash, working capital, equity or debt service funds.

There is no assurance as to the amount, if any, of future dividends to the holding company because these subsidiaries depend on future earnings, capital requirements and financial conditions to fund such dividends. See "Liquidity and Capital Resources" within Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in Item 7 and Note 8 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements of this Annual Report on Form 10-K for further information regarding these restrictions and their impact on our liquidity.

Market performance or changes in key valuation assumptions could require us to make significant unplanned contributions to our pension plan and other postretirement benefit plans.

Assumptions related to interest rates, expected return on investments, mortality and other key actuarial assumptions have a significant impact on our funding requirements and the expense recognized related to our pension and other postretirement benefit plans. An adverse change to key assumptions associated with our defined benefit retirement plans may require significant unplanned contributions to the plans which could adversely affect our financial operating results including earnings, cash flow and liquidity. See Note 13 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements of this Annual Report on Form 10-K for further information.

Our use of derivative financial instruments as hedges against commodity prices and financial market risks could result in material financial losses.

We use various financial and physical derivatives, including futures, forwards, options and swaps, to manage commodity price and interest rate risks. The timing of the recognition of gains or losses on these economic hedges in accordance with GAAP may not consistently match up with the gains or losses on the commodities being hedged. For Black Hills Energy Services under the Choice Gas Program, and in certain instances within our regulated Utilities where unrealized and realized gains and losses from derivative instruments are not approved for regulatory accounting treatment, fluctuating commodity prices may cause fluctuations in reported financial results due to mark-to-market accounting treatment.

To the extent that we hedge our commodity price and interest rate exposures, we forgo the benefits we would otherwise experience if commodity prices or interest rates were to change in our favor. In addition, even though they are closely monitored by management, our hedging activities can result in losses. Such losses could occur under various circumstances, including if a counterparty does not perform its obligations under the hedge arrangement, the hedge is economically imperfect, commodity prices or interest rates move unfavorably related to our physical or financial positions, or hedging policies and procedures are not followed.

Additionally, our exchange-traded futures contracts are subject to futures margin posting requirements. To the extent we are unable to meet these requirements, this could have a significant impact on our business by reducing our ability to execute derivative transactions to reduce commodity price uncertainty and to protect cash flows. Requirements to post collateral may cause significant liquidity issues by reducing our ability to use cash for investment or other corporate purposes or may require us to increase our level of debt. Further, a requirement for our counterparties to post collateral could result in additional costs being passed on to us, thereby decreasing our profitability.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 1C. CYBERSECURITY

The utility industry has been the target of several cyberattacks on operational systems and has seen an increased volume and sophistication of cybersecurity incidents from international activist organizations, other nation state actors and individuals. We expect to continue to experience attempts to compromise our information technology and control systems, network infrastructure and other assets. To date, we have not experienced a cybersecurity incident that has had a material impact on our business or results of operations.

Risk Management and Strategy

Our enterprise risk management program, which includes cybersecurity risks that are identified through our cybersecurity risk management program, is designed to identify, report, and manage relevant material risks and opportunities. Management of the identified risks is embedded into business processes and key decision making at every level of the Company. Our enterprise risk management team works closely with our Chief Security Officer ("CSO") and IT risk management team to evaluate and address material cybersecurity risks in alignment with our business strategy and operational needs.

We have a cybersecurity risk management program that is managed by a team of full-time cybersecurity professionals that utilizes a variety of tools and techniques to identify and assess material cybersecurity threats, their potential impact and opportunities for mitigation. The industry-standard security frameworks that we apply to our cyber environment include various security and risk assessments, such as internal threat assessments and internal control self-assessments. Because we are aware of the risks associated with third-party providers, we conduct third-party provider security assessments and benchmarking before engagement and maintain ongoing monitoring to ensure compliance with our cybersecurity standards. These assessments include evaluation of risk profiles through vendor questionnaires, review of System and Organization Controls attestation reports and monitoring on an ongoing basis by our IT risk management team. This approach is designed to mitigate risks related to data breaches or other security incidents originating from third-parties.

We regularly engage with third-party assessors and auditors as part of our ongoing cybersecurity risk assessment process to leverage specialized knowledge and insights and to identify areas for continued focus, improvement, compliance and effectiveness of mitigation. We also utilize government and industry-related security intelligence sources, and actively participate in industry peer groups and public-private partnerships to assist in the identification of potential threats. We conduct ongoing cybersecurity training and monthly email phishing drills for all employees.

We also have a cybersecurity incident response plan and procedures to manage cybersecurity incidents. These procedures include steps to identify, classify, communicate, contain, eradicate, and recover from a cybersecurity incident. These procedures also include notification to a cross-functional management team to assess incident materiality and an escalation process to members of our senior management team and our Board of Directors.

Governance

Our Board of Directors is responsible for the oversight of risks from cybersecurity threats. Our Chief Information Officer provides our Board of Directors quarterly reports that summarize material cybersecurity threats and the countermeasures taken to mitigate the associated risks. These reports address a variety of topics including updates on strategic cyber initiatives, industry trends, threat vulnerability assessments, and efforts to prevent, detect and respond to internal and external critical threats. From time to time, our Board of Directors also engages third-party consultants to provide further education about cybersecurity risks.

Our cybersecurity risk management program, which is discussed above, is led by our CSO, who has 28 years of prior work experience in various roles involving managing information security of large-scale global security operations, including developing cybersecurity strategy and implementing effective information and cybersecurity programs. Our CSO maintains industry certifications, including an ISC2 Certified Information Systems Security Professional certification.

Through oversight of the cybersecurity risk management program, our CSO is continually informed about the status of the program, including the effectiveness of the process and controls to monitor, prevent, detect, mitigate, and remediate cybersecurity incidents. The CSO is also made aware of the latest developments in cybersecurity, including potential threats and innovative risk management techniques. The CSO, in his capacity, regularly informs the Chief Information Officer and other members of our senior management team of all aspects related to cybersecurity risks and incidents.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

See Item 1 for a description of our principal business properties.

In addition to the properties disclosed in the Item 1, we own or lease several facilities throughout our service territories including a corporate headquarters building and various office, service center, storage, shop and warehouse space. Substantially all of the tangible utility properties of South Dakota Electric and Wyoming Electric are subject to liens securing first mortgage bonds issued by South Dakota Electric and Wyoming Electric, respectively.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Information regarding our legal proceedings is incorporated herein by reference to the “Legal Proceedings” sub-caption within Item 8, Note 3, “Commitments, Contingencies and Guarantees”, of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Information concerning mine safety violations or other regulatory matters required by Sections 1503(a) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act is included in Exhibit 95 of this Annual Report.

INFORMATION ABOUT OUR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Linden R. Evans, age 61, has been President and Chief Executive Officer since January 1, 2019, President and Chief Operating Officer from 2016 through 2018, and President and Chief Operating Officer - Utilities from 2004 through 2015. Mr. Evans served as the Vice President and General Manager of our former communication subsidiary in 2003 and 2004, and Associate Counsel from 2001 to 2003. Mr. Evans has 22 years of experience with the Company.

Brian G. Iverson, age 61, has been Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer since August 26, 2019. He served as Senior Vice President, General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer and Corporate Secretary from February 1, 2019 to August 26, 2019, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer from 2016 to February 2019, Senior Vice President - Regulatory and Governmental Affairs and Assistant General Counsel from 2014 to 2016, Vice President and Treasurer from 2011 to 2014, Vice President - Electric Regulatory Services from 2008 to 2011 and as Corporate Counsel from 2004 to 2008. Mr. Iverson has 20 years of experience with the Company.

Todd Jacobs, age 55, has been Senior Vice President Growth and Strategy since June 15, 2023. Mr. Jacobs spent seven years in operations roles at the company, serving as the state leader for our Kansas and Arkansas utilities from 2014 to 2019 and then as the segment leader of our natural gas utilities from 2019 to 2021. He led our strategic planning and growth efforts from 2021 to 2023 before moving into this newly expanded role in 2023, which includes growth, strategic planning, business development, regulatory, government affairs, sustainability, communications and community affairs. He served in legal and corporate services leadership roles with other investor-owned utilities before joining the company in 2014. Mr. Jacobs served on active duty for seven years as a U.S. Army officer.

Marne M. Jones, age 50, has been Senior Vice President Utilities since June 15, 2023. She served as VP Electric Utilities from 2021 to 2023, Vice President Regulatory and Finance from 2018 to 2021 and Vice President Regulatory from 2016 to 2018. Ms. Jones has a total of 22 years of experience with the Company and has advanced through roles of increasing responsibility in finance, accounting, corporate services, regulatory and utility operations.

Erik D. Keller, age 60, joined the Company as Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer on July 27, 2020. Prior to joining the company, he was an Information Technology consultant to Ontic Inc., a global provider of parts and services for legacy aerospace platforms, from January 2020 to July 2020, and Chief Information Officer for BBA Aviation, a global aviation support and aftermarket services provider, from February 2012 to January 2020.

Kimberly F. Nooney, age 52, has been Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since April 1, 2023. She served as Vice President – Treasurer from 2015 to 2023, and also served as the Corporate Controller from 2018 to 2022. Ms. Nooney has a total of 27 years of experience with the Company across numerous roles within accounting, internal audit, corporate development, accounting systems, treasury and financial planning and analysis.

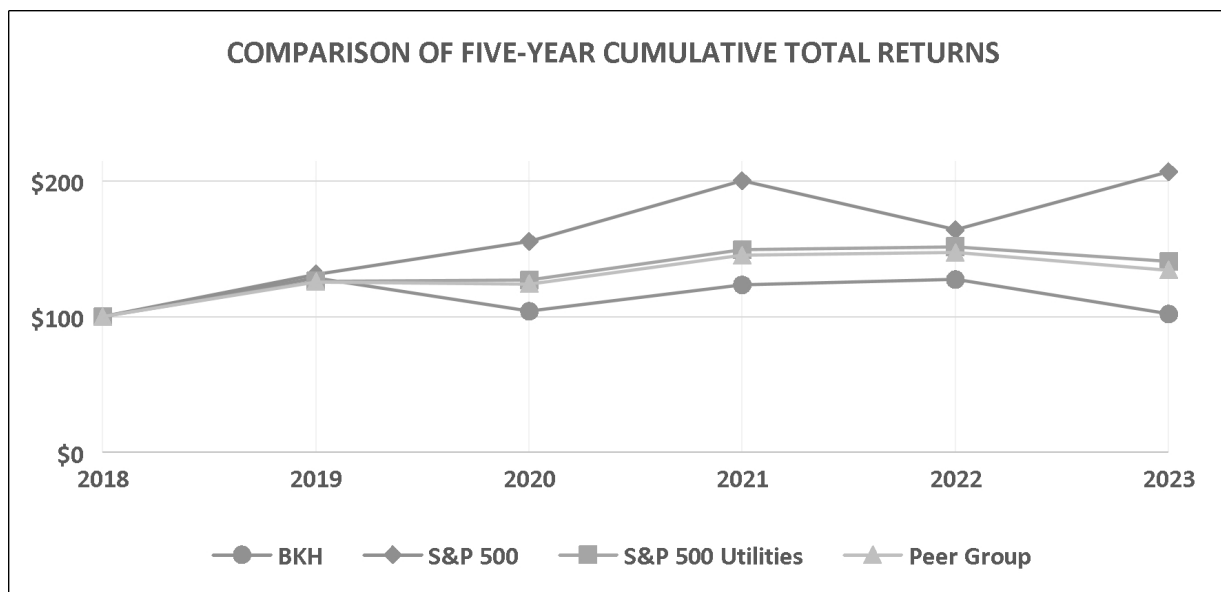
PART II

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol BKH. As of January 31, 2024, we had 3,244 common shareholders of record and 63,074 beneficial owners, representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and 5 foreign countries.

COMPARATIVE STOCK PERFORMANCE

The following performance graph compares the cumulative total stockholder return from Black Hills Corporation common stock, as compared with the S&P 500 Index, S&P 500 Utilities index, and our Performance Peer Group for the past five years. The graph assumes an initial investment of \$100 on December 31, 2018, and assumes all dividends were reinvested. The stockholder return shown below for the five-year historical period may not be indicative of future performance. The information in this "Comparative Stock Performance" section shall not be deemed to be "soliciting material" or to be "filed" with the Securities and Exchange Commission or subject to Regulation 14A or 14C, or to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.



| | As of December 31, | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| Black Hills Corporation | \$ 100.00 | \$ 128.59 | \$ 104.05 | \$ 123.69 | \$ 127.49 | \$ 102.08 |
| S&P 500 | 100.00 | 131.49 | 155.68 | 200.37 | 164.08 | 207.21 |
| S&P 500 Utilities | 100.00 | 126.35 | 126.96 | 149.39 | 151.73 | 140.99 |
| Performance Peer Group ^(a) | 100.00 | 125.79 | 124.33 | 145.61 | 147.29 | 134.47 |

(a) Performance Peer Group represents the Edison Electric Institute Index, which was used in our 2023 Proxy Statement filed with the SEC on March 15, 2023.

DIVIDENDS

For information concerning dividends, our dividend policy and factors that may limit our ability to pay dividends, see "Key Elements of our Business Strategy" and "Liquidity and Capital Resources" under Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

UNREGISTERED SECURITIES ISSUED

There were no unregistered securities sold during 2023.

SECURITIES AUTHORIZED FOR ISSUANCE UNDER EQUITY COMPENSATION PLANS

See Item 12 in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for information regarding Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans.

ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

The following table contains monthly information about our acquisitions of equity securities for the three months ended December 31, 2023:

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased ^(a) | Average Price Paid per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs | Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares That May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|--|--|
| October 1, 2023 - October 31, 2023 | 47 | \$ 48.44 | — | — |
| November 1, 2023 - November 30, 2023 | 991 | \$ 51.52 | — | — |
| December 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023 | 7,018 | \$ 54.62 | — | — |
| Total | 8,056 | \$ 54.20 | — | — |

(a) Shares were acquired under the share withholding provisions of the Amended and Restated 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan for payment of taxes associated with the vesting of various equity compensation plans.

ITEM 6. (RESERVED)

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Executive Summary

We are a customer-focused energy solutions provider with a mission of *Improving Life with Energy* for more than 1.3 million customers and 800+ communities we serve. Our aspiration is to be the trusted energy partner across our growing eight-state footprint, including Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. Our strategy is centered on four critical priorities: *Growth*—to grow strategically and achieve strong financial performance, *Operational Excellence*—delivering safe, reliable and cost-effective energy to meet our customers' needs, *Transformation*—be a simple and connected company positioned for growth, and *People & Culture*—retain and attract a talented, engaged and thriving team.

We conduct our business operations through two operating segments: Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities. Certain unallocated corporate expenses that support our operating segments are presented as Corporate and Other. We conduct our utility operations under the name Black Hills Energy predominantly in rural areas of the Rocky Mountains and Midwestern states. We consider ourselves a domestic electric and natural gas utility company.

We have provided energy and served customers for 140 years, since the 1883 gold rush days in Deadwood, South Dakota. Throughout our history, the common thread that unites the past to the present is our commitment to serve our customers and communities. By being responsive and service focused, we can help our customers and communities thrive while meeting rapidly changing customer expectations.

Key Elements of our Business Strategy

Explore opportunities as an energy solutions provider. A key strategic initiative is to grow our business through innovative energy solutions with new customers and partnerships. We see value creation by recruiting new customers and expanding existing partnerships with data centers and blockchain opportunities; exploring energy markets such as RTOs; and expanding our transmission capabilities, establishing a RNG program and expanding our RNG portfolio. A few recent examples of our initiatives to grow our business as an energy solutions provider include:

- **Contracted Renewable Energy to Grow Data Center Partnerships:** In 2022, Wyoming Electric entered into two new PPAs with third parties to purchase up to 106 MW of wind energy and up to 150 MW of solar energy, upon construction of new renewable generation facilities (owned by third parties). The new wind generation facility was placed in service in December 2023 and the solar facility is expected to be completed in March 2024. The renewable energy from these PPAs will be used to serve our expanding partnerships with data centers.
- **Developed BCIS Tariff to Facilitate Growth:** We have supported enabling legislation in Wyoming for the growing blockchain businesses while implementing our own BCIS Tariff to serve these customers. In June 2022, Wyoming Electric completed its first agreement, with a new customer in Cheyenne, Wyoming, under this Tariff. This five-year agreement provides delivery of up to 45 MW with an option to expand service up to 75 MW, which was exercised by the customer in 2023. Energy is sourced through the electric energy market and delivered through our Electric Utilities' infrastructure. Under the agreement, the customer is responsible for costs of service, and the load is interruptible to prioritize the needs of Wyoming Electric's existing retail customers.
- **Established Green Forward:** In 2022 and 2023, we filed regulatory applications to launch Green Forward, a voluntary RNG and carbon offset program, to eligible residential and small business natural gas customers to offset up to 100% or more of the emissions from their natural gas usage. Our teams continue to evaluate attractive RNG investment opportunities across our agriculture-rich service territories and explore value generation with our natural gas storage assets. We also continue to expand our RNG interconnections, with seven projects actively injecting RNG into our natural gas system.
- **Expanded RNG Portfolio:** In January 2024, Black Hills Energy Renewable Resources acquired a RNG production facility at a landfill in Dubuque, Iowa. The facility currently injects RNG into the natural gas distribution system serving Dubuque, which is owned and operated by Iowa Gas. This acquisition represents our entry into the production of RNG as a nonregulated business while leveraging our expertise in owning and operating regulated natural gas pipeline systems, including RNG interconnections. The RNG produced from the landfill facility captures methane that would otherwise vent into the atmosphere. It is delivered under long-term contracts to a third party that purchases the RNG and its related environmental attributes, in conformity with the EPA's Renewable Fuel Standard Program.

Modernize and operate utility infrastructure to provide customers with safe, reliable, cost-effective electric and natural gas service. Our utilities own and operate large electric and natural gas infrastructure systems with a geographic footprint that spans nearly 1,600 miles. Our Electric Utilities own and operate 1,394 MW of generation capacity and 9,106 miles of transmission and distribution lines and our Gas Utilities own and operate approximately 47,000 miles of natural gas transmission and distribution pipelines.

A key strategic focus is to modernize and harden our utility infrastructure to meet customers' and communities' varied energy needs, ensure the continued delivery of safe, reliable and cost-effective energy and reduce GHG emissions intensity. In addition, we invest in the expansion, capacity and integrity of our systems to meet customer growth.

To meet our electric customers' continued expectations of high levels of reliability, a key strength of the Company, our Electric Utilities utilize an integrity program to ensure the timely repair and replacement of aging infrastructure. In alignment with this program, in November 2021, Wyoming Electric announced its *Ready Wyoming* electric transmission expansion initiative. The 260-mile, multi-phase transmission expansion project will provide customers long-term price stability and greater flexibility as power markets develop in the Western States. Construction of the project commenced in late 2023 and is expected to take place in multiple phases or segments through 2025 and will interconnect South Dakota Electric's and Wyoming Electric's transmission systems.

Our Gas Utilities utilize a programmatic approach to system-wide pipeline replacement, particularly in high consequence areas. Under the programmatic approach, obsolete, at-risk and vintage materials are replaced in a proactive and systematic time frame. We have removed all cast- and wrought-iron from our natural gas transmission and distribution systems and continue to replace aging infrastructure through programs that prioritize safety and reliability for our customers. Our Gas Utilities are authorized to use system safety, integrity and replacement cost recovery mechanisms that provide for customer rate adjustments, between rate reviews, which allow timely recovery of costs incurred in repairing and replacing the gas delivery systems with a return on the investment.

As of December 31, 2023, we estimate our five-year capital investment to be approximately \$4.3 billion, with most of that investment targeted toward upgrading existing utility infrastructure supporting customer and community growth needs, and complying with safety requirements. Our actual 2023 and forecasted capital expenditures for the next five years from 2024 through 2028 are as follows (in millions). Minor differences may result due to rounding.

| Capital Expenditures By Segment: (in millions) | Actual ^(a) | | Forecasted ^(b) | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|---------------------------|----------|--------|--------|
| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 |
| Electric Utilities | \$ 211 | \$ 409 | \$ 287 | \$ 466 | \$ 199 | \$ 264 |
| Gas Utilities | \$ 372 | \$ 407 | \$ 387 | \$ 368 | \$ 372 | \$ 373 |
| Corporate and Other | \$ 7 | \$ 24 | \$ 29 | \$ 29 | \$ 27 | \$ 29 |
| Strategic growth projects | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 100 | \$ 400 | \$ 50 | \$ 50 |
| Total | \$ 590 | \$ 840 | \$ 803 | \$ 1,263 | \$ 648 | \$ 717 |

- (a) Includes accruals for property, plant and equipment as disclosed as supplemental cash flow information in the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows in the Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. Capital expenditures are presented net of contributions in aid of construction in the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.
- (b) Projects are being evaluated by our segments for timing, cost and other factors.

Efficiently plan, construct and operate power generation facilities to serve our Electric Utilities. We best serve customers and communities when generation is vertically integrated into our Electric Utilities and we retain control of the fuel source. This business model remains a core strength and strategy today as we invest in and operate efficient power generation resources to supply cost-effective electricity to our customers. These generation assets can be rate-based or non-regulated assets within our Electric Utilities segment. However, we believe that generation assets that are rate-based provide the most effective long-term benefits to customers.

Our power production strategy focuses on low-cost construction and efficient operation of our generating facilities. Our low power production costs result from a variety of factors including low fuel costs (operations located near energy hubs), efficiency in converting fuel into energy and low per unit operating and maintenance costs. In addition, we operate our plants with high levels of Availability as compared to industry benchmarks.

Rate-Based Generation: We continue to believe that customers are best served when the power generation facilities are owned and rate-based by our Electric Utilities. Rate-based generation assets offer several advantages for customers and shareholders, including:

- When generating assets are included in the utility rate base and reviewed and approved by government authorities, customer rates are more stable and predictable, and typically less expensive in the long run; especially when compared to power otherwise purchased from the open market through wholesale contracts or PPAs that are periodically re-priced to reflect current and varying market conditions;
- Regulators participate in a planning process where long-term investments are designed to match long-term energy demand;
- The lower-risk profile of rate-based generation assets contributes to stronger credit ratings which, in turn, can benefit both customers and investors by lowering the cost of capital; and
- Investors are provided a long-term and stable return on their investment.

Integrated Generation: Our Electric Utilities segment also includes a power generation business that owns non-regulated generating facilities that are contracted through long-term power purchase agreements with our electric utilities. Our power generation business has an experienced staff with significant expertise in planning, building and operating power plants. This team also provides shared services to our Electric Utilities' generation facilities, resulting in efficient management of all of the Company's generation assets. Our power generation business competitively bids for energy and capacity through requests for proposals by our Electric Utilities for energy resources necessary to serve customers. This business can bid competitively due to construction expertise, fuel supply advantages and by co-locating new plants at our existing Electric Utilities' energy complexes, reducing infrastructure and operating costs. All power plants within this business are contracted to our Electric Utilities under long-term contracts, located at our utility-generating complexes and physically integrated into our Electric Utilities' operations.

Generation Fuel Supply: Our generating facilities are strategically located close to energy hubs that help reduce fuel supply costs. Our Colorado and Wyoming gas-fired generating facilities are located close to major natural gas energy hubs that provide trading liquidity and transparent pricing. Due to their location in the resource rich areas of Colorado and Wyoming, natural gas supply to fuel our gas-fired generation can be sourced at competitive prices. Our coal-fired power plants, all located at the Gillette Energy Complex in northeastern Wyoming, are supplied by our adjacent WRDC coal mine. WRDC provides approximately 3.7 million tons of low-sulfur coal directly to these power plants via a conveyor belt system, minimizing transportation costs. The fuel can be delivered to our adjacent power plants at very cost competitive prices (i.e., \$1.14 per MMBtu for year ended December 31, 2023) when compared to alternatives. Nearly all the mine's production is sold to these on-site generation facilities under long-term supply contracts. Approximately one-half of our production is sold under cost-plus contracts with affiliates. A small portion of the mine's production is sold to off-site industrial customers and delivered by truck.

Supporting the Energy Transition by proactively integrating alternative and renewable energy into our utility energy supply while mitigating customer rate impacts. A critical component of our strategy involves sustainable operations and supporting the Energy Transition. How we operate our company for the social good has never been more important. We are committed to cleaner energy and a low carbon future, integrating the Energy Transition and more renewable energy into our overall strategy and decision making. In addition, we are committed to a more sustainable future by better managing our impacts to the planet, whether that is water usage, recycling, biodiversity, or other important measures.

In November 2020, we announced clean energy goals to reduce GHG emissions intensity for our Electric Utilities by 40% by 2030 and 70% by 2040 and achieve GHG reductions of 50% by 2035 for our Gas Utilities. Our goals are compared to a 2005 baseline. Electric Utility goals include Scope 1 emissions from electric utility generating units and Scope 3 emissions from purchased power for sales. Our Gas Utilities goal initially included only Scope 1 emissions from distribution system main and service lines. In August 2022, we announced a new "Net Zero by 2035" target for our Gas Utilities, which doubled the previous target of a 50% reduction by 2035 and expanded the scope of the goal to all Scope 1 sources of methane emissions on our distribution system. Net Zero will be achieved through pipeline material and main replacements, advanced leak detection, third-party damage reduction, expanding the use of RNG and hydrogen, and utilizing carbon credit offsets.

Since 2005, we have reduced GHG emissions intensity from our Electric Utilities by one-third. We have plans in place today, without reliance on future technologies, to achieve our corporate climate goals calling for a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions intensity from our electric utility operations by 2030 and 70% by 2040. Additionally, our Electric Utilities have reduced nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide emissions by more than 75% since 2005. Colorado Electric has achieved a nearly 50% reduction in GHG emissions since 2005 and is on track to reach the State of Colorado's 80% carbon reduction goal by 2030. Our goals are based on prudent and proven solutions to reduce our emissions while minimizing cost impacts to our customers. This keeps our customers at the forefront of our decision-making, which is central to our values.

More of our customers, particularly our larger customers, are demanding cleaner sources of energy to meet their sustainability goals. In addition, there is more interest from consumers, regulators and legislators to increase the use of renewable and other alternative energy sources. Recent efforts to support this interest include:

- In June 2021, South Dakota Electric and Wyoming Electric submitted an IRP to the SDPUC and WPSC. The IRP outlines a range of options for the two electric utilities over a 20-year planning horizon to meet long-term forecasted energy needs while strengthening reliability and resiliency of the grid. The analysis focused on the least-cost resource needs to best meet customers' future peak energy needs while maintaining system flexibility and achieving the Company's generation emissions reduction goals. The IRP's preferred options for South Dakota Electric in the near-term planning period through 2026 are the addition of 100 MW of renewable generation, the conversion of Neil Simpson II to dual fuel (natural gas and coal) in 2025 and consideration of up to 20 MW of battery storage. In 2023, South Dakota Electric issued a request for proposals for 100 MW of utility-owned renewable energy resources to be in service in 2026. Negotiations are underway, with results to be presented to the SDPUC and included in a CPCN filing with the WPSC during the first quarter of 2024.
- In March 2023, the CPUC approved a unanimous settlement for Colorado Electric's Clean Energy Plan filed on May 25, 2022. The Clean Energy Plan supports Colorado Electric's voluntary election to reduce carbon emissions 80% from 2005 levels by 2030. In July 2023, Colorado Electric issued a request for proposals for approximately 400 MW of new renewable resources to be in service by 2029 to achieve objectives in its Clean Energy Plan. Colorado Electric received a strong response to its request for proposal and provided a bids summary to the CPUC as part of the approval process. A report with Colorado Electric's recommended resources is due to the CPUC in the second quarter of 2024.

Many states have enacted, and others are considering, mandatory renewable energy standards, requiring utilities to meet certain thresholds of renewable energy generation. In addition, some states have either enacted or are considering legislation setting GHG emission reduction targets. Federal legislation for renewable energy standards and GHG emission reductions has been considered and may be implemented in the future. Mandates for the use of renewable energy or the reduction of GHG emissions will likely drive the need for significant investment in our Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities segments. These mandates will also likely increase prices for electricity and/or natural gas for our utility customers. As a regulated utility, we are responsible for providing safe, reliable and cost-effective sources of energy to our customers. Accordingly, we employ a customer-focused strategy for complying with standards and regulations that balances our customers' rate concerns with environmental considerations and administrative and legislative mandates. We attempt to strike this balance by prudently and proactively incorporating renewable energy into our resource supply, while seeking to minimize the magnitude and frequency of rate increases for our utility customers.

Inflation Reduction Act

The IRA, signed into law by President Biden in August 2022, features \$370 billion in spending and tax incentives on clean energy provisions. Most notably, the IRA includes provisions that extend and expand the production and investment tax credits for wind and solar; includes energy storage, EVs, RNG, and carbon capture and sequestration; and allows for the transferability of clean energy tax credits on existing and qualifying new facilities. We see the IRA as generally supportive of our Energy Transition strategy with the potential to drive increased value for our customers and shareholders. We are still evaluating the impacts of the IRA provisions on our future capital projects.

Deliver a competitive total return to investors and maintain an investment grade credit rating. We are proud of our track record of annual dividend increases for shareholders. 2023 represented our 53rd consecutive year of increasing dividends. In January 2024, our Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.65 per share, equivalent to an annual dividend of \$2.60 per share. We intend to continue our record of annual dividend increases with a targeted dividend payout ratio of 55% to 65% of net income.

We require access to the capital markets to fund our planned capital investments or acquire strategic assets that support prudent and earnings-accretive business growth. We have demonstrated our ability to cost-effectively access the debt and equity markets, while maintaining our investment-grade issuer credit rating.

Recent Developments

Macroeconomic Trends

We continue to monitor challenging macroeconomic trends including supply chain disruptions, rising interest rates, potential recession and inflationary pressures on the prices of materials, outside services and employee costs. To date, we have experienced moderate net impacts from these trends. However, if current macroeconomic conditions deteriorate in 2024, adverse impacts to our businesses may be magnified.

Inflation has increased our operating expenses, which included higher employee-related expenses in 2023 compared to the prior year.

We are proactively managing increased costs of materials and supply chain disruptions to achieve our forecasted capital investment targets. To support our 2024 capital investment program, we have contracts in place with key suppliers and we have contracted services for a significant portion of our largest forecasted projects. We continue to forecast multi-year key material requirements with suppliers to enhance predictable material availability, challenge vendor price increases to ensure best value and cost transparency and invest in our distribution network to ensure the safety and reliability of our system. We have also evaluated each of our forecasted projects and will prioritize them depending on future constraints. Project delays may occur if costs rise significantly or if materials are not available.

Rising interest rates have led to increased interest expense on recent debt issuances. These impacts were partially offset by lower short-term, variable rate borrowings and higher interest income on our cash equivalents when compared to the prior year.

The deflationary trend in commodity prices throughout 2023 has partially offset macroeconomic headwinds from inflation and higher interest rates. Lower commodity prices have led to lower customer bills, lower cost of fuel, purchased power and natural gas sold, and improved cash flows from operations due to recoveries of deferred energy costs from customers (which were elevated at the end of 2022 and subsequently collected in 2023).

More detailed discussion of the future uncertainties can be found in Item 1A - Risk Factors.

Business Segment Highlights and Corporate Activity

Electric Utilities

- See Note 2 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for recent rate review activity for Wyoming Electric.
- See Key Elements of our Business Strategy section above for discussion of recent developments related to Ready Wyoming, Colorado Electric's Clean Energy Plan, and South Dakota Electric and Wyoming Electric's IRP.
- On January 11, 2024, Wyoming Electric set a new winter peak load of 314 MW, surpassing the previous winter peaks of 301 MW set on December 26, 2023, 299 MW set on October 31, 2023, and 281 MW set in December 2022.
- On July 24, 2023, Wyoming Electric set a new all-time and summer peak load of 312 MW, surpassing the previous peak of 294 MW set on July 21, 2022.

Gas Utilities

- See Note 2 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for recent rate review activity for Arkansas Gas, Colorado Gas, RMNG and Wyoming Gas.
- See Key Elements of our Business Strategy section above for discussion of recent developments related to BHERR's purchase of a RNG production facility in Iowa.

Corporate and Other

- On September 15, 2023, we completed a public debt offering of \$450 million, 6.15% 10-year senior unsecured notes due May 15, 2034. Net proceeds from the offering were used to repay our \$525 million principal amount outstanding notes and for other general corporate purposes. See Note 8 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for further information.
- On June 16, 2023, we filed a new shelf registration statement with the SEC and entered into a new Equity Distribution Sales Agreement. The new Equity Distribution Sales Agreement is similar to our prior agreement and allows us to sell shares of common stock up to an aggregate of \$400 million through our ATM program utilizing our shelf registration statement. As of December 31, 2023, we have \$329 million available to issue under this program. See Note 8 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for further information.
- On March 7, 2023, we completed a public debt offering of \$350 million, 5.95% 5-year senior unsecured notes due March 15, 2028. The proceeds from the offering were used to repay notes outstanding under our commercial paper program and for other general corporate purposes. See Note 8 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for further information.

Results of Operations

Our discussion and analysis for the year ended December 31, 2023, compared to 2022 is included herein. For discussion and analysis for the year ended December 31, 2022, compared to 2021, please refer to Item 7 of Part II, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2022, which was filed with the SEC on February 14, 2023.

All amounts are presented on a pre-tax basis unless otherwise indicated. Minor differences in amounts may result due to rounding.

Consolidated Summary and Overview

| | For the Years Ended December 31, | | | | |
|---|---|----------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 vs 2022 Variance | 2021 | 2022 vs 2021 Variance |
| | (in millions, except per share amounts) | | | | |
| Operating income (loss): | | | | | |
| Electric Utilities | \$ 248.8 | \$ 214.3 | \$ 34.5 | \$ 202.7 | \$ 11.6 |
| Gas Utilities | 228.8 | 244.2 | (15.4) | 211.2 | 33.0 |
| Corporate and Other ^(a) | (4.9) | (3.3) | (1.6) | (4.5) | 1.2 |
| Operating Income | 472.7 | 455.2 | 17.5 | 409.4 | 45.8 |
| Interest expense, net | (167.9) | (161.0) | (6.9) | (152.4) | (8.6) |
| Other income (expense), net | (3.2) | 1.8 | (5.0) | 1.4 | 0.4 |
| Income tax (expense) | (25.6) | (25.2) | (0.4) | (7.2) | (18.0) |
| Net income | 276.0 | 270.8 | 5.2 | 251.3 | 19.5 |
| Net income attributable to non-controlling interest | (13.8) | (12.4) | (1.4) | (14.5) | 2.1 |
| Net income available for common stock | \$ 262.2 | \$ 258.4 | \$ 3.8 | \$ 236.7 | \$ 21.7 |
| Total earnings per share of common stock, Diluted | \$ 3.91 | \$ 3.97 | (0.06) | \$ 3.74 | 0.23 |

(a) Includes inter-segment eliminations.

2023 Compared to 2022

The variance to the prior year included the following:

- Electric Utilities' operating income increased \$34.5 million primarily due to new rates and rider recovery, a one-time gain on the planned sale of Northern Iowa Windpower assets, a gain on a strategic sale of land in Wyoming to a customer to support continued load growth, and a one-time recovery from our business interruption insurance related to the 2021 Wygen I unplanned outage partially offset by unfavorable weather, higher depreciation expense and higher employee-related expenses;
- Gas Utilities' operating income decreased \$15.4 million primarily due to unfavorable weather, a prior year one-time true-up of carrying costs accrued on Winter Storm Uri regulatory assets and higher operating expenses partially offset by new rates and rider recovery and retail customer growth and demand;
- Interest expense increased \$6.9 million due to higher interest rates partially offset by increased interest income on higher cash and cash equivalents balances; and
- Other expense, net increased \$5.0 million primarily due to higher benefit plan non-service costs driven by higher discount rates and higher costs for our non-qualified deferred compensation plan driven by market performance.

Segment Operating Results

Non-GAAP Financial Measure

The following discussion includes financial information prepared in accordance with GAAP, as well as another financial measure, Electric and Gas Utility margin, that is considered a "non-GAAP financial measure." Generally, a non-GAAP financial measure is a numerical measure of a company's financial performance, financial position or cash flows that excludes (or includes) amounts that are included in (or excluded from) the most directly comparable measure calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP. Electric and Gas Utility margin (revenue less cost of sales) is a non-GAAP financial measure due to the exclusion of operation and maintenance expenses, depreciation and amortization expenses, and property and production taxes from the measure.

Electric Utility margin is calculated as operating revenue less cost of fuel and purchased power. Gas Utility margin is calculated as operating revenue less cost of natural gas sold. Our Electric and Gas Utility margin is impacted by the fluctuations in power and natural gas purchases and other fuel supply costs. However, while these fluctuating costs impact Electric and Gas Utility margin as a percentage of revenue, they only impact total Electric and Gas Utility margin if the costs cannot be passed through to our customers.

Our Electric and Gas Utility margin measure may not be comparable to other companies' Electric and Gas Utility margin measures. Furthermore, this measure is not intended to replace operating income as determined in accordance with GAAP as an indicator of operating performance.

Electric Utilities

Operating results for the years ended December 31 for the Electric Utilities were as follows (in millions):

| | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 vs 2022 Variance | 2021 | 2022 vs 2021 Variance |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| Revenue: | | | | | |
| Electric - regulated | \$ 817.4 | \$ 852.2 | \$(34.8) | \$ 800.7 | \$ 51.5 |
| Other - non-regulated | 47.6 | 48.0 | (0.4) | 41.5 | 6.5 |
| Total revenue | 865.0 | 900.2 | (35.2) | 842.2 | 58.0 |
| Fuel and Purchased Power: | | | | | |
| Electric - regulated | 198.3 | 261.7 | (63.4) | 244.5 | 17.2 |
| Other - non-regulated | 1.8 | 4.6 | (2.8) | 3.5 | 1.1 |
| Total fuel and purchased power | 200.1 | 266.3 | (66.2) | 248.0 | 18.3 |
| Electric Utility margin (non-GAAP) | 664.9 | 633.9 | 31.0 | 594.2 | 39.7 |
| Operations and maintenance | 236.2 | 244.8 | (8.6) | 224.5 | 20.3 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 142.6 | 135.9 | 6.7 | 131.5 | 4.4 |
| Taxes - property and production | 37.3 | 38.9 | (1.6) | 35.5 | 3.4 |
| | 416.1 | 419.6 | (3.5) | 391.5 | 28.1 |
| Operating income | \$ 248.8 | \$ 214.3 | \$ 34.5 | \$ 202.7 | \$ 11.6 |

2023 Compared to 2022

Electric Utility margin increased over the prior year as a result of:

| | (in millions) |
|---|---------------|
| New rates and rider recovery | \$ 29.4 |
| Wygen I revenue recovery under business interruption insurance ^(a) | 5.0 |
| Integrated Generation ^(b) | 3.3 |
| Transmission services | 3.2 |
| Weather | (6.2) |
| Retail customer usage | (4.4) |
| Other | 0.7 |
| | \$ 31.0 |

(a) In 2021, Wygen I experienced an unplanned outage which resulted in lost revenue. A claim for these losses was submitted under our business interruption insurance policy. During the third quarter of 2023, we recovered \$5.0 million from our business interruption insurance which was recognized as Revenue. See Note 3 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for further information.

(b) Primarily driven by favorable mining contract pricing and increased Black Hills Colorado IPP fired-engine hours.

Operations and maintenance expense decreased primarily due to a one-time \$7.7 million gain on the planned sale of Northern Iowa Windpower assets, a \$3.9 million gain on a strategic sale of land in Wyoming to a customer to support continued load growth, and \$2.9 million of lower outside services expenses partially offset by \$8.7 million of higher employee-related expenses.

Depreciation and amortization increased primarily due to higher asset base driven by prior and current year capital expenditures.

Taxes - property and production were comparable to the same period in the prior year.

Operating Statistics

| For the year ended December 31, | Revenue (in millions) | | | Quantities Sold (GWh) | | |
|--|-----------------------|----------|----------|-----------------------|---------|---------|
| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
| Residential | \$ 224.9 | \$ 246.7 | \$ 244.6 | 1,438.5 | 1,513.1 | 1,494.0 |
| Commercial | 259.8 | 277.9 | 276.0 | 2,074.4 | 2,087.8 | 2,075.7 |
| Industrial | 159.4 | 166.4 | 149.0 | 2,094.8 | 1,912.5 | 1,751.4 |
| Municipal | 17.5 | 20.5 | 19.1 | 150.9 | 159.3 | 162.9 |
| Subtotal Retail Revenue - Electric | 661.6 | 711.5 | 688.7 | 5,758.6 | 5,672.7 | 5,484.0 |
| Contract Wholesale | 22.0 | 25.9 | 16.1 | 579.1 | 654.0 | 574.1 |
| Off-system/Power Marketing Wholesale | 42.5 | 48.6 | 41.7 | 737.9 | 643.2 | 638.9 |
| Other ^(a) | 91.2 | 66.2 | 54.2 | - | - | - |
| Total Regulated | 817.3 | 852.2 | 800.7 | 7,075.6 | 6,969.9 | 6,697.0 |
| Non-Regulated ^(b) | 47.7 | 48.0 | 41.5 | 120.6 | 293.0 | 269.6 |
| Total Revenue and Quantities Sold | \$ 865.0 | \$ 900.2 | \$ 842.2 | 7,196.2 | 7,262.9 | 6,966.6 |
| Other Uses, Losses or Generation, net ^(c) | | | | 463.5 | 450.0 | 475.3 |
| Total Energy | | | | 7,659.7 | 7,712.9 | 7,441.9 |

(a) Primarily related to transmission revenues from the Common Use System.

(b) Includes Integrated Generation and non-regulated services to our retail customers under the Service Guard Comfort Plan and Tech Services.

(c) Includes company uses and line losses.

| For the year ended December 31, | Revenue (in millions) | | | Quantities Sold (GWh) | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|-----------------------|---------|---------|
| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
| Colorado Electric | \$ 285.7 | \$ 321.1 | \$ 302.9 | 2,397.2 | 2,440.0 | 2,574.0 |
| South Dakota Electric | 321.1 | 335.2 | 319.4 | 2,554.3 | 2,626.2 | 2,389.4 |
| Wyoming Electric | 212.2 | 197.7 | 180.4 | 2,124.1 | 1,903.7 | 1,733.6 |
| Integrated Generation | 46.0 | 46.2 | 39.5 | 120.6 | 293.0 | 269.6 |
| Total Revenue and Quantities Sold | \$ 865.0 | \$ 900.2 | \$ 842.2 | 7,196.2 | 7,262.9 | 6,966.6 |

| Quantities Generated and Purchased by Fuel Type (GWh) | For the year ended December 31, | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------|---------|
| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
| Generated: | | | |
| Coal | 2,683.4 | 2,708.8 | 2,546.9 |
| Natural Gas | 2,021.4 | 1,454.2 | 1,817.2 |
| Wind ^(a) | 678.5 | 875.8 | 842.6 |
| Total Generated | 5,383.3 | 5,038.8 | 5,206.7 |
| Purchased: | | | |
| Coal, Natural Gas, Diesel Oil and Other Market Purchases | 1,842.9 | 2,280.8 | 1,866.4 |
| Wind and Solar | 433.5 | 393.3 | 368.8 |
| Total Purchased | 2,276.4 | 2,674.1 | 2,235.2 |
| Total Generated and Purchased | 7,659.7 | 7,712.9 | 7,441.9 |

(a) Wind generation decreased due to the sale of Northern Iowa Windpower assets in March 2023.

| Quantities Generated and Purchased (GWh) | For the year ended December 31, | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------|---------|
| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
| Generated: | | | |
| Colorado Electric | 653.9 | 474.4 | 412.1 |
| South Dakota Electric | 2,018.5 | 1,890.0 | 1,980.7 |
| Wyoming Electric | 908.3 | 905.8 | 883.6 |
| Integrated Generation | 1,802.5 | 1,768.6 | 1,842.4 |
| Total Generated | 5,383.2 | 5,038.8 | 5,118.8 |
| Purchased: | | | |
| Colorado Electric | 588.2 | 1,005.4 | 1,027.7 |
| South Dakota Electric | 604.6 | 826.4 | 563.6 |
| Wyoming Electric | 1,028.5 | 757.2 | 643.9 |
| Integrated Generation | 55.2 | 85.1 | 87.9 |
| Total Purchased | 2,276.5 | 2,674.1 | 2,323.1 |
| Total Generated and Purchased | 7,659.7 | 7,712.9 | 7,441.9 |

| Degree Days | For the year ended December 31, | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|----------------------|
| | 2023 | | 2022 | | 2021 | |
| | Actual | Variance from Normal | Actual | Variance from Normal | Actual | Variance from Normal |
| Heating Degree Days: | | | | | | |
| Colorado Electric | 5,330 | 1% | 5,551 | 9% | 5,023 | (11)% |
| South Dakota Electric | 6,969 | (4)% | 7,495 | 6% | 6,819 | (5)% |
| Wyoming Electric | 6,783 | (1)% | 7,051 | 3% | 6,702 | (6)% |
| Combined ^(a) | 6,185 | (1)% | 6,518 | 6% | 5,974 | (7)% |
| Cooling Degree Days: | | | | | | |
| Colorado Electric | 1,046 | (10)% | 1,362 | 9% | 1,245 | 39% |
| South Dakota Electric | 497 | (21)% | 814 | 27% | 827 | 30% |
| Wyoming Electric | 329 | (30)% | 701 | 47% | 604 | 74% |
| Combined ^(a) | 713 | (15)% | 1,040 | 18% | 973 | 40% |

(a) Degree days are calculated based on a weighted average of total customers by state.

| Contracted generating facilities availability by fuel type ^(a) | For the year ended December 31, | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-------|-------|
| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
| Coal | 93.7% | 91.5% | 86.7% |
| Natural gas and diesel oil | 92.1% | 96.1% | 95.5% |
| Wind | 92.5% | 93.7% | 95.8% |
| Total availability | 92.6% | 94.4% | 93.2% |
| Wind Capacity Factor | 37.4% | 34.7% | 34.0% |

(a) Availability and Wind Capacity Factor are calculated using a weighted average based on capacity of our generating fleet.

Gas Utilities

Operating results for the years ended December 31 for the Gas Utilities were as follows (in millions):

| | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 vs 2022 Variance | 2021 | 2022 vs 2021 Variance |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Revenue: | | | | | |
| Natural gas - regulated | \$ 1,399.1 | \$ 1,584.6 | \$ (185.5) | \$ 1,051.6 | \$ 533.0 |
| Other - non-regulated services | 85.1 | 84.5 | 0.6 | 73.3 | 11.2 |
| Total revenue | 1,484.2 | 1,669.1 | (184.9) | 1,124.9 | 544.2 |
| Cost of natural gas sold: | | | | | |
| Natural gas - regulated | 760.2 | 942.1 | (181.9) | 480.3 | 461.8 |
| Other - non-regulated services | 23.0 | 23.0 | — | 14.4 | 8.6 |
| Total cost of natural gas sold | 783.2 | 965.1 | (181.9) | 494.7 | 470.4 |
| Gas Utility margin (non-GAAP) | 701.0 | 704.0 | (3.0) | 630.2 | 73.8 |
| Operations and maintenance | 328.7 | 317.3 | 11.4 | 290.2 | 27.1 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 113.9 | 114.7 | (0.8) | 104.2 | 10.5 |
| Taxes - property and production | 29.6 | 27.8 | 1.8 | 24.6 | 3.2 |
| | 472.2 | 459.8 | 12.4 | 419.0 | 40.8 |
| Operating income | \$ 228.8 | \$ 244.2 | \$ (15.4) | \$ 211.2 | \$ 33.0 |

2023 Compared to 2022

Gas Utility margin decreased over the prior year as a result of:

| | (in millions) |
|--|-----------------|
| New rates and rider recovery | \$ 19.8 |
| Retail customer growth and demand | 7.6 |
| Weather | (14.5) |
| Prior year true-up of Winter Storm Uri carrying costs ^(a) | (10.3) |
| Mark-to-market on non-utility natural gas commodity contracts | (3.5) |
| Other | (2.1) |
| | <u>\$ (3.0)</u> |

(a) In certain jurisdictions, we have commission approval to recover carrying costs on Winter Storm Uri regulatory assets which offset increased interest expense. Additionally, the carrying costs accrued during the year ended December 31, 2022 included a one-time, \$10.3 million true-up to reflect commission authorized rates.

Operations and maintenance expense increased primarily due to \$14.8 million of higher employee-related expenses partially offset by \$5.0 million of lower outside services expenses.

Depreciation and amortization was comparable to the prior year.

Taxes - property and production were comparable to the prior year.

Operating Statistics

| | Revenue (in millions) | | | Quantities Sold and Transported (Dth in millions) | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|--------------|--------------|
| | For the year ended December 31, | | | For the year ended December 31, | | |
| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
| Residential | \$ 839.2 | \$ 940.2 | \$ 613.5 | 60.1 | 66.9 | 60.1 |
| Commercial | 340.1 | 398.6 | 242.1 | 29.4 | 32.4 | 29.1 |
| Industrial | 33.2 | 63.0 | 33.4 | 5.7 | 7.7 | 6.2 |
| Other | 9.1 | 8.7 | 3.8 | — | — | — |
| Total Distribution | 1,221.6 | 1,410.5 | 892.8 | 95.2 | 107.0 | 95.4 |
| Transportation and Transmission | 177.5 | 174.1 | 158.8 | 159.8 | 160.9 | 154.6 |
| Total Regulated | 1,399.1 | 1,584.6 | 1,051.6 | 255.0 | 267.9 | 250.0 |
| Non-regulated Services ^(a) | 85.1 | 84.5 | 73.3 | — | — | — |
| Total Revenue and Quantities Sold | <u>\$ 1,484.2</u> | <u>\$ 1,669.1</u> | <u>\$ 1,124.9</u> | <u>255.0</u> | <u>267.9</u> | <u>250.0</u> |

(a) Includes Black Hills Energy Services and non-regulated services under the Service Guard Comfort Plan, Tech Services and HomeServe.

| | Revenue (in millions) | | | Quantities Sold and Transported (Dth in millions) | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|--------------|--------------|
| | For the year ended December 31, | | | For the year ended December 31, | | |
| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
| Arkansas Gas | \$ 268.9 | \$ 311.3 | \$ 218.5 | 30.2 | 32.3 | 31.5 |
| Colorado Gas | 313.6 | 320.9 | 208.0 | 32.8 | 34.3 | 32.3 |
| Iowa Gas | 213.6 | 283.9 | 171.7 | 37.9 | 40.9 | 38.0 |
| Kansas Gas | 155.6 | 191.4 | 121.6 | 35.5 | 38.6 | 34.5 |
| Nebraska Gas | 366.1 | 384.8 | 273.4 | 82.2 | 85.1 | 81.0 |
| Wyoming Gas | 166.4 | 176.8 | 131.7 | 36.4 | 36.7 | 32.7 |
| Total Revenue and Quantities Sold | <u>\$ 1,484.2</u> | <u>\$ 1,669.1</u> | <u>\$ 1,124.9</u> | <u>255.0</u> | <u>267.9</u> | <u>250.0</u> |

| Heating Degree Days | For the year ended December 31, | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|----------------------|
| | 2023 | | 2022 | | 2021 | |
| | Actual | Variance From Normal | Actual | Variance From Normal | Actual | Variance From Normal |
| Arkansas Gas ^(a) | 3,197 | (17)% | 3,844 | 2% | 3,565 | (12)% |
| Colorado Gas | 5,916 | (4)% | 6,325 | 4% | 5,866 | (11)% |
| Iowa Gas | 5,921 | (12)% | 7,037 | 7% | 6,239 | (8)% |
| Kansas Gas ^(a) | 4,387 | (8)% | 4,968 | 7% | 4,508 | (8)% |
| Nebraska Gas | 5,579 | (8)% | 6,220 | 4% | 5,599 | (9)% |
| Wyoming Gas | 7,385 | 8% | 7,644 | 12% | 7,074 | (7)% |
| Combined ^(b) | 6,006 | (4)% | 6,536 | 5% | 5,948 | (8)% |

(a) Arkansas and Kansas have weather normalization mechanisms that mitigate the weather impact on Gas Utility margins.

(b) Heating degree days are calculated based on a weighted average of total customers by state excluding Kansas due to its weather normalization mechanism. Arkansas Gas is partially excluded based on the weather normalization mechanism in effect from November through April.

Corporate and Other

Corporate and Other operating results, including inter-segment eliminations, for the years ended December 31 were as follows:

| (in millions) | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 vs 2022 Variance | 2021 | 2022 vs 2021 Variance |
|------------------|----------|----------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| Operating (loss) | \$ (4.9) | \$ (3.3) | \$ (1.6) | \$ (4.5) | 1.2 |

2023 Compared to 2022

Operating (loss) was comparable to the prior year.

Consolidated Interest Expense, Other Income (Expense) and Income Tax (Expense)

| (in millions) | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 vs 2022 Variance | 2021 | 2022 vs 2021 Variance |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Interest expense, net | \$ (167.9) | \$ (161.0) | \$ (6.9) | \$ (152.4) | (8.6) |
| Other income (expense), net | (3.2) | 1.8 | (5.0) | 1.4 | 0.4 |
| Income tax (expense) | (25.6) | (25.2) | (0.4) | (7.2) | (18.0) |

2023 Compared to 2022

Interest expense, net increased due to higher interest rates partially offset by increased interest income on higher cash and cash equivalents balances.

Other (expense), net increased primarily due to higher benefit plan non-service costs driven by higher discount rates and higher costs for our non-qualified deferred compensation plan which were driven by market performance.

Income tax (expense) and the effective tax rate were comparable to the same period in the prior year. The effective tax rate was 8.5% for both 2023 and 2022. The effective tax rate was comparable primarily due to a \$8.2 million tax benefit from a current year Nebraska income tax rate decrease offset by \$6.5 million of lower tax benefits from various current and prior year state tax rate changes and \$3.6 million of lower wind PTCs resulting from the March 2023 sale of Northern Iowa Windpower assets. See Note 15 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for additional details.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

OVERVIEW

Our company requires significant cash to support and grow our businesses. Our primary sources of cash are generated from our operating activities, Revolving Credit Facility, CP Program, ATM and ability to access the public and private capital markets through debt and equity securities offerings when necessary. This cash is used for, among other things, working capital, capital expenditures, dividends, pension funding, investments in or acquisitions of assets and businesses, payment of debt obligations and redemption of outstanding debt and equity securities when required or financially appropriate.

We experience significant cash requirements during peak months of the winter heating season due to higher natural gas consumption, during periods of high natural gas prices, and during the construction season, which typically peaks in spring and summer.

We believe that our cash on hand, operating cash flows, existing borrowing capacity and ability to complete new debt and equity financings, taken in their entirety, provide sufficient capital resources to fund our ongoing operating requirements, regulatory liabilities, debt maturities, anticipated dividends, and anticipated capital expenditures discussed in this section.

The following table provides an informational summary of our liquidity and capital structure as of December 31 (dollars in millions):

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|------------|------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 86.6 | \$ 21.4 |
| Available capacity under Revolving Credit Facility and CP Program ^(a) | 746.3 | 189.8 |
| Available liquidity | \$ 832.9 | \$ 211.2 |
| Capital structure | | |
| Short-term debt | \$ 600.0 | \$ 1,060.6 |
| Long-term debt | 3,801.2 | 3,607.3 |
| Total debt | 4,401.2 | 4,667.9 |
| Total stockholders' equity (excludes non-controlling interest) | 3,215.3 | 2,994.9 |
| Total capitalization | \$ 7,616.5 | \$ 7,662.8 |
| Debt to capitalization | 57.8% | 60.9% |
| Net debt to capitalization ^(b) | 57.3% | 60.8% |
| Long-term debt to total debt | 86.4% | 77.3% |

(a) Available capacity under Revolving Credit Facility and CP Program represents \$750 million of total borrowing capacity less outstanding borrowings and letters of credit. See Note 8 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for more information.

(b) Net debt to capitalization ratio is net of Cash and cash equivalents for both Total debt and Total capitalization.

CASH FLOW ACTIVITIES

The following tables summarize our cash flows for the years ended December 31 (in millions):

Operating Activities:

| | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 vs 2022 | 2021 | 2022 vs 2021 |
|---|----------|----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Net income | \$ 276.0 | \$ 270.8 | \$ 5.2 | \$ 251.2 | \$ 19.6 |
| Non-cash adjustments to Net income | 313.5 | 295.7 | 17.8 | 276.6 | 19.1 |
| Total earnings | 589.5 | 566.5 | 23.0 | 527.8 | 38.7 |
| Changes in certain operating assets and liabilities: | | | | | |
| Accounts receivable and other current assets | 255.9 | (259.9) | 515.8 | (78.9) | (181.0) |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | (109.9) | 89.4 | (199.3) | 10.6 | 78.8 |
| Regulatory assets and liabilities | 236.8 | 203.9 | 32.9 | (524.2) | 728.1 |
| Net inflow (outflow) from changes in certain operating assets and liabilities | 382.8 | 33.4 | 349.4 | (592.5) | 625.9 |
| Other operating activities | (27.9) | (15.1) | (12.8) | 0.1 | (15.2) |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities | \$ 944.4 | \$ 584.8 | \$ 359.6 | \$ (64.6) | \$ 649.4 |

2023 Compared to 2022

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$359.6 million higher which was attributable to:

- Total earnings (net income plus non-cash adjustments) were \$23.0 million higher than prior year primarily as a result of increased Electric and Gas Utility margins due to new rates and increased rider revenues partially offset by higher operating expenses and higher interest expense.
- Net inflows from changes in certain operating assets and liabilities were \$349.4 million higher than prior year, primarily attributable to:
 - Cash inflows increased by approximately \$515.8 million as a result of changes in accounts receivable and other current assets primarily due to higher collections on pass-through revenues and lower natural gas in storage inventories driven by fluctuations in commodity prices and timing of injections and withdrawals;

- o Cash outflows increased by approximately \$199.3 million as a result of decreases in accounts payable and other current liabilities primarily driven by fluctuations in commodity prices, payment timing of natural gas and power purchases and changes in other working capital requirements; and
- o Cash inflows increased by approximately \$32.9 million as a result of changes in our regulatory assets and liabilities primarily due to higher recoveries of deferred gas and fuel cost adjustments driven by fluctuations in commodity prices.
- Cash outflows increased \$12.8 million from other operating activities primarily due to higher costs from cloud computing arrangements.

Investing Activities:

| | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 vs 2022 | 2021 | 2022 vs 2021 |
|---|------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Capital expenditures | \$ (555.6) | \$ (604.4) | \$ 48.8 | \$ (677.5) | \$ 73.1 |
| Other investing activities | 18.9 | 0.5 | 18.4 | 13.3 | (12.8) |
| Net cash (used in) investing activities | \$ (536.7) | \$ (603.9) | \$ 67.2 | \$ (664.2) | \$ 60.3 |

2023 Compared to 2022

Net cash used in investing activities was \$67.2 million lower which was attributable to:

- Cash outflows from capital expenditures (which are net of \$33.8 million contributions in aid of construction) decreased \$48.8 million as a result of lower programmatic safety, reliability and integrity spending at our Gas and Electric Utilities and higher receipts related to contributions in aid of construction driven by strategic projects in Wyoming;
- Cash inflows increased \$18.4 million for other investing activities primarily due to proceeds from the sale of Northern Iowa Windpower assets and the strategic sale of land in Wyoming.

Financing Activities:

| | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 vs 2022 | 2021 | 2022 vs 2021 |
|---|------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Dividends paid on common stock | \$ (168.1) | \$ (156.7) | \$ (11.4) | \$ (145.0) | \$ (11.7) |
| Common stock issued | 118.3 | 90.1 | 28.2 | 119.0 | (28.9) |
| Short-term and long-term debt (repayments), net | (260.6) | 115.4 | (376.0) | 777.7 | (662.3) |
| Distributions to non-controlling interests | (18.3) | (17.4) | (0.9) | (15.7) | (1.7) |
| Other financing activities | (13.0) | 0.9 | (13.9) | (4.1) | 5.0 |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities | \$ (341.7) | \$ 32.3 | \$ (374.0) | \$ 731.9 | \$ (699.6) |

2023 Compared to 2022

Net cash used in financing activities was \$374.0 million higher which was primarily attributable to:

- Cash outflows increased \$11.4 million due to increased dividends paid on common stock;
- Cash inflows increased \$28.2 million due to higher issuances of common stock;
- Net outflows from changes in short-term and long-term debt (repayments) borrowings increased \$376.0 million due to:
 - o Cash outflows increased \$651.0 million as a result of net repayment activity under our Revolving Credit Facility and CP Program;
 - o Cash outflow of \$525.0 million due to repayment of our senior unsecured notes on their November 30, 2023 maturity date; and
 - o Cash inflow of \$800.0 million from the March 7, 2023 and September 15, 2023 debt offerings.
- Cash outflows increased by \$13.9 million for other financing activities primarily due to financing costs from the March 7, 2023 and September 15, 2023 debt offerings.

CAPITAL RESOURCES

Shelf Registration Statement

We maintain an effective shelf registration statement with the SEC under which we may issue, from time to time, an unspecified amount of senior debt securities, subordinate debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, warrants and other securities. See Note 8 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for recent updates regarding our shelf registration statement.

Short-term Debt

We have a \$750 million Revolving Credit Facility that matures on July 19, 2026, with two one-year extension options (subject to consent from lenders). This facility includes an accordion feature that allows us to increase total commitments up to \$1.0 billion with the consent of the administrative agent, the issuing agents and each bank increasing or providing a new commitment. We also have a \$750 million, unsecured CP Program that is backstopped by the Revolving Credit Facility. Amounts outstanding under the Revolving Credit Facility and the CP Program, either individually or in the aggregate, cannot exceed \$750 million.

The Revolving Credit Facility prohibits us from paying cash dividends if a default or an event of default exists prior to, or would result after, paying a dividend. Although these contractual restrictions exist, we do not anticipate triggering any default measures or restrictions.

The Revolving Credit Facility contains cross-default provisions that could result in a default under such agreements if BHC or its material subsidiaries failed to 1) make timely payments of debt obligations; or 2) triggered other default provisions under any debt agreement totaling, in the aggregate principal amount of \$50 million or more that permit the acceleration of debt maturities or mandatory debt prepayment.

See Note 8 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for more information on our Revolving Credit Facility and CP Program.

Utility Money Pool

As a utility holding company, we are required to establish a cash management program to address lending and borrowing activities between our utilities and the Company. We have established utility money pool agreements which address these requirements. These agreements are on file with the FERC and appropriate state regulators. Under the utility money pool agreements, our utilities may, at their option, borrow and extend short-term loans to the utility money pool at market-based rates. While the utility money pool may borrow funds from the Company (as ultimate parent company), the money pool arrangement does not allow loans from our utility subsidiaries to the Company (as ultimate parent company) or to non-regulated affiliates.

Long-term Debt

For information on our long-term debt, see Note 8 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Covenant Requirements

The Revolving Credit Facility and Wyoming Electric's financing agreements contain covenant requirements. We were in compliance with these covenants as of December 31, 2023. See additional information in Note 8 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Equity

For information regarding equity, see Note 8 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Future Financing Plans

We will continue to assess debt and equity needs to support our capital investment plans and other strategic objectives. We plan to fund our capital plan and strategic objectives by using cash generated from operating activities and various financing alternatives, which could include our Revolving Credit Facility, our CP Program, debt offerings, the issuance of common stock under our ATM program or in an opportunistic block trade. We also plan to re-finance our \$600 million, 1.0375%, senior unsecured notes due August 2024, at or before maturity date.

CREDIT RATINGS

Financing for operational needs and capital expenditure requirements, not satisfied by operating cash flows, depends upon the cost and availability of external funds through both short and long-term financing. In order to operate and grow our business, we need to consistently maintain the ability to raise capital on favorable terms. Access to funds is dependent upon factors such as general economic and capital market conditions, regulatory authorizations and policies, the Company's credit ratings, cash flows from routine operations and the credit ratings of counterparties. After assessing the current operating performance, liquidity and credit ratings of the Company, management believes that the Company will have access to the capital markets at prevailing market rates for companies with comparable credit ratings. We note that credit ratings are not recommendations to buy, sell, or hold securities and may be subject to revision or withdrawal at any time by the assigning rating agency. Each rating should be evaluated independently of any other rating.

The following table represents the credit ratings, outlook and risk profile of BHC at December 31, 2023:

| Rating Agency | Senior Unsecured Rating | Outlook |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| S&P ^(a) | BBB+ | Stable |
| Moody's ^(b) | Baa2 | Stable |
| Fitch ^(c) | BBB+ | Stable |

(a) On February 17, 2023, S&P reported BBB+ rating and maintained a Stable outlook.

(b) On December 21, 2023, Moody's reported our Baa2 rating and maintained a Stable outlook.

(c) On January 26, 2024, Fitch reported BBB+ rating and revised to a Negative outlook.

Certain fees and interest rates under our Revolving Credit Facility are based on our credit ratings at all three rating agencies. If all of our ratings are at the same level, or if two of our ratings are the same level and one differs, these fees and interest rates will be based on the ratings that are at the same level. If all of our ratings are at different levels, these fees and interest rates will be based on the middle level. Currently, our Fitch and S&P ratings are at the same level, and our Moody's rating is one level below. Therefore, if Fitch or S&P downgrades our senior unsecured debt, we will be required to pay higher fees and interest rates under our Revolving Credit Facility.

The following table represents the credit ratings of South Dakota Electric at December 31, 2023:

| Rating Agency | Senior Secured Rating |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| S&P ^(a) | A |
| Fitch ^(b) | A |

(a) On February 17, 2023, S&P reported A rating

(b) On January 26, 2024, Fitch reported A rating

We have not had any triggering events (i.e. an acceleration of repayment of outstanding indebtedness, an increase in interest costs, or the posting of additional cash collateral) tied to our stock price and have not executed any transactions that require us to issue equity based on our credit ratings.

CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS

Capital Expenditures

Capital expenditures are a substantial portion of our cash requirements each year and we continue to forecast a robust capital expenditure program during the next five years. See above in Key Elements of our Business Strategy for forecasted capital expenditure requirements. A significant portion of our capital expenditures are for safety, reliability and integrity of our system and is included in utility rate base and eligible for recovery from our utility customers with regulatory approval. Those capital expenditures also earn a rate of return authorized by the commissions in the jurisdictions in which we operate.

Our historical capital expenditures by reportable segment are shown in Note 16 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Repayments of Indebtedness

For information relating to repayments of our short- and long-term debt and associated interest payments, see Note 8 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Unconditional Purchase Obligations

We have unconditional purchase obligations which include the energy and capacity costs associated with our PPAs, transmission services agreements, and natural gas capacity, transportation and storage agreements. Additionally, our Gas Utilities have commitments to purchase physical quantities of natural gas under contracts indexed to various forward natural gas price curves. For additional information, see Note 3 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Defined Benefit Pension Plan

We have one defined benefit pension plan, the Black Hills Retirement Plan (Pension Plan). The unfunded status of the Pension Plan is defined as the amount the projected benefit obligation exceeds the plan assets. The unfunded status of the Pension Plan is \$39.4 million as of December 31, 2023, compared to \$35.2 million as of December 31, 2022. We do not have required contributions, however, we expect to make \$2.3 million in contributions to our Pension Plan in 2024. See further information in Note 13 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Common Stock Dividends

Future cash dividends, if any, will be dependent on our results of operations, financial position, cash flows, reinvestment opportunities and other factors, and will be evaluated and approved by our Board of Directors.

Additionally, there are certain statutory limitations that could affect future cash dividends paid. Federal law places limits on the ability of public utilities within a holding company structure to declare dividends. Specifically, under the Federal Power Act, a public utility may not pay dividends from any funds properly included in a capital account. The utility subsidiaries' dividends may be limited directly or indirectly by state regulatory commissions or bond indenture covenants. See additional information in Note 8 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

On January 26, 2024, our Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.65 per share, equivalent to an annual dividend rate of \$2.60 per share. The table below provides our dividends paid (in millions), dividend payout ratio and dividends paid per share for the three years ended December 31:

| | 2023 | | 2022 | | 2021 |
|-----------------------------|----------|----|-------|----|-------|
| Common Stock Dividends Paid | \$ 168.1 | \$ | 156.7 | \$ | 145.0 |
| Dividend Payout Ratio | 64% | | 61% | | 61% |
| Dividends Per Share | \$ 2.50 | \$ | 2.41 | \$ | 2.29 |

Our three-year compound annualized dividend growth rate was 4.8%.

Collateral Requirements

Our Utilities maintain wholesale commodity contracts for the purchases and sales of electricity and natural gas which have performance assurance provisions that allow the counterparty to require collateral postings under certain conditions, including when requested on a reasonable basis due to a deterioration in our financial condition or nonperformance. A significant downgrade in our credit ratings, such as a downgrade to a level below investment grade, could result in counterparties requiring collateral postings under such adequate assurance provisions. The amount of credit support that we may be required to provide at any point in the future is dependent on the amount of the initial transaction, changes in the market price, open positions and the amounts owed by or to the counterparty. At December 31, 2023, we had sufficient liquidity to cover collateral that could be required to be posted under these contracts. The cash collateral we were required to post at December 31, 2023 was not material. See Note 9 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Guarantees

We provide various guarantees, which represent off-balance sheet commitments, supporting certain of our subsidiaries under specified agreements or transactions. For more information on these guarantees, see Note 3 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Critical Accounting Estimates

We prepare our consolidated financial statements in conformity with GAAP. In many cases, the accounting treatment of a particular transaction is specifically dictated by GAAP and does not require management's judgment in application. There are also areas which require management's judgment in selecting among available GAAP alternatives. We are required to make certain estimates, judgments and assumptions that we believe are reasonable based upon the information available. We continue to closely monitor the macroeconomic environment and related impacts on our critical accounting estimates including, but not limited to, collectability of customer receivables, recoverability of regulatory assets, impairment risk of goodwill and long-lived assets, and contingent liabilities. These estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the periods presented. Actual results may differ from our estimates and to the extent there are material differences between these estimates, judgments or assumptions and actual results, our financial statements will be affected. We believe the following accounting estimates are the most critical in understanding and evaluating our reported financial results. We have reviewed these critical accounting estimates and related disclosures with our Audit Committee.

The following discussion of our critical accounting estimates should be read in conjunction with Note 1, "Business Description and Significant Accounting Policies" of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Regulation

Our regulated Electric and Gas Utilities are subject to cost-of-service regulation and earnings oversight from federal and state utility commissions. This regulatory treatment does not provide any assurance as to achievement of desired earnings levels. Our retail electric and gas utility rates are regulated on a state-by-state basis by the relevant state regulatory commissions based on an analysis of our costs, as reviewed and approved in a regulatory proceeding. The rates that we are allowed to charge may or may not match our related costs and allowed return on invested capital at any given time.

Management continually assesses the probability of future recoveries associated with regulatory assets and future obligations associated with regulatory liabilities. Factors such as the current regulatory environment, recently issued rate orders and historical precedents are considered. As a result, we believe that the accounting prescribed under rate-based regulation remains appropriate and our regulatory assets are probable of recovery in current rates or in future rate proceedings.

To some degree, each of our Electric and Gas Utilities are permitted to recover certain costs (such as increased fuel and purchased power costs) outside of a base rate review. To the extent we are able to pass through such costs to our customers, and a state regulatory commission subsequently determines that such costs should not have been paid by the customers, we may be required to refund such costs.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, we had total regulatory assets of \$480.1 million and \$653.0 million, respectively, and total regulatory liabilities of \$566.6 million and \$518.6 million, respectively. See Note 2 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for further information.

Goodwill

We perform a goodwill impairment test on an annual basis or upon the occurrence of events or changes in circumstances that indicate that the asset might be impaired. Our annual goodwill impairment testing date is as of October 1, which aligns with our financial planning process.

Accounting standards for testing goodwill for impairment require the application of either a qualitative or quantitative assessment to analyze whether or not goodwill has been impaired. Goodwill is tested for impairment at the reporting unit level. Under either the qualitative or quantitative assessment, the estimated fair value of a reporting unit is compared with its carrying amount, including goodwill. If the carrying amount exceeds fair value, then an impairment loss would be recognized in an amount equal to that excess, limited to the amount of goodwill allocated to that reporting unit.

Application of the goodwill impairment test requires judgment, including the identification of reporting units and determining the fair value of the reporting unit. We have determined that the reporting units for goodwill impairment testing are our operating segments, or components of an operating segment, that constitute a business for which discrete financial information is available and for which the CODM regularly reviews the operating results. We estimate the fair value of our reporting units using a combination of an income approach, which estimates fair value based on discounted future cash flows, and a market approach, which estimates fair value based on market comparables within the utility and energy industries. These valuations require significant judgments, including, but not limited to: 1) estimates of future cash flows, based on our internal five-year business plans and adjusted as appropriate for our view of market participant assumptions, with long range cash flows estimated using a terminal value calculation; 2) estimates of long-term growth rates for our businesses; 3) the determination of an appropriate weighted-average cost of capital or discount rate; and 4) the utilization of market information such as recent sales transactions for comparable assets within the utility and energy industries. Varying by reporting unit, weighted average cost of capital in the range of 6.9% to 7.3% and long-term growth rate projections of 1.75% were utilized in the goodwill impairment test performed as of October 1, 2023. Although 1.75% was used for a long-term growth rate projection, the short-term projected growth rate is higher with planned recovery of capital investments through rider mechanisms and rate reviews. Under the market approach, we estimate fair value using multiples derived from comparable sales transactions and enterprise value to EBITDA for comparative peer companies for each respective reporting unit. These multiples are applied to operating data for each reporting unit to arrive at an indication of fair value. In addition, we add a reasonable control premium when calculating fair value utilizing the peer multiples, which is estimated as the premium that would be received in a sale in an orderly transaction between market participants.

The estimates and assumptions used in our impairment assessments are based on available market information and we believe they are reasonable. However, variations in any of the assumptions could result in materially different calculations of fair value and determinations of whether or not an impairment is indicated.

For the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021, there were no impairment losses recorded. At December 31, 2023, the fair value exceeded the carrying value at all reporting units.

See Item 1A - Risk Factors and Note 1 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for additional information.

Income Taxes

The Company and its subsidiaries file consolidated federal income tax returns. Each entity records income taxes as if it were a separate taxpayer for both federal and state income tax purposes and consolidating adjustments are allocated to the subsidiaries based on separate company computations of taxable income or loss.

The Company uses the asset and liability method in accounting for income taxes. Under the asset and liability method, deferred income taxes are recognized at currently enacted income tax rates, to reflect the tax effect of temporary differences between the financial and tax basis of assets and liabilities as well as operating loss and tax credit carryforwards. Such temporary differences are the result of provisions in the income tax law that either require or permit certain items to be reported on the income tax return in a different period than they are reported in the financial statements.

In assessing the realization of deferred tax assets, management considers whether it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized and provides any necessary valuation allowances as required. If we determine that we will be unable to realize all or part of our deferred tax assets in the future, an adjustment to the deferred tax asset would be made in the period such determination was made. These adjustments may increase or decrease earnings. Although we believe our assumptions, judgments and estimates are reasonable, changes in tax laws or our interpretations of tax laws and the resolution of current and any future tax audits could significantly impact the amounts provided for income taxes in our consolidated financial statements.

See Note 15 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for additional information.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Our activities in the regulated and non-regulated energy industries expose us to a number of risks in the normal operations of our businesses. Depending on the activity, we are exposed to varying degrees of market risk and credit risk.

Market risk is the potential loss that may occur as a result of an adverse change in market price, rate or supply. We are exposed, but not limited to, the following market risks:

- Commodity price risk associated with our retail natural gas services, wholesale electric power marketing activities and fuel procurement for several of our gas-fired generation assets. Market fluctuations may occur due to unpredictable factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, weather (e.g. Winter Storm Uri), geopolitical events, market speculation, recession, inflation, pipeline constraints, and other factors that may impact natural gas and electric energy supply and demand; and
- Interest rate risk associated with future debt, including reduced access to liquidity during periods of extreme capital markets volatility, such as the 2008 financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Credit risk is associated with financial loss resulting from non-performance of contractual obligations by a counterparty.

To manage and mitigate these identified risks, we have adopted the Black Hills Corporation Risk Policies and Procedures. The Black Hills Corporation Risk Policies and Procedures have been approved by our Executive Risk Committee. These policies relate to numerous matters including governance, control infrastructure, authorized commodities and trading instruments, prohibited activities and employee conduct. We report any issues or concerns pertaining to the Risk Policies and Procedures to the Audit Committee of our Board of Directors. The Executive Risk Committee, which includes senior level executives, meets at least quarterly and as necessary, to review our business and credit activities and to ensure that these activities are conducted within the authorized policies.

Commodity Price Risk

Electric and Gas Utilities

Our utilities have various provisions that allow them to pass the prudently-incurred cost of energy through to the customer. To the extent energy prices are higher or lower than amounts in our current billing rates, adjustments are made on a periodic basis to reflect billed amounts to match the actual energy cost we incurred. In Colorado, South Dakota and Wyoming, we have ECA or PCA provisions that adjust electric rates when energy costs are higher or lower than the costs included in our tariffs. In Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming, we have GCA provisions that adjust natural gas rates when our natural gas costs are higher or lower than the energy cost included in our tariffs. These adjustments are subject to periodic prudence reviews by the state regulatory commissions. If state regulatory commissions decide to discontinue these tariff-based adjustment mechanisms, or there are delays in the timing of recovery under these mechanisms, we may be more exposed to commodity price risk.

The operations of our utilities, including natural gas sold by our Gas Utilities and natural gas used by our Electric Utilities' generation plants or those plants under PPAs where our Electric Utilities must provide the generation fuel (tolling agreements), expose our utility customers to natural gas price volatility. Therefore, as allowed or required by state regulatory commissions, we have entered into commission-approved hedging programs utilizing natural gas futures, options, over-the-counter swaps and basis swaps to reduce our customers' underlying exposure to these fluctuations.

For our regulated Utilities' hedging plans, unrealized and realized gains and losses, as well as option premiums and commissions on these transactions are recorded as Regulatory assets or Regulatory liabilities in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets in accordance with the state utility commission guidelines. When the related costs are recovered through our rates, the hedging activity is recognized in the Consolidated Statements of Income. See additional information in Note 9 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Wholesale Power

We periodically have wholesale power purchase and sale contracts used to manage purchased power costs and load requirements associated with serving our electric customers that are considered derivative instruments and do not qualify for the normal purchase and normal sales exception for derivative accounting. Changes in the fair value of these commodity derivatives are recognized in the Consolidated Statements of Income.

There is a potential risk that our wholesale power sales could exceed our current generating capacity, which may arise from unplanned plant outages or from unanticipated load demands. To manage such risk, we restrict wholesale off-system sales to amounts by which our anticipated generating capabilities and purchased power resources exceed our anticipated load requirements plus a required reserve margin.

Black Hills Energy Services

To support our Choice Gas Program customers, we buy and sell natural gas at competitive prices by managing commodity price risk. As a result of these activities, this area of our business is exposed to risks associated with changes in the market price of natural gas. We manage our exposure to such risks using over-the-counter and exchange traded options and swaps with counterparties in anticipation of forecasted purchases and sales. A portion of our over-the-counter swaps have been designated as cash flow hedges to mitigate the commodity price risk associated with fixed price forward contracts to supply gas to our Choice Gas Program customers. The gain or loss on these designated derivatives is reported in AOCI in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets and reclassified into earnings in the same period that the underlying hedged item is recognized in earnings.

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, a 10% change in market prices for our derivative instruments would not materially impact pretax income, the fair values of our derivative assets and liabilities, or OCI.

See additional commodity risk and derivative information in Note 9 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Interest Rate Risk

Periodically, we have engaged in activities to manage risks associated with changes in interest rates. We have utilized pay-fixed interest rate swap agreements to reduce exposure to interest rate fluctuations associated with floating rate debt obligations and anticipated debt refinancings. At December 31, 2023, we had no interest rate swaps in place. Further details of past swap agreements are set forth in Note 9 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

At December 31, 2023, over 99% of our debt is fixed rate debt, which limits our exposure to variable interest rate fluctuations. A hypothetical 100 basis point increase in the benchmark rate on our variable rate debt would have increased annual pretax interest expense by approximately \$0.9 million and \$4.1 million for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. See Note 8 for further information on cash amounts outstanding under short- and long-term variable rate borrowings.

We are subject to interest rate risk associated with our pension and post-retirement benefit obligations. Changes in interest rates impact the liabilities associated with these benefit plans as well as the amount of income or expense recognized for these plans. Declines in the value of the plan assets could diminish the funded status of the pension plans and potentially increase the requirements to make cash contributions to these plans. See additional information in Note 13 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Credit Risk

We have adopted the Black Hills Corporation Credit Policy that establishes guidelines, controls and limits to manage and mitigate credit risk within risk tolerances established by the Board of Directors. We attempt to mitigate our credit exposure by conducting business primarily with high credit quality entities, setting tenor and credit limits commensurate with counterparty financial strength, obtaining master netting agreements and mitigating credit exposure with less creditworthy counterparties through parental guarantees, cash collateral requirements, letters of credit and other security agreements.

We perform periodic credit evaluations of our customers and adjust credit limits based upon payment history and the customer's current creditworthiness, as determined by review of their current credit information. We maintain a provision for estimated credit losses based upon historical experience, changes in current market conditions, expected losses and any specific customer collection issue that is identified.

See more information in Notes 1 and 9 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

We are responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Our internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations. Therefore, even those systems determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation. Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Under the supervision and with the participation of management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2023, based on the criteria set forth in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission "COSO". This evaluation included review of the documentation of controls, evaluation of the design effectiveness of controls, testing of the operating effectiveness of controls and a conclusion on this evaluation. Based on our evaluation, we have concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2023.

Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as auditors of Black Hills Corporation's financial statements, has issued an attestation report on the effectiveness of Black Hills Corporation's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2023. Deloitte & Touche LLP's report on Black Hills Corporation's internal control over financial reporting is included herein.

Black Hills Corporation

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the shareholders and the Board of Directors of Black Hills Corporation

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Black Hills Corporation and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, equity, and cash flows, for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the "financial statements"). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2023, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB), the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2023, based on criteria established in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated February 14, 2024, expressed an unqualified opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Critical Audit Matter

The critical audit matter communicated below is a matter arising from the current-period audit of the financial statements that was communicated or required to be communicated to the audit committee and that (1) relates to accounts or disclosures that are material to the financial statements and (2) involved our especially challenging, subjective, or complex judgments. The communication of critical audit matters does not alter in any way our opinion on the financial statements, taken as a whole, and we are not, by communicating the critical audit matter below, providing a separate opinion on the critical audit matter or on the accounts or disclosures to which it relates.

Regulatory Accounting — Impact of Rate Regulation on the Financial Statements — Refer to Notes 1 and 2 to the Financial Statements.

Critical Audit Matter Description

The Company is subject to cost-of-service regulation and earnings oversight by state and federal utility commissions (collectively, the "Commissions"), which have jurisdiction over the Company's electric rates in Colorado, Montana, South Dakota and Wyoming and natural gas rates in Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming. Management has determined it meets the requirements under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America to prepare its financial statements applying the specialized rules to account for the effects of cost-based rate regulation. Accounting for the economics of rate regulation impacts multiple financial statement line items and disclosures, such as property, plant, and equipment; regulatory assets and liabilities; revenue; operating expenses; and income tax benefit (expense).

Rates are regulated on a state-by-state basis by the relevant state regulatory commissions based on an analysis of the Company's costs, as reviewed and approved in a regulatory proceeding. Rate regulation is premised on the full recovery of prudently incurred costs and a reasonable rate of return on invested capital. Decisions to be made by the Commissions in the future will impact the accounting for regulated operations, including decisions about the amount of allowable costs and return on invested capital included in rates and any refunds that may be required. While the Company has indicated its regulatory assets are probable of recovery in current rates or in future proceedings, there is a risk that the Commissions will not judge all costs to have been prudently incurred or that the rate regulation process in which rates are determined will not always result in rates that produce a full recovery of costs and the return on invested capital.

We identified the impact of rate regulation as a critical audit matter due to the significant judgments made by management to support its assertions about impacted account balances and disclosures and the high degree of subjectivity involved in assessing the impact of future regulatory orders on the financial statements. Management judgments include assessing the likelihood of (1) recovery in future rates of incurred costs, and (2) a refund or future rate reduction to be provided to customers. Given the uncertainty of future decisions by the Commissions, auditing these judgments required specialized knowledge of accounting for rate regulation and the rate setting process due to its inherent complexities.

How the Critical Audit Matter Was Addressed in the Audit

Our audit procedures related to the uncertainty of future decisions by the Commissions included the following, among others:

- We tested the effectiveness of management's controls over the evaluation of the likelihood of (1) the recovery in future rates of costs incurred as property, plant, and equipment and deferred as regulatory assets, and (2) refunds or future reductions in rates that should be reported as regulatory liabilities. We tested the effectiveness of management's controls over the initial recognition of amounts as property, plant, and equipment; regulatory assets or liabilities; and the monitoring and evaluation of regulatory developments that may affect the likelihood of recovering costs in future rates or of a future reduction in rates.
- We read relevant regulatory orders issued by the Commissions, filings made by the Company, and other publicly available information, as appropriate, to assess the likelihood of recovery in future rates or of a future reduction in rates based on precedents of the Commissions' treatment of similar costs under similar circumstances. We evaluated the external information and compared it to the Company's recorded regulatory asset and liability balances for completeness and for any evidence that might contradict management's assertions.
- We obtained and evaluated an analysis from management regarding probability of recovery for regulatory assets or refund or future reduction in rates for regulatory liabilities not yet addressed in a regulatory order, as applicable, to assess management's assertion that amounts are probable of recovery or of a future reduction in rates.
- We inspected minutes of the board of directors to identify any evidence that may contradict management's assertions regarding probability of recovery or refunds. We also inquired of management regarding current year rate filings and new regulatory assets or liabilities.
- We evaluated the Company's disclosures related to the impacts of rate regulation, including the balances recorded and regulatory developments.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

Minneapolis, Minnesota
February 14, 2024

We have served as the Company's auditor since 2002.

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the shareholders and the Board of Directors of Black Hills Corporation

Opinion on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

We have audited the internal control over financial reporting of Black Hills Corporation and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of December 31, 2023, based on criteria established in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2023, based on criteria established in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by COSO.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB), the consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, of the Company and our report dated February 14, 2024, expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

Basis for Opinion

The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Definition and Limitations of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

Minneapolis, Minnesota
February 14, 2024

BLACK HILLS CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

| | December 31, 2023 | December 31, 2022 | December 31, 2021 |
|--|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| | (in millions, except per share amounts) | | |
| Revenue | \$ 2,331.3 | \$ 2,551.8 | \$ 1,949.1 |
| Operating expenses: | | | |
| Fuel, purchased power and cost of natural gas sold | 982.9 | 1,230.6 | 741.9 |
| Operations and maintenance | 552.0 | 548.4 | 501.7 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 256.8 | 250.9 | 236.0 |
| Taxes - property and production | 66.9 | 66.7 | 60.1 |
| Total operating expenses | 1,858.6 | 2,096.6 | 1,539.7 |
| Operating income | 472.7 | 455.2 | 409.4 |
| Other income (expense): | | | |
| Interest expense incurred net of amounts capitalized | (180.0) | (162.6) | (154.1) |
| Interest income | 12.1 | 1.6 | 1.7 |
| Other income (expense), net | (3.2) | 1.8 | 1.4 |
| Total other income (expense) | (171.1) | (159.2) | (151.0) |
| Income before income taxes | 301.6 | 296.0 | 258.4 |
| Income tax (expense) | (25.6) | (25.2) | (7.2) |
| Net income | 276.0 | 270.8 | 251.2 |
| Net income attributable to non-controlling interest | (13.8) | (12.4) | (14.5) |
| Net income available for common stock | 262.2 | 258.4 | 236.7 |
| Earnings per share of common stock: | | | |
| Earnings per share, Basic | 3.91 | 3.98 | 3.74 |
| Earnings per share, Diluted | 3.91 | 3.97 | 3.74 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding: | | | |
| Basic | 67.0 | 64.9 | 63.2 |
| Diluted | 67.1 | 65.0 | 63.3 |

The accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these Consolidated Financial Statements.

BLACK HILLS CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

| Year ended | December 31, 2023 | December 31, 2022 | December 31, 2021 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | (in millions) | | |
| Net income | \$ 276.0 | \$ 270.8 | \$ 251.2 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax: | | | |
| Benefit plan liability adjustments - net gain (loss) (net of tax of \$0, \$(1.5), and \$(0.7), respectively) | (0.3) | 4.6 | 2.0 |
| Reclassification adjustment of benefit plan liability - net loss (net of tax of \$0, \$(0.2), and \$(0.7), respectively) | 0.2 | 0.5 | 1.7 |
| Reclassification adjustment of benefit plan liability - prior service cost (net of tax of \$0, \$0, and \$0, respectively) | — | (0.1) | (0.1) |
| Derivative instruments designated as cash flow hedges: | | | |
| Reclassification of net realized (gains) losses on settled/amortized interest rate swaps (net of tax of \$(0.7), \$(0.7), and \$(0.7), respectively) | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.2 |
| Net unrealized gains (losses) on commodity derivatives (net of tax of \$1.1, \$0.2, and \$(1.0), respectively) | (3.6) | (0.6) | 3.0 |
| Reclassification of net realized (gains) losses on settled commodity derivatives (net of tax of \$(0.7), \$0.7, and \$0.5, respectively) | 2.3 | (2.0) | (1.5) |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax | 0.8 | 4.5 | 7.3 |
| Comprehensive income | 276.8 | 275.3 | 258.5 |
| Less: comprehensive income attributable to non-controlling interest | (13.8) | (12.4) | (14.5) |
| Comprehensive income available for common stock | \$ 263.0 | \$ 262.9 | \$ 244.0 |

See Note 11 for additional disclosures related to Comprehensive Income.

The accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these Consolidated Financial Statements.

BLACK HILLS CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

As of
December 31, December 31,
2023 2022

| ASSETS | (in millions) | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 86.6 | \$ 21.4 |
| Restricted cash and equivalents | 6.4 | 5.6 |
| Accounts receivable, net | 350.3 | 508.2 |
| Materials, supplies and fuel | 160.9 | 207.4 |
| Derivative assets, current | — | 0.6 |
| Income tax receivable, net | 18.5 | 17.6 |
| Regulatory assets, current | 175.7 | 260.3 |
| Other current assets | 28.2 | 50.6 |
| Total current assets | 826.6 | 1,071.7 |
| Property, plant and equipment | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | 8,917.2 | 8,374.8 |
| Less accumulated depreciation and depletion | (1,797.9) | (1,576.8) |
| Total property, plant and equipment, net | 7,119.3 | 6,798.0 |
| Other assets: | | |
| Goodwill | 1,299.5 | 1,299.5 |
| Intangible assets, net | 8.4 | 9.6 |
| Regulatory assets, non-current | 304.4 | 392.7 |
| Other assets, non-current | 62.2 | 46.7 |
| Total other assets, non-current | 1,674.5 | 1,748.5 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$ 9,620.4 | \$ 9,618.2 |

The accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these Consolidated Financial Statements.

BLACK HILLS CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(Continued)

| | As of | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | December 31, 2023 | December 31, 2022 |
| | (in millions, except share amounts) | |
| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 186.4 | \$ 310.0 |
| Accrued liabilities | 293.3 | 243.5 |
| Derivative liabilities, current | 6.5 | 6.6 |
| Regulatory liabilities, current | 98.9 | 46.0 |
| Notes payable | — | 535.6 |
| Current maturities of long-term debt | 600.0 | 525.0 |
| Total current liabilities | <u>1,185.1</u> | <u>1,666.7</u> |
| Long-term debt, net of current maturities | <u>3,801.2</u> | <u>3,607.3</u> |
| Deferred credits and other liabilities: | | |
| Deferred income tax liabilities, net | 548.0 | 508.9 |
| Regulatory liabilities, non-current | 467.7 | 472.6 |
| Benefit plan liabilities | 123.9 | 116.7 |
| Other deferred credits and other liabilities | 188.7 | 156.1 |
| Total deferred credits and other liabilities | <u>1,328.3</u> | <u>1,254.3</u> |
| Commitments, contingencies and guarantees (Note 3) | | |
| Equity: | | |
| Stockholders' equity - | | |
| Common stock \$1.00 par value; 100,000,000 shares authorized; issued: 68,265,042 and 66,140,396, respectively | 68.3 | 66.1 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 2,007.7 | 1,882.7 |
| Retained earnings | 1,158.2 | 1,064.1 |
| Treasury stock at cost - 68,073 and 36,726, respectively | (4.1) | (2.4) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) | (14.8) | (15.6) |
| Total stockholders' equity | <u>3,215.3</u> | <u>2,994.9</u> |
| Non-controlling interest | 90.5 | 95.0 |
| Total equity | <u>3,305.8</u> | <u>3,089.9</u> |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND TOTAL EQUITY | <u><u>\$ 9,620.4</u></u> | <u><u>\$ 9,618.2</u></u> |

The accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these Consolidated Financial Statements.

BLACK HILLS CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

| Year ended | December 31, 2023 | December 31, 2022 | December 31, 2021 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | (in millions) | | |
| Operating activities: | | | |
| Net income | \$ 276.0 | \$ 270.8 | \$ 251.2 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities: | | | |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | 256.8 | 250.9 | 236.0 |
| Deferred financing cost amortization | 10.1 | 9.8 | 7.0 |
| Stock compensation | 7.0 | 8.6 | 9.7 |
| Deferred income taxes | 25.4 | 25.6 | 7.3 |
| Employee benefit plans | 11.5 | 5.5 | 9.6 |
| Other adjustments, net | 2.7 | (4.7) | 7.0 |
| Change in certain operating assets and liabilities: | | | |
| Materials, supplies and fuel | 51.4 | (75.4) | (35.7) |
| Accounts receivable and other current assets | 204.5 | (184.5) | (43.2) |
| Accounts payable and other current liabilities | (109.9) | 89.4 | 10.6 |
| Regulatory assets | 236.8 | 203.9 | (514.7) |
| Regulatory liabilities | — | — | (9.5) |
| Other operating activities, net | (27.9) | (15.1) | 0.1 |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities | 944.4 | 584.8 | (64.6) |
| Investing activities: | | | |
| Property, plant and equipment additions | (555.6) | (604.4) | (677.5) |
| Other investing activities | 18.9 | 0.5 | 13.3 |
| Net cash (used in) investing activities | (536.7) | (603.9) | (664.2) |
| Financing activities: | | | |
| Dividends paid on common stock | (168.1) | (156.7) | (145.0) |
| Common stock issued | 118.3 | 90.1 | 119.0 |
| Term Loan - borrowings | — | — | 800.0 |
| Term Loan - repayments | — | — | (800.0) |
| Net borrowings (payments) of Revolving Credit Facility and CP Program | (535.6) | 115.4 | 186.1 |
| Long-term debt - issuance | 800.0 | — | 600.0 |
| Long-term debt - repayments | (525.0) | — | (8.4) |
| Distributions to non-controlling interests | (18.3) | (17.4) | (15.7) |
| Other financing activities | (13.0) | 0.9 | (4.1) |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities | (341.7) | 32.3 | 731.9 |
| Net change in cash, restricted cash and cash equivalents | 66.0 | 13.2 | 3.1 |
| Cash, restricted cash and cash equivalents beginning of year | 27.0 | 13.8 | 10.7 |
| Cash, restricted cash and cash equivalents end of year | \$ 93.0 | \$ 27.0 | \$ 13.8 |
| Supplemental cash flow information: | | | |
| Cash (paid) refunded during the period: | | | |
| Interest (net of amounts capitalized) | \$ (157.3) | \$ (152.5) | \$ (142.7) |
| Income taxes | \$ (1.0) | \$ 0.8 | \$ 1.5 |
| Non-cash investing and financing activities: | | | |
| Accrued property, plant and equipment purchases at December 31 | \$ 52.4 | \$ 59.3 | \$ 68.8 |
| Increase in capitalized assets associated with asset retirement obligations | \$ 3.8 | \$ 14.0 | \$ 2.1 |

The accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these Consolidated Financial Statements.

BLACK HILLS CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EQUITY

| | Common Stock | | Treasury Stock | | Additional Paid in Capital | Retained Earnings | AOCI | Non controlling Interest | Total |
|--|--------------|---------|----------------|----------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|------------|
| | Shares | Value | Shares | Value | | | | | |
| (In millions except share amounts) | | | | | | | | | |
| Balance at December 31, 2020 | 62,827,179 | \$ 62.8 | 32,492 | \$ (2.1) | \$ 1,657.3 | \$ 870.7 | \$ (27.4) | \$ 101.2 | \$ 2,662.5 |
| Net income | — | — | — | — | — | 236.7 | — | 14.5 | 251.2 |
| Other comprehensive income, net of tax | — | — | — | — | — | — | 7.3 | — | 7.3 |
| Dividends on common stock (\$2.29 per share) | — | — | — | — | — | (145.0) | — | — | (145.0) |
| Share-based compensation | 153,719 | 0.2 | 21,586 | (1.4) | 9.2 | — | — | — | 8.0 |
| Issuance of common stock | 1,812,197 | 1.8 | — | — | 118.1 | — | — | — | 119.9 |
| Issuance costs | — | — | — | — | (1.2) | — | — | — | (1.2) |
| Distributions to non-controlling interest | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | (15.7) | (15.7) |
| Balance at December 31, 2021 | 64,793,095 | \$ 64.8 | 54,078 | \$ (3.5) | \$ 1,783.4 | \$ 962.4 | \$ (20.1) | \$ 100.0 | \$ 2,887.0 |
| Net income | — | — | — | — | — | 258.4 | — | 12.4 | 270.8 |
| Other comprehensive income, net of tax | — | — | — | — | — | — | 4.5 | — | 4.5 |
| Dividends on common stock (\$2.41 per share) | — | — | — | — | — | (156.7) | — | — | (156.7) |
| Share-based compensation | 39,546 | — | (17,352) | 1.1 | 10.5 | — | — | — | 11.6 |
| Issuance of common stock | 1,307,755 | 1.3 | — | — | 89.9 | — | — | — | 91.2 |
| Issuance costs | — | — | — | — | (1.1) | — | — | — | (1.1) |
| Distributions to non-controlling interest | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | (17.4) | (17.4) |
| Balance at December 31, 2022 | 66,140,396 | \$ 66.1 | 36,726 | \$ (2.4) | \$ 1,882.7 | \$ 1,064.1 | \$ (15.6) | \$ 95.0 | \$ 3,089.9 |
| Net income | — | — | — | — | — | 262.2 | — | 13.8 | 276.0 |
| Other comprehensive income, net of tax | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0.8 | — | 0.8 |
| Dividends on common stock (\$2.50 per share) | — | — | — | — | — | (168.1) | — | — | (168.1) |
| Share-based compensation | 93,257 | 0.1 | 31,347 | (1.7) | 8.8 | — | — | — | 7.2 |
| Issuance of common stock | 2,031,389 | 2.1 | — | — | 117.9 | — | — | — | 120.0 |
| Issuance costs | — | — | — | — | (1.7) | — | — | — | (1.7) |
| Distributions to non-controlling interest | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | (18.3) | (18.3) |
| Balance at December 31, 2023 | 68,265,042 | \$ 68.3 | 68,073 | \$ (4.1) | \$ 2,007.7 | \$ 1,158.2 | \$ (14.8) | \$ 90.5 | \$ 3,305.8 |

The accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these Consolidated Financial Statements.

10-K

BLACK HILLS CORPORATION
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021

(1) BUSINESS DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Business Description

Black Hills Corporation is a customer-focused, growth-oriented utility company headquartered in Rapid City, South Dakota. We are a holding company that, through our subsidiaries, conducts our operations through the following reportable segments: Electric Utilities and Gas Utilities. Certain unallocated corporate expenses that support our operating segments are presented as Corporate and Other.

Use of Estimates and Basis of Presentation

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of certain assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Changes in facts and circumstances or additional information may result in revised estimates and actual results could differ materially from those estimates.

Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Black Hills Corporation and its wholly-owned and majority-owned and controlled subsidiaries. Furthermore, VIEs in which the Company has an ownership interest and is the primary beneficiary, thus controlling the VIE, have been consolidated. All intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

We use the proportionate consolidation method to account for our ownership interest in any jointly-owned facility. See Note 6 for additional information.

Non-controlling Interests

We account for changes in our controlling interests of subsidiaries according to ASC 810, *Consolidation*. ASC 810 requires that the Company record such changes as equity transactions, recording no gain or loss on such a sale. GAAP requires that non-controlling interests in subsidiaries and affiliates be reported in the equity section of a company's balance sheet. In addition, the amounts attributable to the non-controlling interest net income (loss) of those subsidiaries are reported separately in the consolidated statements of income and comprehensive income. See Note 12 for additional information.

Variable Interest Entities

We evaluate arrangements and contracts with other entities to determine if they are VIEs and if we are the primary beneficiary. GAAP provides a framework for identifying VIEs and determining when a company should include the assets, liabilities, non-controlling interest and results of activities of a VIE in its consolidated financial statements.

A VIE should be consolidated if a party with an ownership, contractual or other financial interest in the VIE (a variable interest holder) has the power to direct the VIE's most significant activities and the obligation to absorb losses or right to receive benefits of the VIE that could be significant to the VIE. A variable interest holder that consolidates the VIE is called the primary beneficiary. Upon consolidation, the primary beneficiary generally must initially record all of the VIE's assets, liabilities and non-controlling interests at fair value and subsequently account for the VIE as if it were consolidated.

Our evaluation of whether our interest qualifies as the primary beneficiary of a VIE involves significant judgments, estimates and assumptions and includes a qualitative analysis of the activities that most significantly impact the VIE's economic performance and whether the Company has the power to direct those activities, the design of the entity, the rights of the parties and the purpose of the arrangement. Black Hills Colorado IPP is a VIE. See Note 12 for additional information.

Cash, Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash

We consider all highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash and cash equivalents. We maintain cash accounts for various specified purposes, which are classified as restricted cash.

Revenue Recognition

Our revenue contracts generally provide for performance obligations that are fulfilled and transfer control to customers over time, represent a series of distinct services that are substantially the same, involve the same pattern of transfer to the customer and provide a right to consideration from our customers in an amount that corresponds directly with the value to the customer for the performance completed to date. Therefore, we recognize revenue in the amount to which we have a right to invoice. Our primary types of revenue contracts are:

- **Regulated natural gas and electric utility services tariffs** - Our Utilities have regulated operations, as defined by ASC 980, *Regulated Operations*, that provide services to regulated customers under tariff rates, charges, terms and conditions of service and prices determined by the jurisdictional regulators designated for our service territories. Our regulated services primarily encompass single performance obligations for delivery of either commodity natural gas, commodity electricity, natural gas transportation or electric transmission services. These service revenues are variable based on quantities delivered, influenced by seasonal business and weather patterns. Tariffs are only permitted to be changed through a rate-setting process involving the state or federal regulatory commissions to establish contractual rates between the utility and its customers. All of our Utilities' regulated sales are subject to regulatory-approved tariffs.
- **Power sales agreements** - Our Electric Utilities segment has long-term wholesale power sales agreements with other load-serving entities, including affiliates, for the sale of excess power from owned generating units. These agreements include a combination of "take or pay" arrangements, where the customer is obligated to pay for the energy regardless of whether it actually takes delivery, as well as "requirements only" arrangements, where the customer is only obligated to pay for the energy the customer needs. In addition to these long-term contracts, we also sell excess energy to other load-serving entities on a short-term basis. The pricing for all of these arrangements is included in the executed contracts or confirmations, reflecting the standalone selling price and is variable based on energy delivered. Certain energy sale and purchase transactions with the same counterparty and at the same delivery point are netted to reflect the economic substance of the arrangement.

The majority of our revenue contracts are based on variable quantities delivered. Any fixed consideration contracts with an expected duration of one year or more are immaterial to our consolidated revenues. Variable consideration constraints in the form of discounts, rebates, credits, price concessions, incentives, performance bonuses, penalties or other similar items are not material for our revenue contracts. We are the principal in our revenue contracts, as we have control over the services prior to those services being transferred to the customer.

Revenue Not in Scope of ASC 606

Other revenues included in the tables in Note 4 include our revenue accounted for under separate accounting guidance, including lease revenue under ASC 842, *Leases*, derivative revenue under ASC 815, *Derivatives and Hedging*, and alternative revenue programs revenue under ASC 980, *Regulated Operations*.

Significant Judgments and Estimates

Unbilled Revenue

To the extent that deliveries have occurred, but a bill has not been issued, our Utilities accrue an estimate of the revenue since the latest billing. This estimate is calculated based upon several factors including billings through the last billing cycle in a month and prices in effect in our jurisdictions. Each month, the estimated unbilled revenue amounts are true-up and recorded in Accounts receivable, net on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Contract Balances

The nature of our primary revenue contracts provides an unconditional right to consideration upon service delivery; therefore, no customer contract assets or liabilities exist. The unconditional right to consideration is represented by the balance in our Accounts receivable, which is further discussed below.

See Note 4 for additional information.

Accounts Receivable and Allowance for Credit Losses

Accounts receivable are stated at billed and estimated unbilled amounts, net of allowance for credit losses, and do not bear interest. We maintain an allowance for credit losses which reflects our estimate of uncollectible trade receivables. We regularly review our trade receivable allowance by considering such factors as historical experience, credit worthiness, the age of the receivable balances and current economic conditions that may affect collectability.

In specific cases where we are aware of a customer's inability or reluctance to pay, we record an allowance for credit losses to reduce the net receivable balance to the amount we reasonably expect to collect. However, if circumstances change, our estimate of the recoverability of accounts receivable could be affected. Circumstances which could affect our estimates include, but are not limited to, customer credit issues, expected losses, the level of commodity prices, customer deposits and general economic conditions. Accounts are written off once they are deemed to be uncollectible or the time allowed for dispute under the contract has expired.

We utilize master netting agreements which consist of an agreement between two parties who have multiple contracts with each other that provide for the net settlement of all contracts in the event of default on or termination of any one contract. When the right of offset exists, accounting standards permit the netting of receivables and payables under a legally enforceable master netting agreement between counterparties.

Following is a summary of accounts receivable as of December 31 (in millions):

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Billed Accounts Receivable | \$ 198.5 | \$ 267.6 |
| Unbilled Revenue | 154.0 | 243.6 |
| Less Allowance for Credit Losses | (2.2) | (3.0) |
| Accounts Receivable, net | <u>\$ 350.3</u> | <u>\$ 508.2</u> |

Changes to allowance for credit losses for the years ended December 31, were as follows (in millions):

| | Balance at Beginning of Year | Additions Charged to Costs and Expenses | Recoveries and Other Additions | Write-offs and Other Deductions | Balance at End of Year |
|------|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2023 | \$ 3.0 | \$ 8.7 | \$ 4.1 | \$ (13.6) | \$ 2.2 |
| 2022 | \$ 2.1 | \$ 9.1 | \$ 3.5 | \$ (11.7) | \$ 3.0 |
| 2021 | \$ 7.0 | \$ 2.4 | \$ 3.6 | \$ (10.9) | \$ 2.1 |

Materials, Supplies and Fuel

Materials and supplies represent parts and supplies for our business operations. Fuel represents diesel oil and gas used by our electric generating facilities to produce power. Natural gas in storage primarily represents gas purchased for use by our gas customers. All of our Materials, supplies and fuel are recorded using the weighted-average cost method and are valued at the lower-of-cost or net realizable value. The value of our natural gas in storage fluctuates with seasonal volume requirements of our business and the commodity price of natural gas.

The following amounts by major classification are included in Materials, supplies and fuel on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31 (in millions):

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Materials and supplies | \$ 105.9 | \$ 99.7 |
| Fuel | 7.7 | 3.1 |
| Natural gas in storage | 47.3 | 104.6 |
| Total materials, supplies and fuel | <u>\$ 160.9</u> | <u>\$ 207.4</u> |

Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost, which includes construction-related direct labor and material costs, indirect construction costs including labor and related costs of departments associated with supporting construction activities, and AFUDC. Additions to and significant replacements of property are charged to property, plant and equipment at cost. We also classify our Cushion Gas as Property, plant and equipment. Ordinary repairs and maintenance of property, except as allowed under rate regulations, are charged to operations as incurred.

We receive contributions in aid of construction (CIACs) from third parties that are generally intended to defray all or a portion of the costs for certain capital projects. Such CIAC costs are recorded as a reduction to Property, plant, and equipment.

The cost of regulated utility property, plant and equipment retired, or otherwise disposed in the ordinary course of business, less salvage plus retirement costs, is charged to accumulated depreciation. Estimated removal costs related to our regulated properties that do not have legal retirement obligations are reclassified from accumulated depreciation and reflected as regulatory liabilities. Retirement or disposal of all other operating assets result in gains or losses recognized as a reduction to Operations and maintenance expense.

See Note 5 for additional information.

Depreciation

Depreciation provisions for property, plant and equipment are generally computed on a straight-line basis based on the applicable estimated service life of the various classes of property. The composite depreciation method is applied to regulated utility property. Depreciation studies are conducted periodically to update composite rates and are approved by state utility commissions and/or the FERC when required. Capitalized mining costs and coal leases are amortized on a unit-of-production method based on volumes produced and estimated reserves. For certain non-regulated power plant components, depreciation is computed on a unit-of-production methodology based on plant hours run.

AFUDC

Included in the cost of regulated construction projects is AFUDC, when applicable, which represents the approximate composite cost of borrowed funds and a return on equity used to finance a regulated utility project. The following table presents AFUDC amounts (in millions) for the years ended December 31:

| | Income Statement Location | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
|----------------|---|--------|--------|--------|
| AFUDC Borrowed | Interest expense incurred, net of amounts capitalized | \$ 6.0 | \$ 5.6 | \$ 4.1 |
| AFUDC Equity | Other income (expense), net | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.6 |

We also capitalize interest, when applicable, on undeveloped leasehold costs and certain non-regulated construction projects. In addition, asset retirement costs associated with tangible long-lived regulated utility assets are recognized as liabilities with an increase to the carrying amounts of the related long-lived regulated utility assets in the period incurred. The amounts capitalized are included in Property, plant and equipment on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Asset Retirement Obligations

Accounting standards for AROs associated with long-lived assets require that the present value of retirement costs for which we have a legal obligation be recorded as liabilities with an equivalent amount added to the asset cost and depreciated over an appropriate period. The associated ARO accretion expense for our non-regulated operations, and regulated operations without a corresponding recovery mechanism, is included within Depreciation, depletion and amortization on the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income. The accounting for the obligation for regulated operations with a regulatory mechanism has no income statement impact due to the deferral of the adjustments through the establishment of a regulatory asset or a regulatory liability.

We initially record liabilities for the present value of retirement costs for which we have a legal obligation, with an equivalent amount added to the asset cost. The asset is then depreciated or depleted over the appropriate useful life and the liability is accreted over time by applying an interest method of allocation. Any difference in the actual cost of the settlement of the liability and the recorded amount is recognized as a gain or loss in the results of operations at the time of settlement for our non-regulated operations. See Note 7 for additional information.

Goodwill and Intangible Assets

Goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite lives are not amortized, but the carrying values are reviewed upon an indicator of impairment or at least annually. Intangible assets with a finite life are amortized over their estimated useful lives.

We perform a goodwill impairment test on an annual basis or upon the occurrence of events or changes in circumstances that indicate that the asset might be impaired. Our annual goodwill impairment testing date is as of October 1, which aligns our testing date with our financial planning process.

The Company has determined that the reporting units for its goodwill impairment test are its operating segments, or components of an operating segment.

Our goodwill impairment analysis includes an income approach and a market approach to estimate the fair value of our reporting units. These valuations require significant judgments, including, but not limited to: 1) estimates of future cash flows, based on our internal five-year business plans and adjusted as appropriate for our view of market participant assumptions, with long range cash flows estimated using a terminal value calculation; 2) estimates of long-term growth rates for our businesses; 3) the determination of an appropriate weighted-average cost of capital or discount rate; and 4) the utilization of market information such as recent sales transactions for comparable assets within the utility and energy industries.

We believe that goodwill reflects the inherent value of the relatively stable, long-lived cash flows of our Utilities businesses, considering the regulatory environment, and the long-lived cash flow and rate base growth opportunities at our Utilities, and those businesses vertically integrated. Goodwill amounts have not changed since 2016.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, Goodwill balances were as follows (in millions):

| | Electric Utilities | Gas Utilities | Total |
|----------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Goodwill | \$ 257.3 | \$ 1,042.2 | \$ 1,299.5 |

Our intangible assets represent contract intangibles, easements, rights-of-way, customer listings and trademarks. The finite-lived intangible assets are amortized using a straight-line method based on estimated useful lives; these assets are currently being amortized from 2 years to 41 years. Changes to intangible assets for the years ended December 31, were as follows (in millions):

| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Intangible assets, net, beginning balance | \$ 9.6 | \$ 10.8 | \$ 11.9 |
| Amortization expense ^(a) | (1.2) | (1.2) | (1.1) |
| Intangible assets, net, ending balance | \$ 8.4 | \$ 9.6 | \$ 10.8 |

(a) Amortization expense for existing intangible assets is expected to be \$1.2 million for each year of the next five years.

Accrued Liabilities

The following amounts by major classification are included in Accrued liabilities on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31 (in millions):

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Accrued employee compensation, benefits and withholdings | \$ 74.8 | \$ 62.9 |
| Accrued property taxes | 52.7 | 52.4 |
| Customer deposits and prepayments | 76.0 | 47.7 |
| Accrued interest | 46.3 | 33.8 |
| Other (none of which is individually significant) | 43.5 | 46.7 |
| Total accrued liabilities | \$ 293.3 | \$ 243.5 |

Fair Value Measurements

Financial Instruments

We use the following fair value hierarchy for determining inputs for our financial instruments. Our assets and liabilities for financial instruments are classified and disclosed in one of the following fair value categories:

Level 1 — Unadjusted quoted prices available in active markets that are accessible at the measurement date for identical unrestricted assets or liabilities. Level 1 instruments primarily consist of highly liquid and actively traded financial instruments with quoted pricing information on an ongoing basis.

Level 2 — Pricing inputs include quoted prices for identical or similar assets and liabilities in active markets other than quoted prices in Level 1, quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability and inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

Level 3 — Pricing inputs are generally less observable from objective sources. These inputs reflect management's best estimate of fair value using its own assumptions about the assumptions a market participant would use in pricing the asset or liability.

Assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Our assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement requires judgment and may affect the placement within the fair value hierarchy levels. We record transfers, if necessary, between levels at the end of the reporting period for all of our financial instruments.

Transfers into Level 3, if any, occur when significant inputs used to value the derivative instruments become less observable, such as a significant decrease in the frequency and volume in which the instrument is traded, negatively impacting the availability of observable pricing inputs. Transfers out of Level 3, if any, occur when the significant inputs become more observable, such as when the time between the valuation date and the delivery date of a transaction becomes shorter, positively impacting the availability of observable pricing inputs.

Valuation Methodologies for Derivatives

The wholesale electric energy and natural gas commodity contracts for our Utilities are valued using the market approach and include forward strip pricing at liquid delivery points, exchange-traded futures, options, basis swaps and over-the-counter swaps and options (Level 2). For exchange-traded futures, options and basis swap assets and liabilities, fair value was derived using broker quotes validated by the exchange settlement pricing for the applicable contract. For over-the-counter instruments, the fair value is obtained by utilizing a nationally recognized service that obtains observable inputs to compute the fair value, which we validate by comparing our valuation with the counterparty. The fair value of these swaps includes a credit valuation adjustment based on the credit spreads of the counterparties when we are in an unrealized gain position or on our own credit spread when we are in an unrealized loss position.

See Notes 10 and 13 for additional information.

Derivatives and Hedging Activities

All our derivatives are measured at fair value and recognized as either assets or liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheets, except for derivative contracts that qualify for and are elected under the normal purchase and normal sales exception. Normal purchases and normal sales are contracts where physical delivery is probable, quantities are expected to be used or sold in the normal course of business over a reasonable amount of time and pricing is clearly and closely related to the asset being purchased or sold. Normal purchase and sales contracts are recognized when the underlying physical transaction is completed under the accrual basis of accounting.

In addition, certain derivative contracts approved by regulatory authorities are either recovered or refunded through customer rates. Any changes in the fair value of these approved derivative contracts are deferred as a regulatory asset or regulatory liability pursuant to ASC 980, *Regulated Operations*.

We also have some derivatives that qualify for hedge accounting and are designated as cash flow hedges. The gain or loss on these designated derivatives is deferred in AOCI and reclassified into earnings when the corresponding hedged transaction is recognized in earnings. Changes in the fair value of all other derivative contracts are recognized in earnings.

We utilize master netting agreements which consist of an agreement between two parties who have multiple contracts with each other that provide for the net settlement of all contracts in the event of default on or termination of any one contract. When the right of offset exists, accounting standards permit the netting of receivables and payables under a legally enforceable master netting agreement between counterparties. Accounting standards also permit offsetting of fair value amounts recognized for the right to reclaim, or the obligation to return, cash collateral against fair value amounts recognized for derivative instruments executed with the same counterparty. We reflect the offsetting of net derivative positions with fair value amounts for cash collateral with the same counterparty when a legal right of offset exists. Therefore, the gross amounts are not indicative of either our actual credit or net economic exposures.

The cash impacts of settled derivatives are recorded as operating activities on the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.

See Notes 9, 10 and 11 for additional information.

Debt Discounts, Premiums and Deferred Financing Costs

Deferred financing costs include loan origination fees, underwriter fees, legal fees and other costs directly attributable to the issuance of debt. Debt discounts, premiums and deferred financing costs are amortized over the estimated useful life of the related debt. Unamortized discounts, premiums and deferred financing costs are presented on the balance sheet as an adjustment to the related debt liabilities. See Note 8 for additional information.

Regulatory Accounting

Our regulated Utilities are subject to cost-of-service regulation and earnings oversight from federal and state regulatory commissions. Our Utilities account for income and expense items in accordance with accounting standards for regulated operations. These accounting policies differ in some respects from those used by our non-regulated businesses. Under these regulated operations accounting standards:

- Certain costs, which would otherwise be charged to expense or OCI, are deferred as regulatory assets based on the expected ability to recover the costs in future rates.
- Certain credits, which would otherwise be reflected as income or OCI, are deferred as regulatory liabilities based on the expectation the amounts will be returned to customers in future rates, or because the amounts were collected in rates prior to the costs being incurred.

Management continually assesses the probability of future recoveries and obligations associated with regulatory assets and liabilities. Factors such as the current regulatory environment, recently issued rate orders, and historical precedents are considered. As a result, we believe that the accounting prescribed under rate-based regulation remains appropriate and our regulatory assets are probable of recovery in current rates or in future rate proceedings.

If changes in the regulatory environment occur, we may no longer be eligible to apply this accounting treatment and may be required to eliminate regulatory assets and liabilities from our balance sheet. Such changes could adversely affect our results of operations, financial position or cash flows.

See Note 2 for additional information.

Income Taxes

The Company is subject to federal income tax as well as income tax in various state and local jurisdictions. The Company and its subsidiaries file consolidated federal income tax returns. Each subsidiary records both federal and state income taxes as if it were a separate taxpayer and consolidating expense adjustments are allocated to the subsidiaries based on separate company computations of taxable income or loss.

We use the asset and liability method in accounting for income taxes. Under the asset and liability method, deferred income taxes are recognized at currently enacted income tax rates, to reflect the tax effect of temporary differences between the financial and tax basis of assets and liabilities as well as operating loss and tax credit carryforwards. Such temporary differences are the result of provisions in the income tax law that either require or permit certain items to be reported on the income tax return in a different period than they are reported in the financial statements.

It is our policy to apply the flow-through method of accounting for ITCs. Under the flow-through method, ITCs are reflected in net income as a reduction to income tax expense in the year they qualify. An exception to this general policy is the deferral method, which applies to our regulated businesses. Such a method results in the ITC being amortized as a reduction to income tax expense over the estimated useful lives of the underlying property that gave rise to the credit.

We recognize interest income or interest expense and penalties related to income tax matters in Income tax expense on the Consolidated Statements of Income.

We have elected to account for transferable clean energy tax credits, including PTCs and ITCs within the provision for income taxes.

We account for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in the financial statements in accordance with the accounting standards for income taxes. The unrecognized tax benefit is classified in Other deferred credits and other liabilities or in Deferred income tax liabilities, net on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets. See Note 15 for additional information.

Earnings per Share of Common Stock

Basic earnings per share is computed by dividing Net income available for common stock by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during each year. Diluted earnings per share is computed by including all dilutive common shares outstanding during each year. Diluted common shares are primarily due to equity units, outstanding stock options, restricted stock and performance shares under our equity compensation plans.

A reconciliation of share amounts used to compute earnings per share is as follows for the years ended December 31 (in millions, except earnings per share amounts):

| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|
| Net income available for common stock | \$ 262.2 | \$ 258.4 | \$ 236.7 |
| Weighted average shares - basic | 67.0 | 64.9 | 63.2 |
| Dilutive effect of equity compensation | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Weighted average shares - diluted | 67.1 | 65.0 | 63.3 |
| Net income available for common stock, per share - Diluted | \$ 3.91 | \$ 3.97 | \$ 3.74 |

The following securities were excluded from the diluted earnings per share computation for the years ended December 31 because of their anti-dilutive nature:

| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
|--|--------|------|--------|
| Equity compensation | 46,275 | — | 13,101 |
| Anti-dilutive shares excluded from computation of earnings per share | 46,275 | — | 13,101 |

Share-Based Compensation

We account for our share-based compensation arrangements in accordance with ASC 718, *Compensation-Stock Compensation*, by recognizing compensation costs for all share-based awards over the respective service period for employee services received in exchange for an award of equity or equity-based compensation. Awards that will be settled in stock are accounted for as equity and the compensation expense is based on the grant date fair value. Awards that are settled in cash are accounted for as liabilities and the compensation expense is re-measured each period based on the current market price and performance achievement measures. See Note 14 for additional information.

Pension and Other Postretirement Plans

We recognize on our Consolidated Balance Sheets an asset or liability reflecting the funded status of pension and other postretirement plans with current-year changes in actuarial gains or losses recognized in AOCI, except for those plans at certain of our regulated utilities that can recover portions of their pension and postretirement obligations through future rates. All plan assets are recorded at fair value. We follow the measurement date provisions of ASC 715, *Compensation-Retirement Benefits*, which require a year-end measurement date of plan assets and obligations for all defined benefit plans.

Recently Issued Accounting Standards

Improvements to Reportable Segment Disclosures, ASU 2023-07

In November 2023, the FASB issued ASU 2023-07, *Improvements to Reportable Segment Disclosures*, which expands public entities' segment disclosures by requiring disclosure of significant segment expenses that are regularly reviewed by the CODM and included within each reported measure of segment profit or loss, an amount and description of its composition for other segment items, and interim disclosures of a reportable segment's profit or loss and assets. The ASU also allows, in addition to the measure that is most consistent with GAAP, the disclosure of additional measures of segment profit or loss that are used by the CODM in assessing segment performance and deciding how to allocate resources. The ASU is effective for our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, and subsequent interim periods, with early adoption permitted. We do not expect the ASU to have an impact on our financial position, results of operations and cash flows; however, are currently evaluating the impact on our consolidated financial statement disclosures.

Improvements to Income Tax Disclosures, ASU 2023-09

In December 2023, the FASB issued ASU 2023-09, *Improvements to Income Tax Disclosures*, which expands public entities' annual disclosures by requiring disclosure of tax rate reconciliation amounts and percentages for specific categories, income taxes paid disaggregated by federal and state taxes, and income tax expense disaggregated by federal and state taxes jurisdiction. The ASU is effective for our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2025, with early adoption permitted. We do not expect the ASU to have an impact on our financial position, results of operations and cash flows; however, are currently evaluating the impact on our consolidated financial statement disclosures.

(2) REGULATORY MATTERS

We had the following regulatory assets and liabilities as of December 31 (in millions):

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|----------|----------|
| Regulatory assets | | |
| Winter Storm Uri ^(a) | \$ 199.6 | \$ 348.0 |
| Deferred energy and fuel cost adjustments ^(b) | 55.1 | 72.6 |
| Deferred gas cost adjustments ^(b) | 4.1 | 12.2 |
| Gas price derivatives ^(b) | 5.1 | 8.8 |
| Deferred taxes on AFUDC ^(b) | 7.1 | 7.3 |
| Employee benefit plans and related deferred taxes ^(c) | 89.3 | 89.3 |
| Environmental ^(b) | 2.9 | 1.3 |
| Loss on reacquired debt ^(b) | 17.4 | 19.2 |
| Deferred taxes on flow-through accounting ^(b) | 74.7 | 69.5 |
| Decommissioning costs ^(b) | 2.4 | 3.5 |
| Other regulatory assets ^(b) | 22.4 | 21.3 |
| Total regulatory assets | 480.1 | 653.0 |
| Less current regulatory assets | (175.7) | (260.3) |
| Regulatory assets, non-current | \$ 304.4 | \$ 392.7 |
| Regulatory liabilities | | |
| Deferred energy and gas costs ^(b) | \$ 88.9 | \$ 41.7 |
| Employee benefit plans and related deferred taxes ^(c) | 36.2 | 38.9 |
| Cost of removal ^(b) | 181.9 | 175.6 |
| Excess deferred income taxes ^(c) | 247.1 | 254.8 |
| Other regulatory liabilities ^(c) | 12.5 | 7.6 |
| Total regulatory liabilities | 566.6 | 518.6 |
| Less current regulatory liabilities | (98.9) | (46.0) |
| Regulatory liabilities, non-current | \$ 467.7 | \$ 472.6 |

(a) Timing of Winter Storm Uri incremental cost recovery and associated carrying costs vary by jurisdiction. See further information below.

(b) Recovery/repayment of costs, but we are not allowed a rate of return.

(c) In addition to recovery or repayment of costs, we are allowed a return on a portion of this amount or a reduction in rate base.

Regulatory assets represent items we expect to recover from customers through probable future rates.

Winter Storm Uri - Our Utilities have received commission approval to recover incremental fuel, purchased power and natural gas costs associated with Winter Storm Uri. In certain jurisdictions, we also received commission approval to recover carrying costs. As of December 31, 2023, we estimate that our remaining Winter Storm Uri regulatory asset has a weighted-average recovery period of 2.2 years.

Deferred Energy and Fuel Cost Adjustments - Deferred energy and fuel cost adjustments represent the cost of electricity delivered to our Electric Utilities' customers that is either higher or lower than the current rates and will be recovered or refunded in future rates. Deferred energy and fuel cost adjustments are recorded and recovered or amortized as approved by the appropriate state regulatory commission. Our Electric Utilities file periodic quarterly, semi-annual and/or annual filings to recover these costs based on the respective cost mechanisms approved by their applicable state regulatory commissions.

Deferred Gas Cost Adjustments - Our regulated Gas Utilities have GCA provisions that allow them to pass the cost of gas on to their customers. The GCA is based on forecasts of the upcoming gas costs and recovery or refund of prior under-recovered or over-recovered costs. To the extent that gas costs are under-recovered or over-recovered, they are recorded as a regulatory asset or liability, respectively. Our Gas Utilities file periodic monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and/or annual filings to recover these costs based on the respective cost mechanisms approved by their applicable state regulatory commissions.

Gas Price Derivatives - Our regulated Gas Utilities, as allowed or required by state regulatory commissions, have entered into certain exchange-traded natural gas futures and options to reduce our customers' underlying exposure to fluctuations in gas prices. Gas price derivatives represent our unrealized positions on our commodity contracts supporting our utilities. Gas price derivatives at December 31, 2023 are hedged over a maximum forward term of two years.

Deferred Taxes on AFUDC - The equity component of AFUDC is considered a permanent difference for tax purposes with the tax benefit being flowed through to customers as prescribed or allowed by regulators. If, based on a regulator's action, it is probable the utility will recover the future increase in taxes payable represented by this flow-through treatment through a rate revenue increase, a regulatory asset is recognized. This regulatory asset is a temporary difference for which a deferred tax liability must be recognized. Accounting standards for income taxes specifically address AFUDC-equity and require a gross-up of such amounts to reflect the revenue requirement associated with a rate-regulated environment.

Employee Benefit Plans and Related Deferred Taxes - Employee benefit plans include the unrecognized prior service costs and net actuarial loss associated with our defined benefit pension plan and post-retirement benefit plans in regulatory assets rather than in AOCI. In addition, this regulatory asset includes the income tax effect of the adjustment required under accounting for compensation - defined benefit plans, to record the full pension and post-retirement benefit obligations. Such income tax effect has been grossed-up to account for the revenue requirement associated with a rate regulated environment.

Environmental - Environmental costs associated with certain former manufactured gas plant sites. These costs are first offset by recognition of insurance proceeds and settlements with other third parties. Any remaining cost will be requested for recovery in future rate filings. Recovery for these specific environmental costs has not yet been approved by the applicable state regulatory commission and therefore, the recovery period is unknown at this time.

Loss on Reacquired Debt - Loss on reacquired debt is recovered over the remaining life of the original issue or, if refinanced, over the life of the new issue.

Deferred Taxes on Flow-Through Accounting - Under flow-through accounting, the income tax effects of certain tax items are reflected in our cost of service for the customer and result in lower utility rates in the year in which the tax benefits are realized. A regulatory asset was established to reflect that future increases in income taxes payable will be recovered from customers as the temporary differences reverse. As a result of this regulatory treatment, we continue to record a net tax benefit for costs considered currently deductible for tax purposes but are capitalized for book purposes.

Decommissioning Costs - South Dakota Electric and Colorado Electric received approval in 2014 for recovery of the remaining net book values and decommissioning costs of their decommissioned coal plants. In 2018, Arkansas Gas received approval to record Liquefied Natural Gas Plant decommissioning costs as a regulatory asset and received approval in 2020 to begin recovering those costs over three years.

Regulatory liabilities represent items we expect to refund to customers through probable future decreases in rates.

Deferred Energy and Gas Costs - Deferred energy and gas costs that have been over-recovered through customer rates and will be returned to customers in future periods.

Employee Benefit Plans and Related Deferred Taxes - Employee benefit plans represent the cumulative excess of pension and retiree healthcare costs recovered in rates over pension expense recorded in accordance with ASC 715, *Compensation-Retirement Benefits*. In addition, this regulatory liability includes the income tax effect of the adjustment required under ASC 715, *Compensation-Retirement Benefits*, to record the full pension and post-retirement benefit obligations. Such income tax effect has been grossed-up to account for the revenue requirement associated with a rate regulated environment.

Cost of Removal - Cost of removal represents the estimated cumulative net provisions for future removal costs for which there is no legal obligation for removal included in depreciation expense.

Excess Deferred Income Taxes - The revaluation of the regulated utilities' deferred tax assets and liabilities due to the passage of the TCJA was recorded as excess deferred income taxes to be refunded to customers primarily using the normalization principles as prescribed in the TCJA. A majority of the excess deferred taxes are subject to the average rate assumption method, as prescribed by the IRS, and will generally be amortized as a reduction of customer rates over the remaining lives of the related assets.

Recent Regulatory Activity

Arkansas Gas

On December 4, 2023, Arkansas Gas filed a rate review with the APSC seeking recovery of significant infrastructure investments in its 7,200-mile natural gas pipeline system. The rate review requests \$44.1 million in new annual revenue with a capital structure of 48% equity and 52% debt and a return on equity of 10.5%. The request seeks to finalize rates in the fourth quarter of 2024.

Colorado Gas*RMNG Rate Review*

On July 12, 2023, the CPUC approved a settlement agreement for RMNG's rate review filed on October 7, 2022. The agreement is expected to generate \$8.2 million in new annual revenue and established a weighted average cost of capital of 6.93% with a capital structure that reflects an equity range of 50% to 52% and a debt range of 50% to 48% and a return on equity range of 9.5% to 9.7%. The settlement also shifted \$8.3 million of SSIR revenue to base rates and terminated the SSIR. New rates were effective July 15, 2023.

Colorado Gas Rate Review

On May 9, 2023, Colorado Gas filed a rate review with the CPUC seeking recovery of significant infrastructure investments in its 10,000-mile natural gas pipeline system. In the fourth quarter of 2023, Colorado Gas reached a settlement agreement with the CPUC staff and various intervenors for a general rate increase, which is subject to CPUC approval. The settlement is expected to generate \$20.2 million of new annual revenue with a capital structure of 50.87% equity and 49.13% debt and a return on equity of 9.3%. If approved, new rates will be effective in February 2024.

Wyoming Gas

On May 18, 2023, Wyoming Gas filed a rate review with the WPSC seeking recovery of significant infrastructure investments in its 6,400-mile natural gas pipeline system. On January 17, 2024, the WPSC approved a settlement agreement for a general rate increase which is expected to generate \$13.9 million in new annual revenue with a capital structure of 51% equity and 49% debt and a return on equity of 9.85%. New rates were effective February 1, 2024. The agreement also included approval of a four-year extension of the Wyoming Integrity Rider.

Wyoming Electric

On June 1, 2022, Wyoming Electric filed a rate review with the WPSC seeking recovery of significant infrastructure investments in its 1,330-mile electric distribution and 59-mile electric transmission systems. On January 26, 2023, the WPSC approved a settlement agreement with intervening parties for a general rate increase. The settlement is expected to generate \$8.7 million in new annual revenue with a capital structure of 52% equity and 48% debt and a return on equity of 9.75%. New rates were effective March 1, 2023. The agreement also included approval of a new rider that will be filed annually to recover transmission investments and expenses.

(3) COMMITMENTS, CONTINGENCIES AND GUARANTEES**Unconditional Purchase Obligations**

We have various PPAs and transmission service agreements, which extend to 2032, to support our Electric Utilities' capacity and energy needs beyond our regulated power plants' generation.

Our Utilities purchase natural gas, including transportation and storage capacity, to meet customers' needs under short-term and long-term purchase contracts. These contracts extend to 2044.

The following is a schedule of unconditional purchase obligations required under the power purchase, transmission services and natural gas transportation and storage agreements (in millions):

| | PPAs ^(a) | Transmission Services Agreements | Natural gas supply, transportation and storage agreements |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Future commitments for the year ending December 31, | | | |
| 2024 | \$ 2.7 | \$ 12.2 | \$ 163.0 |
| 2025 | — | — | 135.0 |
| 2026 | — | — | 110.8 |
| 2027 | — | — | 79.5 |
| 2028 | — | — | 58.0 |
| Thereafter | — | — | 95.2 |
| Total future commitments | \$ 2.7 | \$ 12.2 | \$ 641.5 |

(a) This schedule does not reflect renewable energy PPA future obligations since these agreements vary based on weather conditions.

Lease Agreements

Lessee

We lease from third parties certain office and operation center facilities, communication tower sites, equipment and materials storage. Our leases have remaining terms ranging from less than one year to 32 years, including options to extend that are reasonably certain to be exercised. Our operating and finance leases were not material to the Company's Consolidated Financial statements.

Lessor

We lease to third parties certain generating station ground leases, communication tower sites and a natural gas pipeline. These leases have remaining terms ranging from less than one year to 31 years. Lease revenue was not material for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021.

As of December 31, 2023, scheduled maturities of operating lease payments to be received in future years were as follows (in millions):

| | Operating Leases |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2024 | \$ 2.2 |
| 2025 | 2.2 |
| 2026 | 2.0 |
| 2027 | 1.9 |
| 2028 | 1.9 |
| Thereafter | 48.3 |
| Total lease receivables | <u>\$ 58.5</u> |

Environmental Matters

We are subject to costs resulting from a number of federal, state and local laws and regulations which affect future planning and existing operations. Laws and regulations can result in increased capital expenditures, operating and other costs as a result of compliance, remediation and monitoring obligations. Due to the environmental issues discussed below, we may be required to modify, curtail, replace or cease operating certain facilities or operations to comply with statutes, regulations and other requirements of regulatory bodies.

Reclamation Liability

For our Pueblo Airport Generation site, we posted a bond with the State of Colorado to cover the costs of remediation for a waste water containment pond permitted to provide wastewater storage and processing for this zero-discharge facility. The reclamation liability is recorded at the present value of the estimated future cost to reclaim the land.

Under our land leases for our wind generation facilities, we are required to reclaim land where we have placed wind turbines. The reclamation liabilities are recorded at the present value of the estimated future cost to reclaim the land.

Under its mining permit, WRDC is required to reclaim all land where it has mined reserves. The reclamation liability is recorded at the present value of the estimated future cost to reclaim the land.

See Note 7 for additional information.

Manufactured Gas Plant

In 2008, we acquired whole and partial liabilities for former manufactured gas plant sites in Nebraska and Iowa, which were previously used to convert coal to natural gas. The acquisition provided for an insurance recovery, now valued at \$1.4 million recorded in Other assets, non-current on our Consolidated Balance Sheets, which will be used to help offset remediation costs. We also have a \$2.7 million regulatory asset for manufactured gas plant sites; see Note 2 for additional information. As of December 31, 2023, we had \$4.1 million and \$0.6 million accrued for remediation of the manufactured gas plant sites in Iowa and Nebraska, respectively. Iowa's liabilities are included in Accrued Liabilities and Nebraska's liabilities are included in Other deferred credits and other liabilities on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. The remediation cost estimate could change materially due to results of further investigations, actions of environmental agencies or the financial viability of other responsible parties.

Contingencies and Legal Proceedings

In the normal course of business, we are subject to various lawsuits, actions, proceedings, claims and other matters asserted under laws and regulations. We believe the amounts provided in the consolidated financial statements to satisfy alleged liabilities are adequate in light of the probable and estimable contingencies. However, there can be no assurance that the actual amounts required to satisfy alleged liabilities from various legal proceedings, claims and other matters discussed, and to comply with applicable laws and regulations will not exceed the amounts reflected in the consolidated financial statements.

We record gain contingencies when realized and expected recoveries under applicable insurance contracts when we are assured of recovery.

GT Resources, LLC v. Black Hills Corporation, Case No. 2020CV30751 (U.S. District Court for the City and County of Denver, Colorado)

On April 13, 2022, a jury awarded \$41 million for claims made by GT Resources, LLC (“GTR”) against BHC and two of its subsidiaries (Black Hills Exploration and Production, Inc. and Black Hills Gas Resources, Inc.), which ceased oil and natural gas operations in 2018 as part of BHC’s decision to exit the exploration and production business. The claims involved a dispute over a 2.3 million-acre concession award in Costa Rica which was acquired by a BHC subsidiary in 2003. GTR retained rights to receive a royalty interest on any hydrocarbon production from the concession upon the occurrence of contingent events. GTR contended that BHC and its subsidiaries failed to adequately pursue the opportunity and failed to transfer the concession to GTR. We appealed this verdict to the Colorado Court of Appeals. On October 19, 2023, the Appellate Court reversed and remanded the case with directions limiting any retrial to the narrow issue of whether there was improper interference with the prospective conveyance of the concession. We continue to believe this lawsuit has no merit and will vigorously defend it. At this time, we do not believe any losses from this matter will have a material impact on our financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

Gain Contingency -- Wygen 1 Business Interruption Insurance Recovery

In September 2021, Wygen I experienced an unplanned outage that continued until December 2021. For the year ended December 31, 2021, the outage resulted in lost revenues at our subsidiaries Black Hills Wyoming and WRDC. A claim for these losses was submitted under our business interruption insurance policy. During the third quarter of 2023 we recovered \$5.0 million from our business interruption insurance, which was recognized as Revenue in our Consolidated Statements of Income for year ended December 31, 2023.

Indemnification

In the normal course of business, we enter into agreements that include indemnification in favor of third parties, such as information technology agreements, purchase and sale agreements and lease contracts. We have also agreed to indemnify our directors, officers and employees in accordance with our articles of incorporation, as amended. Certain agreements do not contain any limits on our liability and therefore, it is not possible to estimate our potential liability under these indemnifications. In certain cases, we have recourse against third parties with respect to these indemnities. Further, we maintain insurance policies that may provide coverage against certain claims under these indemnities.

Guarantees

We have entered into various parent company-level guarantees providing financial or performance assurance to third parties on behalf of certain of our subsidiaries. These guarantees do not represent incremental consolidated obligations, but rather, represent guarantees of subsidiary obligations to allow those subsidiaries to conduct business without posting other forms of assurance. The agreements, which are off-balance sheet commitments, include support for business operations, indemnification for reclamation and surety bonds. The guarantees were entered into in the normal course of business. To the extent liabilities are incurred as a result of activities covered by these guarantees, such liabilities are included in our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

We had the following guarantees in place as of (in millions):

| Nature of Guarantee | Maximum Exposure at December 31, 2023 | |
|--|--|-------|
| Indemnification for reclamation/surety bonds | \$ | 100.9 |
| Guarantees supporting business transactions | | 462.9 |
| Total guarantees | \$ | 563.8 |

(4) REVENUE

The following tables depict the disaggregation of revenue, including intercompany revenue, from contracts with customers by customer type and timing of revenue recognition for each of the reportable segments, for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021. Sales tax and other similar taxes are excluded from revenues.

| Year ended December 31, 2023 | Electric Utilities | Gas Utilities | Inter-segment Eliminations | Total |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Customer types: | | | | |
| | (in millions) | | | |
| Retail | \$ 697.7 | \$ 1,248.8 | \$ — | \$ 1,946.5 |
| Transportation | — | 176.8 | (0.5) | 176.3 |
| Wholesale | 34.2 | — | — | 34.2 |
| Market - off-system sales | 50.9 | 0.4 | — | 51.3 |
| Transmission/Other | 71.4 | 39.4 | (17.4) | 93.4 |
| Revenue from contracts with customers | 854.2 | 1,465.4 | (17.9) | 2,301.7 |
| Other revenues | 10.8 | 18.8 | — | 29.6 |
| Total revenues | \$ 865.0 | \$ 1,484.2 | \$ (17.9) | \$ 2,331.3 |

Timing of revenue recognition:

| | | | | |
|---|----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Services transferred at a point in time | \$ 31.5 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 31.5 |
| Services transferred over time | 822.7 | 1,465.4 | (17.9) | 2,270.2 |
| Revenue from contracts with customers | \$ 854.2 | \$ 1,465.4 | \$ (17.9) | \$ 2,301.7 |

| Year ended December 31, 2022 | Electric Utilities | Gas Utilities | Inter-segment Eliminations | Total |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Customer types: | | | | |
| | (in millions) | | | |
| Retail | \$ 739.7 | \$ 1,453.3 | \$ — | \$ 2,193.0 |
| Transportation | — | 173.3 | (0.4) | 172.9 |
| Wholesale | 44.8 | — | — | 44.8 |
| Market - off-system sales | 48.6 | 0.8 | — | 49.4 |
| Transmission/Other | 61.5 | 37.9 | (16.6) | 82.8 |
| Revenue from contracts with customers | 894.6 | 1,665.3 | (17.0) | 2,542.9 |
| Other revenues | 5.6 | 3.8 | (0.5) | 8.9 |
| Total revenues | \$ 900.2 | \$ 1,669.1 | \$ (17.5) | \$ 2,551.8 |

Timing of revenue recognition:

| | | | | |
|---|----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Services transferred at a point in time | \$ 30.4 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 30.4 |
| Services transferred over time | 864.2 | 1,665.3 | (17.0) | 2,512.5 |
| Revenue from contracts with customers | \$ 894.6 | \$ 1,665.3 | \$ (17.0) | \$ 2,542.9 |

| Year ended December 31, 2021 | Electric Utilities | Gas Utilities | Inter-segment Eliminations | Total |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Customer types: | | | | |
| | (in millions) | | | |
| Retail | \$ 711.5 | \$ 913.7 | \$ — | \$ 1,625.2 |
| Transportation | — | 158.1 | (0.4) | 157.7 |
| Wholesale | 30.8 | — | — | 30.8 |
| Market - off-system sales | 41.7 | 0.4 | — | 42.1 |
| Transmission/Other | 52.9 | 39.4 | (17.2) | 75.1 |
| Revenue from contracts with customers | 836.9 | 1,111.6 | (17.6) | 1,930.9 |
| Other revenues | 5.3 | 13.3 | (0.4) | 18.2 |
| Total revenues | \$ 842.2 | \$ 1,124.9 | \$ (18.0) | \$ 1,949.1 |

Timing of revenue recognition:

| | | | | |
|---|----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Services transferred at a point in time | \$ 27.1 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 27.1 |
| Services transferred over time | 809.8 | 1,111.6 | (17.6) | 1,903.8 |
| Revenue from contracts with customers | \$ 836.9 | \$ 1,111.6 | \$ (17.6) | \$ 1,930.9 |

(5) PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Property, plant and equipment at December 31 consisted of the following (dollars in millions):

| | 2023 | | 2022 | | Lives (in years) | |
|--|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|------------------|---------|
| | Property, Plant and Equipment | Weighted Average Useful Life (in years) | Property, Plant and Equipment | Weighted Average Useful Life (in years) | Minimum | Maximum |
| Electric Utilities | | | | | | |
| Electric plant: | | | | | | |
| Production | \$ 1,492.8 | 40 | \$ 1,482.1 | 41 | 32 | 45 |
| Electric transmission | 737.4 | 48 | 632.9 | 48 | 42 | 51 |
| Electric distribution | 1,146.9 | 47 | 1,082.5 | 47 | 45 | 50 |
| Integrated Generation | 720.0 | 30 | 713.5 | 31 | 19 | 38 |
| Plant acquisition adjustment ^(a) | 4.9 | 32 | 4.9 | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| General | 291.7 | 27 | 274.8 | 27 | 24 | 28 |
| Total electric plant in service | 4,393.7 | | 4,190.7 | | | |
| Construction work in progress | 123.1 | | 153.0 | | | |
| Total electric plant | 4,516.8 | | 4,343.7 | | | |
| Less accumulated depreciation and depletion | (1,207.7) | | (1,104.1) | | | |
| Electric plant net of accumulated depreciation and depletion | \$ 3,309.1 | | \$ 3,239.6 | | | |

(a) The plant acquisition adjustment, which relates to the acquisition of our ownership interest in Wyodak Plant, is included in rate base and is being recovered with 7 years remaining.

| | 2023 | | 2022 | | Lives (in years) | |
|--|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|------------------|---------|
| | Property, Plant and Equipment | Weighted Average Useful Life (in years) | Property, Plant and Equipment | Weighted Average Useful Life (in years) | Minimum | Maximum |
| Gas Utilities | | | | | | |
| Gas plant: | | | | | | |
| Production | \$ 21.0 | 45 | \$ 17.8 | 45 | 24 | 47 |
| Gas transmission | 759.5 | 58 | 695.4 | 58 | 32 | 72 |
| Gas distribution | 2,860.0 | 57 | 2,620.2 | 57 | 48 | 61 |
| Cushion gas - not depreciable ^(a) | 58.2 | N/A | 63.1 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Storage | 71.4 | 42 | 65.8 | 41 | 36 | 49 |
| General | 571.8 | 22 | 497.4 | 23 | 20 | 25 |
| Total gas plant in service | 4,341.9 | | 3,959.7 | | | |
| Construction work in progress | 39.2 | | 52.0 | | | |
| Total gas plant | 4,381.1 | | 4,011.7 | | | |
| Less accumulated depreciation | (588.3) | | (471.0) | | | |
| Gas plant net of accumulated depreciation | \$ 3,792.8 | | \$ 3,540.7 | | | |

(a) Depreciation of Cushion Gas is determined by the respective regulatory jurisdiction in which the Cushion Gas resides. In 2022, assets classified as Cushion gas - depreciable were fully depreciated and removed from gross plant in service and accumulated depreciation.

| | 2023 | | 2022 | | Lives (in years) | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|------------------|---------|
| | Property, Plant and Equipment | Weighted Average Useful Life (in years) | Property, Plant and Equipment | Weighted Average Useful Life (in years) | Minimum | Maximum |
| Corporate | | | | | | |
| Total plant in service | \$ 5.7 | 10 | \$ 5.7 | 11 | 4 | 23 |
| Construction work in progress | 13.6 | | 13.7 | | | |
| Total gross property, plant and equipment | 19.3 | | 19.4 | | | |
| Less accumulated depreciation | (1.9) | | (1.8) | | | |
| Total net of accumulated depreciation | \$ 17.4 | | \$ 17.6 | | | |

(6) JOINTLY OWNED FACILITIES

Our consolidated financial statements include our share of several jointly-owned facilities as described below. Our share of the facilities' expenses is reflected in the appropriate categories of operating expenses in the Consolidated Statements of Income. Each owner of the facility is responsible for financing its investment in the jointly-owned facilities.

At December 31, 2023, our interests in jointly-owned generating facilities and transmission systems were (in millions):

| | Ownership Interest | Plant in Service | Construction Work in Progress | Less Accumulated Depreciation | Plant Net of Accumulated Depreciation |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Wyodak Plant ^(a) | 20% | \$ 122.3 | \$ — | \$ (73.4) | \$ 48.9 |
| Transmission Tie | 35% | \$ 24.5 | \$ 0.3 | \$ (7.8) | \$ 17.0 |
| Wygen III ^(b) | 52% | \$ 145.3 | \$ 0.3 | \$ (32.2) | \$ 113.4 |
| Wygen I ^(c) | 76.5% | \$ 116.0 | \$ 0.8 | \$ (60.1) | \$ 56.7 |

- (a) In addition to supplying South Dakota Electric with coal for its share of the Wyodak Plant, our mine supplies PacifiCorp's share of the coal under a separate long-term agreement through December 31, 2026, with an annual renewal option for one-year extensions. This coal supply agreement is collateralized by a mortgage on and a security interest in some of WRDC's coal reserves.
- (b) South Dakota Electric retains responsibility for plant operations. WRDC supplies fuel to Wygen III for the life of the plant.
- (c) Black Hills Wyoming retains responsibility for plant operations. WRDC supplies fuel to Wygen I for the life of the plant.

(7) ASSET RETIREMENT OBLIGATIONS

We have identified legal obligations related to reclamation of mining sites; removal of fuel tanks, transformers containing polychlorinated biphenyls, an evaporation pond; and reclamation of wind turbine sites at our Electric Utilities segment. In addition, we have identified legal obligations related to retirement of gas pipelines, wells and compressor stations at our Gas Utilities and removal of asbestos at our Utilities. We periodically review and update estimated costs related to these AROs. The actual cost may vary from estimates due to regulatory requirements, changes in technology and increased labor, materials and equipment costs.

The following tables present the details of AROs which are included on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets in Other deferred credits and other liabilities (in millions):

| | December 31, 2022 | Liabilities Incurred | Liabilities Settled | Accretion | Revisions to Prior Estimates | December 31, 2023 |
|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Electric Utilities | \$ 27.6 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 1.2 | \$ (0.1) | \$ 28.7 |
| Gas Utilities ^(a) | 61.3 | 6.7 | — | 2.3 | (2.8) | 67.5 |
| Total | \$ 88.9 | \$ 6.7 | \$ — | \$ 3.5 | \$ (2.9) | \$ 96.2 |

| | December 31, 2021 | Liabilities Incurred | Liabilities Settled | Accretion | Revisions to Prior Estimates | December 31, 2022 |
|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Electric Utilities | \$ 30.1 | \$ — | \$ (3.0) | \$ 1.4 | \$ (0.9) | \$ 27.6 |
| Gas Utilities ^(a) | 45.5 | — | (0.2) | 2.0 | 14.0 | 61.3 |
| Total | \$ 75.6 | \$ — | \$ (3.2) | \$ 3.4 | \$ 13.1 | \$ 88.9 |

- (a) The Revisions to Prior Estimates were primarily driven by changes in estimates associated with natural gas wells and compressor stations.

We also have legally required AROs related to certain assets within our electric transmission and distribution systems. These retirement obligations are pursuant to an easement or franchise agreement and are only required if we discontinue our utility service under such easement or franchise agreement. Accordingly, it is not possible to estimate a time period when these obligations could be settled, and therefore, a liability for the cost of these obligations cannot be measured at this time.

(8) FINANCING**Shelf Registration Statement**

We maintain an effective shelf registration statement with the SEC under which we may issue, from time to time, an unspecified amount of senior debt securities, subordinate debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, warrants and other securities. In anticipation of the approaching expiration of our previous shelf registration statement on Form S-3 originally filed on August 4, 2020 (Registration No. 333-240320), we filed a new shelf registration statement on Form S-3 on June 16, 2023 (Registration No. 333-272739).

Short-term debtRevolving Credit Facility and CP Program

On May 9, 2023, we amended and restated our corporate Revolving Credit Facility, which replaced LIBOR as a benchmark interest rate with the SOFR. The adoption of SOFR as a benchmark interest rate was in advance of the scheduled elimination of LIBOR as a benchmark interest rate on June 30, 2023. No other significant terms or conditions, including borrowing capacity, credit spreads or financial covenants were modified under these amendments and restatements.

We have a \$750 million Revolving Credit Facility that matures on July 19, 2026, with two one-year extension options (subject to consent from lenders). This facility includes an accordion feature that allows us to increase total commitments up to \$1.0 billion with the consent of the administrative agent, the issuing agents and each bank increasing or providing a new commitment. Borrowings continue to be available under a base rate or various SOFR rate options. The interest costs associated with the letters of credit or borrowings and the commitment fee under the Revolving Credit Facility are determined based upon our Corporate credit rating from S&P, Fitch and Moody's for our senior unsecured long-term debt. Based on our current credit ratings, the margins for base rate borrowings, SOFR borrowings and letters of credit were 0.125%, 1.125% and 1.125%, respectively, at December 31, 2023. Based on our credit ratings, the commitment fee on unused amounts was 0.175%.

We have a \$750 million, unsecured CP Program that is backstopped by the Revolving Credit Facility. Amounts outstanding under the Revolving Credit Facility and the CP Program, either individually or in the aggregate, cannot exceed \$750 million. The notes issued under the CP Program may have maturities not to exceed 397 days from the date of issuance and bear interest (or are sold at par less a discount representing an interest factor) based on, among other things, the size and maturity date of the note, the frequency of the issuance and our credit ratings. Under the CP Program, any borrowings rank equally with our unsecured debt. Notes under the CP Program are not registered and are offered and issued pursuant to a registration exemption.

Our Revolving Credit Facility and CP Program, which are classified as Notes payable on the Consolidated Balance Sheets, had the following borrowings, outstanding letters of credit, and available capacity at December 31 (dollars in millions):

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Amount outstanding | \$ — | \$ 535.6 |
| Letters of credit ^(a) | 3.7 | 24.6 |
| Available capacity | 746.3 | 189.8 |
| Weighted average interest rates | N/A | 4.88% |

(a) Letters of credit are off-balance sheet commitments that reduce the borrowing capacity available on our corporate Revolving Credit Facility.

Revolving Credit Facility and CP Program borrowing activity for the years ended December 31 was as follows (in millions):

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Maximum amount outstanding (based on daily outstanding balances) | \$ 548.7 | \$ 572.3 |
| Average amount outstanding (based on daily outstanding balances) | 81.7 | 390.7 |
| Weighted average interest rates | 4.91% | 2.11% |

Deferred Financing Costs on the Revolving Credit Facility

Total accumulated deferred financing costs on the Revolving Credit Facility of \$8.9 million are being amortized over its estimated useful life and were included in Interest expense on the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income. See below for additional details.

Long-term debt

Long-term debt outstanding was as follows (dollars in millions):

| | Due Date | Interest Rate at December 31, 2023 | Balance Outstanding December 31, 2023 | December 31, 2022 |
|--|--------------------|--|---|----------------------|
| Corporate | | | | |
| Senior unsecured notes due 2023 | November 30, 2023 | N/A | \$ — | \$ 525.0 |
| Senior unsecured notes due 2024 | August 23, 2024 | 1.04% | 600.0 | 600.0 |
| Senior unsecured notes due 2026 | January 15, 2026 | 3.95% | 300.0 | 300.0 |
| Senior unsecured notes due 2027 | January 15, 2027 | 3.15% | 400.0 | 400.0 |
| Senior unsecured notes due 2028 | March 15, 2028 | 5.95% | 350.0 | — |
| Senior unsecured notes, due 2029 | October 15, 2029 | 3.05% | 400.0 | 400.0 |
| Senior unsecured notes, due 2030 | June 15, 2030 | 2.50% | 400.0 | 400.0 |
| Senior unsecured notes due 2033 | May 1, 2033 | 4.35% | 400.0 | 400.0 |
| Senior unsecured notes due 2034 | May 15, 2034 | 6.15% | 450.0 | — |
| Senior unsecured notes, due 2046 | September 15, 2046 | 4.20% | 300.0 | 300.0 |
| Senior unsecured notes, due 2049 | October 15, 2049 | 3.88% | 300.0 | 300.0 |
| Total Corporate debt | | | 3,900.0 | 3,625.0 |
| Less unamortized debt discount | | | (8.9) | (5.3) |
| Total Corporate debt, net | | | 3,891.1 | 3,619.7 |
| South Dakota Electric | | | | |
| First Mortgage Bonds due 2032 | August 15, 2032 | 7.23% | 75.0 | 75.0 |
| First Mortgage Bonds due 2039 | November 1, 2039 | 6.13% | 180.0 | 180.0 |
| First Mortgage Bonds due 2044 | October 20, 2044 | 4.43% | 85.0 | 85.0 |
| Total South Dakota Electric debt | | | 340.0 | 340.0 |
| Less unamortized debt discount | | | (0.1) | (0.1) |
| Total South Dakota Electric debt, net | | | 339.9 | 339.9 |
| Wyoming Electric | | | | |
| Industrial development revenue bonds due 2027 ^{(a) (b)} | March 1, 2027 | 3.93% | 10.0 | 10.0 |
| First Mortgage Bonds due 2037 | November 20, 2037 | 6.67% | 110.0 | 110.0 |
| First Mortgage Bonds due 2044 | October 20, 2044 | 4.53% | 75.0 | 75.0 |
| Total Wyoming Electric debt | | | 195.0 | 195.0 |
| Less unamortized debt discount | | | — | — |
| Total Wyoming Electric debt, net | | | 195.0 | 195.0 |
| Total long-term debt | | | 4,426.0 | 4,154.6 |
| Less current maturities | | | (600.0) | (525.0) |
| Less unamortized deferred financing costs ^(c) | | | (24.8) | (22.3) |
| Long-term debt, net of current maturities and deferred financing costs | | | \$ 3,801.2 | \$ 3,607.3 |

(a) Variable interest rate.

(b) A reimbursement agreement is in place with Wells Fargo on behalf of Wyoming Electric for the \$10 million bonds due March 1, 2027. In the case of default, we hold the assumption of liability for drawings on Wyoming Electric's Letter of Credit attached to these bonds.

(c) Includes deferred financing costs associated with our Revolving Credit Facility of \$1.1 million and \$1.8 million as of December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022, respectively.

Scheduled maturities of long-term debt and associated interest payments by year are shown below (in millions):

| | Payments Due by Period | | | | | | Total |
|--|------------------------|-------|----------|----------|----------|------------|------------|
| | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | Thereafter | |
| Principal payments on Long-term debt including current maturities ^(a) | \$ 600.0 | \$ — | \$ 300.0 | \$ 410.0 | \$ 350.0 | \$ 2,775.0 | \$ 4,435.0 |
| Interest payments on Long-term debt ^(a) | 179.0 | 168.1 | 162.2 | 149.6 | 132.9 | 1,052.2 | 1,844.0 |

(a) Long-term debt amounts do not include deferred financing costs or discounts or premiums on debt. Estimated interest payments on variable rate debt are calculated by utilizing the applicable rates as of December 31, 2023.

Our debt securities contain certain restrictive financial covenants, all of which the Company and its subsidiaries were in compliance with at December 31, 2023. See below for additional information.

Substantially all of the tangible utility property of South Dakota Electric and Wyoming Electric is subject to the lien of indentures securing their first mortgage bonds. First mortgage bonds of South Dakota Electric and Wyoming Electric may be issued in amounts limited by property, earnings and other provisions of the mortgage indentures.

Debt Transactions

On September 15, 2023, we completed a public debt offering of \$450 million, 6.15% senior unsecured notes due May 15, 2034. Proceeds from the offering, which were net of \$7.6 million of deferred financing costs, along with available cash were used to repay all of our \$525 million principal amount outstanding notes on their November 30, 2023 maturity date and for other general corporate purposes.

On March 7, 2023, we completed a public debt offering of \$350 million, 5.95% five year senior unsecured notes due March 15, 2028. The proceeds from the offering, which were net of \$4.2 million of deferred financing costs, were used to repay notes outstanding under our CP Program and for other general corporate purposes.

Debt Covenants

Revolving Credit Facility

We were in compliance with all of our Revolving Credit Facility covenants as of December 31, 2023. We are required to maintain a Consolidated Indebtedness to Capitalization Ratio not to exceed 0.65 to 1.00. Subject to applicable cure periods, a violation of this covenant would constitute an event of default that entitles the lenders to terminate their remaining commitments and accelerate all principal and interest outstanding. As of December 31, 2023, our Consolidated Indebtedness to Capitalization Ratio was 0.58 to 1.00.

Wyoming Electric

Wyoming Electric was in compliance with all covenants within its financing agreements as of December 31, 2023. Wyoming Electric is required to maintain a debt to capitalization ratio of no more than 0.60 to 1.00. As of December 31, 2023, Wyoming Electric's debt to capitalization ratio was 0.51 to 1.00.

Dividend Restrictions

Our Revolving Credit Facility and other debt obligations contain restrictions on the payment of cash dividends when a default or event of default occurs.

Due to our holding company structure, substantially all of our operating cash flows are provided by dividends paid or distributions made by our subsidiaries. The cash to pay dividends to our shareholders is derived from these cash flows. As a result, certain statutory limitations or regulatory or financing agreements could affect the levels of distributions allowed to be made by our subsidiaries.

Our Utilities are generally limited to the amount of dividends allowed to be paid to our utility holding company under the Federal Power Act and settlement agreements with state regulatory jurisdictions. As of December 31, 2023, the amount of restricted net assets at our Utilities that may not be distributed to our utility holding company in the form of a loan or dividend was approximately \$142.6 million.

South Dakota Electric and Wyoming Electric are generally limited to the amount of dividends allowed to be paid to our utility holding company under certain financing agreements.

Equity

Although our aforementioned shelf registration statement does not limit our issuance capacity, our ability to issue securities is limited to the authority granted by our Board of Directors, certain covenants in our financing arrangements and restrictions imposed by federal and state regulatory authorities. Our articles of incorporation authorize the issuance of 100 million shares of common stock and 25 million shares of preferred stock. As of December 31, 2023, we had approximately 68 million shares of common stock outstanding and no shares of preferred stock outstanding.

At-the-Market Equity Offering Program

As previously disclosed, on August 4, 2020, we entered into an Amended and Restated Equity Distribution Sales Agreement ("Previous Sales Agreement") to sell shares of common stock up to an aggregate of \$400 million, from time to time, through our ATM program utilizing our shelf registration statement. In conjunction with the new shelf registration statement filing discussed above, we entered into a new Equity Distribution Sales Agreement ("Sales Agreement") on June 16, 2023. We also terminated the Previous Sales Agreement on June 16, 2023. The Sales Agreement is similar to the Previous Sales Agreement and allows us to sell shares of common stock up to an aggregate of \$400 million through our ATM program.

ATM activity for the years ended December 31 was as follows (in millions, except Average price per share amounts):

| | December 31, 2023 | December 31, 2022 | December 31, 2021 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <u>August 4, 2020 ATM Program</u> | | | |
| Proceeds, (net of issuance costs of \$(0.5), \$(0.9) and \$(1.1), respectively) \$ | 48.5 | 90.3 | 118.8 |
| Number of shares issued | 0.8 | 1.3 | 1.8 |
| <u>June 16, 2023 ATM Program</u> | | | |
| Proceeds, (net of issuance costs of \$(0.7), \$0, \$0, respectively) \$ | 70.2 | — | — |
| Number of shares issued | 1.2 | — | — |
| <u>Total activity under both ATM Programs</u> | | | |
| Proceeds, (net of issuance costs of \$(1.2), \$(0.9) and \$(1.1), respectively) \$ | 118.7 | 90.3 | 118.8 |
| Number of shares issued | 2.0 | 1.3 | 1.8 |
| Average price per share \$ | 59.04 | 69.74 | 66.18 |

Shareholder Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan

Effective as of July 7, 2023, we terminated our DRSP. On July 10, 2023, we filed a post-effective amendment to amend the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-240319) filed with the SEC on August 4, 2020. The filing of this post-effective amendment de-registered all shares of common stock that were issuable under the DRSP but not sold as of July 7, 2023. With the termination of the DRSP, a direct stock purchase plan is being offered which will allow shareholders to continue making share transactions. This plan is sponsored and administered solely by EQ Shareowner Services, our transfer agent.

(9) RISK MANAGEMENT AND DERIVATIVES

Market and Credit Risk Disclosures

Our activities in the energy industry expose us to a number of risks in the normal operations of our businesses. Depending on the activity, we are exposed to varying degrees of market risk and credit risk.

Market Risk

Market risk is the potential loss that may occur as a result of an adverse change in market price, rate or supply. We are exposed, but not limited to, the following market risks:

- Commodity price risk associated with our retail natural gas and wholesale electric power marketing activities and our fuel procurement for several of our gas-fired generation assets, which include market fluctuations due to unpredictable factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, weather (e.g. Winter Storm Uri), geopolitical events, market speculation, recession, inflation, pipeline constraints, and other factors that may impact natural gas and electric supply and demand; and
- Interest rate risk associated with future debt, including reduced access to liquidity during periods of extreme capital markets volatility, such as the 2008 financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss resulting from non-performance of contractual obligations by a counterparty.

We attempt to mitigate our credit exposure by conducting business primarily with high credit quality entities, setting tenor and credit limits commensurate with counterparty financial strength, obtaining master netting agreements and mitigating credit exposure with less creditworthy counterparties through parental guarantees, cash collateral requirements, letters of credit and other security agreements.

We perform periodic credit evaluations of our customers and adjust credit limits based upon payment history and the customer's current creditworthiness, as determined by review of their current credit information. We maintain a provision for estimated credit losses based upon historical experience, changes in current market conditions, expected losses and any specific customer collection issue that is identified. Our credit exposure at December 31, 2023 was concentrated primarily among retail utility customers, investment grade companies, cooperative utilities and federal agencies.

Derivatives and Hedging Activity

Our derivative and hedging activities included in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets, Consolidated Statements of Income and Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) are detailed below and within Note 10.

The operations of our Utilities, including natural gas sold by our Gas Utilities and natural gas used by our Electric Utilities' generation plants or those plants under PPAs where our Electric Utilities must provide the generation fuel (tolling agreements), expose our utility customers to natural gas price volatility. Therefore, as allowed or required by state utility commissions, we have entered into commission approved hedging programs utilizing natural gas futures, options, over-the-counter swaps and basis swaps to reduce our customers' underlying exposure to these fluctuations. These transactions are considered derivatives, and in accordance with accounting standards for derivatives and hedging, mark-to-market adjustments are recorded as Derivative assets or Derivative liabilities on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets, net of balance sheet offsetting as permitted by GAAP.

For our regulated Utilities' hedging plans, unrealized and realized gains and losses, as well as option premiums and commissions on these transactions are recorded as Regulatory assets or Regulatory liabilities in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets in accordance with state regulatory commission guidelines. When the related costs are recovered through our rates, the hedging activity is recognized in the Consolidated Statements of Income.

We periodically have wholesale power purchase and sale contracts used to manage purchased power costs and load requirements associated with serving our electric customers that are considered derivative instruments due to not qualifying for the normal purchase and normal sales exception to derivative accounting. Changes in the fair value of these commodity derivatives are recognized in the Consolidated Statements of Income.

To support our Choice Gas Program customers, we buy, sell and deliver natural gas at competitive prices by managing commodity price risk. As a result of these activities, this area of our business is exposed to risks associated with changes in the market price of natural gas. We manage our exposure to such risks using over-the-counter and exchange traded options and swaps with counterparties in anticipation of forecasted purchases and sales during time frames ranging from January 2024 through October 2025. A portion of our over-the-counter swaps have been designated as cash flow hedges to mitigate the commodity price risk associated with deliveries under fixed price forward contracts to deliver gas to our Choice Gas Program customers. The gain or loss on these designated derivatives is reported in AOCI in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets and reclassified into earnings in the same period that the underlying hedged item is recognized in earnings. Effectiveness of our hedging position is evaluated at least quarterly.

The contract or notional amounts and terms of the natural gas derivative commodity instruments held by our utilities are comprised of both short and long positions. We had the following net long positions as of:

| | Units | December 31, 2023 | | December 31, 2022 | |
|--|--------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | Notional Amounts | Maximum Term (months) ^(a) | Notional Amounts | Maximum Term (months) ^(a) |
| Natural gas futures purchased | MMBtus | 650,000 | 3 | 630,000 | 3 |
| Natural gas options purchased, net | MMBtus | 2,850,000 | 3 | 1,790,000 | 3 |
| Natural gas basis swaps purchased | MMBtus | 1,050,000 | 3 | 900,000 | 3 |
| Natural gas over-the-counter swaps, net ^(b) | MMBtus | 3,890,000 | 21 | 4,460,000 | 24 |
| Natural gas physical commitments, net ^(c) | MMBtus | 12,582,415 | 10 | 17,864,412 | 12 |

(a) Term reflects the maximum forward period hedged.

(b) As of December 31, 2023, 2,101,700 MMBtus of natural gas over-the-counter swaps purchased were designated as cash flow hedges.

(c) Volumes exclude derivative contracts that qualify for the normal purchase, normal sales exception permitted by GAAP.

We have certain derivative contracts which contain credit provisions. These credit provisions may require the Company to post collateral when credit exposure to the Company is in excess of a negotiated line of unsecured credit. At December 31, 2023, the Company posted \$2.0 million related to such provisions, which is included in Other current assets on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Derivatives by Balance Sheet Classification

The following tables present the fair value and balance sheet classification of our derivative instruments as of December 31, (in millions):

| | <u>Balance Sheet Location</u> | <u>2023</u> | <u>2022</u> |
|---|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Derivatives designated as hedges: | | | |
| Asset derivative instruments: | | | |
| Current commodity derivatives | Derivative assets - current | \$ — | \$ 0.1 |
| Noncurrent commodity derivatives | Other assets, non-current | — | 0.2 |
| Liability derivative instruments: | | | |
| Current commodity derivatives | Derivative liabilities - current | (2.7) | (1.7) |
| Noncurrent commodity derivatives | Other deferred credits and other liabilities | (0.2) | — |
| Total derivatives designated as hedges | | \$ (2.9) | \$ (1.4) |
| Derivatives not designated as hedges: | | | |
| Asset derivative instruments: | | | |
| Current commodity derivatives | Derivative assets - current | \$ — | \$ 0.5 |
| Noncurrent commodity derivatives | Other assets, non-current | — | 0.3 |
| Liability derivative instruments: | | | |
| Current commodity derivatives | Derivative liabilities - current | (3.8) | (4.9) |
| Noncurrent commodity derivatives | Other deferred credits and other liabilities | (0.1) | — |
| Total derivatives not designated as hedges | | \$ (3.9) | \$ (4.1) |

Derivatives Designated as Hedge Instruments

The impact of cash flow hedges on our Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income and Consolidated Statements of Income is presented below for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021. Note that this presentation does not reflect the gains or losses arising from the underlying physical transactions; therefore, it is not indicative of the economic profit or loss we realized when the underlying physical and financial transactions were settled.

| | <u>2023</u> <u>2022</u> <u>2021</u> | | | <u>Income Statement Location</u> | <u>2023</u> <u>2022</u> <u>2021</u> | | |
|---|--|-----------------|---------------|--|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| | <u>Amount of Gain/(Loss) Recognized in OCI</u> | | | | <u>Amount of Gain/(Loss) Reclassified from AOCI into Income</u> | | |
| <u>Derivatives in Cash Flow Hedging Relationships</u> | <u>(in millions)</u> | | | | <u>(in millions)</u> | | |
| Interest rate swaps | \$ 2.9 | \$ 2.8 | \$ 2.8 | Interest expense | \$ (2.9) | \$ (2.8) | \$ (2.9) |
| Commodity derivatives | (1.6) | (3.5) | 2.0 | Fuel, purchased power and cost of natural gas sold | (3.0) | 2.7 | 2.1 |
| Total | \$ 1.3 | \$ (0.7) | \$ 4.8 | | \$ (5.9) | \$ (0.1) | \$ (0.8) |

As of December 31, 2023, \$5.9 million of net losses related to our interest rate swaps and commodity derivatives are expected to be reclassified from AOCI into earnings within the next 12 months. As market prices fluctuate, estimated and actual realized gains or losses will change during future periods.

Derivatives Not Designated as Hedge Instruments

The following table summarizes the impacts of derivative instruments not designated as hedge instruments on our Consolidated Statements of Income for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021. Note that this presentation does not reflect the expected gains or losses arising from the underlying physical transactions; therefore, it is not indicative of the economic gross profit we realized when the underlying physical and financial transactions were settled.

| <u>Derivatives Not Designated as Hedging Instruments</u> | <u>Location of Gain/(Loss) on Derivatives Recognized in Income</u> | <u>2023</u> <u>2022</u> <u>2021</u> | | |
|--|--|--|-----------------|---------------|
| | | <u>Amount of Gain/(Loss) on Derivatives Recognized in Income</u> | | |
| | | <u>(in millions)</u> | | |
| Commodity derivatives - Natural Gas | Fuel, purchased power and cost of natural gas sold | \$ (4.2) | \$ (0.8) | \$ 2.6 |
| | | \$ (4.2) | \$ (0.8) | \$ 2.6 |

As discussed above, financial instruments used in our regulated Gas Utilities are not designated as cash flow hedges. However, there is no earnings impact because the unrealized gains and losses arising from the use of these financial instruments are recorded as Regulatory assets or Regulatory liabilities. The net unrealized losses included in a Regulatory asset related to these financial instruments used in our Gas Utilities were \$5.1 million and \$8.8 million at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. For our Electric Utilities, the unrealized gains and losses arising from these derivatives are recognized in the Consolidated Statements of Income.

(10) FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Recurring Fair Value Measurements

Derivatives

Valuation methodologies for our derivatives are detailed within Note 1. The following tables set forth, by level within the fair value hierarchy, our gross assets and gross liabilities and related offsetting as permitted by GAAP that were accounted for at fair value on a recurring basis for derivative instruments.

| | As of December 31, 2023 | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--|---------------|
| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 (in millions) | Cash Collateral and Counterparty Netting ^(a) | Total |
| Assets: | | | | | |
| Commodity derivatives | \$ — | \$ 1.9 | \$ — | \$ (1.9) | \$ — |
| Total | \$ — | \$ 1.9 | \$ — | \$ (1.9) | \$ — |
| Liabilities: | | | | | |
| Commodity derivatives | \$ — | \$ 10.1 | \$ — | \$ (3.3) | \$ 6.8 |
| Total | \$ — | \$ 10.1 | \$ — | \$ (3.3) | \$ 6.8 |

(a) As of December 31, 2023, \$1.9 million of our commodity derivative gross assets and \$3.3 million of our commodity derivative gross liabilities, as well as related gross collateral amounts, were subject to master netting agreements.

| | As of December 31, 2022 | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--|---------------|
| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 (in millions) | Cash Collateral and Counterparty Netting ^(a) | Total |
| Assets: | | | | | |
| Commodity derivatives | \$ — | \$ 5.4 | \$ — | \$ (4.3) | \$ 1.1 |
| Total | \$ — | \$ 5.4 | \$ — | \$ (4.3) | \$ 1.1 |
| Liabilities: | | | | | |
| Commodity derivatives | \$ — | \$ 11.4 | \$ — | \$ (4.8) | \$ 6.6 |
| Total | \$ — | \$ 11.4 | \$ — | \$ (4.8) | \$ 6.6 |

(a) As of December 31, 2022, \$4.3 million of our commodity derivative assets and \$4.8 million of our commodity derivative liabilities, as well as related gross collateral amounts, were subject to master netting agreements.

Pension and Postretirement Plan Assets

A discussion of the fair value of our Pension and Postretirement Plan assets is included in Note 13.

Other Fair Value Measurements

The carrying amount of cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and equivalents and short-term borrowings approximates fair value due to their liquid or short-term nature. Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash are classified in Level 1 in the fair value hierarchy. Notes payable consist of commercial paper borrowings and are not traded on an exchange; therefore, they are classified as Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

The following table presents the carrying amounts and fair values of financial instruments not recorded at fair value on the Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31 (in millions):

| | 2023 | | 2022 | |
|---|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| | Carrying Amount | Fair Value | Carrying Amount | Fair Value |
| Long-term debt, including current maturities ^(a) | \$ 4,401.2 | \$ 4,215.6 | \$ 4,132.3 | \$ 3,760.8 |

(a) Long-term debt is valued based on observable inputs available either directly or indirectly for similar liabilities in active markets and therefore is classified in Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy. Carrying amount of long-term debt is net of deferred financing costs.

(11) OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

We record deferred gains (losses) in AOCI related to interest rate swaps designated as cash flow hedges, commodity contracts designated as cash flow hedges and the amortization of components of our defined benefit plans. Deferred gains (losses) for our commodity contracts designated as cash flow hedges are recognized in earnings upon settlement, while deferred gains (losses) related to our interest rate swaps are recognized in earnings as they are amortized.

The following table details reclassifications out of AOCI and into Net income. The amounts in parentheses below indicate decreases to Net income in the Consolidated Statements of Income for the period, net of tax (in millions):

| | Location on the Consolidated Statements of Income | Amount Reclassified from AOCI | |
|---|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| | | December 31, 2023 | December 31, 2022 |
| Gains and (losses) on cash flow hedges: | | | |
| Interest rate swaps | Interest expense | \$ (2.9) | \$ (2.8) |
| Commodity contracts | Fuel, purchased power and cost of natural gas sold | (3.0) | 2.7 |
| | | (5.9) | (0.1) |
| Income tax | Income tax benefit (expense) | 1.4 | — |
| Total reclassification adjustments related to cash flow hedges, net of tax | | \$ (4.5) | \$ (0.1) |
| Amortization of components of defined benefit plans: | | | |
| Prior service cost | Operations and maintenance | \$ — | \$ 0.1 |
| Actuarial gain (loss) | Operations and maintenance | (0.2) | (0.8) |
| | | (0.2) | (0.7) |
| Income tax | Income tax benefit (expense) | — | 0.2 |
| Total reclassification adjustments related to defined benefit plans, net of tax | | \$ (0.2) | \$ (0.5) |
| Total reclassifications | | \$ (4.7) | \$ (0.6) |

Balances by classification included within AOCI, net of tax on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets were as follows (in millions):

| | Derivatives Designated as Cash Flow Hedges | | | Total |
|--|--|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| | Interest Rate Swaps | Commodity Derivatives | Employee Benefit Plans | |
| As of December 31, 2021 | \$ (10.4) | \$ 1.5 | \$ (11.2) | \$ (20.1) |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) before reclassifications | — | (0.6) | 4.6 | 4.0 |
| Amounts reclassified from AOCI | 2.1 | (2.1) | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| As of December 31, 2022 | \$ (8.3) | \$ (1.2) | \$ (6.1) | \$ (15.6) |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) before reclassifications | — | (3.6) | (0.3) | (3.9) |
| Amounts reclassified from AOCI | 2.2 | 2.3 | 0.2 | 4.7 |
| As of December 31, 2023 | \$ (6.1) | \$ (2.5) | \$ (6.2) | \$ (14.8) |

(12) VARIABLE INTEREST ENTITY

Black Hills Colorado IPP owns and operates a 200 MW, combined-cycle natural gas generating facility located in Pueblo, Colorado. In 2016, Black Hills Electric Generation sold a 49.9%, non-controlling interest in Black Hills Colorado IPP to a third-party buyer. Black Hills Electric Generation is the operator of the facility, which is contracted to provide capacity and energy through 2031 to Colorado Electric.

Net income available for common stock for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021 was reduced by \$13.8 million, \$12.4 million, and \$14.5 million, respectively, attributable to this non-controlling interest. The net income allocable to the non-controlling interest holder is based on ownership interest with the exception of certain agreed upon adjustments. Distributions of net income attributable to this non-controlling interest are due within 30 days following the end of a quarter but may be withheld as necessary by Black Hills Electric Generation.

Black Hills Colorado IPP has been determined to be a VIE in which the Company has a variable interest. Black Hills Electric Generation has been determined to be the primary beneficiary of the VIE as Black Hills Electric Generation is the operator and manager of the generation facility and, as such, has the power to direct the activities that most significantly impact Black Hills Colorado IPP's economic performance. Black Hills Electric Generation, as the primary beneficiary, continues to consolidate Black Hills Colorado IPP. Black Hills Colorado IPP has not received financial or other support from the Company outside of pre-existing contractual arrangements during the reporting period. Black Hills Colorado IPP does not have any debt and its cash flows from operations are sufficient to support its ongoing operations.

We have recorded the following assets and liabilities on our Consolidated Balance Sheets related to the VIE described above as of December 31 (in millions):

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Assets: | | |
| Current assets | \$ 15.1 | \$ 12.8 |
| Property, plant and equipment | \$ 166.8 | \$ 178.8 |
| Liabilities: | | |
| Current liabilities | \$ 4.8 | \$ 5.4 |

(13) EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS

Defined Contribution Plans

We sponsor a 401(k) retirement savings plan (the 401(k) Plan). Participants in the 401(k) Plan may elect to invest a portion of their eligible compensation in the 401(k) Plan up to the maximum amounts established by the IRS. The 401(k) Plan provides employees the opportunity to invest up to 50% of their eligible compensation on a pre-tax or after-tax basis.

The 401(k) Plan provides a Company matching contribution for all eligible participants. Certain eligible participants who are not currently accruing a benefit in the Pension Plan also receive a Company retirement contribution based on the participant's age and years of service. Vesting of all Company and matching contributions occurs at 20% per year with 100% vesting when the participant has 5 years of service with the Company.

Defined Benefit Pension Plan

We have one defined benefit pension plan, the Black Hills Retirement Plan (Pension Plan). The Pension Plan covers certain eligible employees of the Company. The benefits for the Pension Plan are based on years of service and calculations of average earnings during a specific time period prior to retirement. The Pension Plan is closed to new employees and frozen for certain employees who did not meet age and service-based criteria.

The Pension Plan assets are held in a Master Trust. Our Board of Directors has approved the Pension Plan's investment policy. The objective of the investment policy is to manage assets in such a way that will allow the eventual settlement of our obligations to the Pension Plan's beneficiaries. To meet this objective, our pension assets are managed by an outside adviser using a portfolio strategy that will provide liquidity to meet the Pension Plan's benefit payment obligations. The Pension Plan's assets consist primarily of equity, fixed income and hedged investments.

The expected rate of return on the Pension Plan assets is determined by reviewing the historical and expected returns of both equity and fixed income markets, taking into account asset allocation, the correlation between asset class returns and the mix of active and passive investments. The Pension Plan utilizes a dynamic asset allocation where the target range to return-seeking and liability-hedging assets is determined based on the funded status of the Plan. As of December 31, 2023, the expected rate of return on pension plan assets was based on the targeted asset allocation range of 20% to 28% return-seeking assets and 72% to 80% liability-hedging assets.

Our Pension Plan is funded in compliance with the federal government's funding requirements.

Plan Assets

The percentages of total plan asset by investment category for our Pension Plan at December 31 were as follows:

| Return-seeking Assets | 2023 | 2022 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Equity | 14% | 14% |
| Real estate | 5% | 7% |
| Hedge funds | 3% | 3% |
| Fixed income | 2% | 2% |
| Total | 24% | 26% |
| Liability-hedging Assets | 2023 | 2022 |
| Fixed income | 74% | 72% |
| Cash | 2% | 2% |
| Total | 76% | 74% |
| Total Assets | 100% | 100% |

Supplemental Non-qualified Defined Benefit Plans

We have various supplemental retirement plans for key executives of the Company. The plans are non-qualified defined benefit and defined contribution plans (Supplemental Plans). The Supplemental Plans are subject to various vesting schedules and are funded on a cash basis as benefits are paid.

Non-pension Defined Benefit Postretirement Healthcare Plan

BHC sponsors a retiree healthcare plan (Healthcare Plan) for employees who meet certain age and service requirements at retirement. Healthcare Plan benefits are subject to premiums, deductibles, co-payment provisions and other limitations. A portion of the Healthcare Plan for participating business units are pre-funded via VEBA trusts. Pre-65 retirees as well as a grandfathered group of post-65 retirees receive their retiree medical benefits through the Black Hills self-insured retiree medical plans.

Healthcare coverage for post-65 Medicare-eligible retirees is provided through an individual market healthcare exchange. We fund the Healthcare Plan on a cash basis as benefits are paid. The Healthcare Plan provides for partial pre-funding via VEBA trusts. Assets related to this pre-funding are held in trust and are for the benefit of the union and non-union employees located in the states of Arkansas, Iowa and Kansas. We do not pre-fund the Healthcare Plan for those employees outside Arkansas, Iowa and Kansas.

Plan Contributions

Contributions to the Pension Plan are cash contributions made directly to the Master Trust. Healthcare and Supplemental Plan contributions are made in the form of benefit payments. Healthcare benefits include company and participant paid premiums.

Contributions for the years ended December 31 were as follows (in millions):

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Defined Contribution Plan | | |
| Company retirement contributions | \$ 12.7 | \$ 11.9 |
| Company matching contributions | \$ 17.1 | \$ 16.2 |
| Defined Benefit Plans | | |
| Defined Benefit Pension Plan | \$ — | \$ — |
| Non-Pension Defined Benefit Postretirement Healthcare Plan | \$ 5.4 | \$ 6.1 |
| Supplemental Non-Qualified Defined Benefit Plans | \$ 3.5 | \$ 3.1 |

We do not have any required contributions to our Pension Plan in 2024; however, we expect to make \$2.3 million in contributions.

Fair Value Measurements

The following tables set forth, by level within the fair value hierarchy, the assets that were accounted for at fair value on a recurring basis (in millions):

| | December 31, 2023 | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------|---------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | | | | Total Investments Measured at | | Total Investments |
| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Fair Value | NAV ^(a) | |
| Pension Plan | | | | | | |
| Common Collective Trust - Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$ — | \$ 6.7 | \$ — | \$ 6.7 | \$ — | \$ 6.7 |
| Common Collective Trust - Equity | — | 42.7 | — | 42.7 | — | 42.7 |
| Common Collective Trust - Fixed Income | — | 234.5 | — | 234.5 | — | 234.5 |
| Common Collective Trust - Real Estate | — | — | — | — | 16.4 | 16.4 |
| Hedge Funds | — | — | — | — | 8.1 | 8.1 |
| Total investments measured at fair value | \$ — | \$ 283.9 | \$ — | \$ 283.9 | \$ 24.5 | \$ 308.4 |
| Non-pension Defined Benefit Postretirement Healthcare Plan | | | | | | |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | 8.0 | — | — | 8.0 | — | 8.0 |
| Total investments measured at fair value | \$ 8.0 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 8.0 | \$ — | \$ 8.0 |

| | December 31, 2022 | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------|---------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | | | | Total Investments Measured at | | Total Investments |
| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Fair Value | NAV ^(a) | |
| Pension Plan | | | | | | |
| Common Collective Trust - Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$ — | \$ 6.4 | \$ — | \$ 6.4 | \$ — | \$ 6.4 |
| Common Collective Trust - Equity | — | 45.1 | — | 45.1 | — | 45.1 |
| Common Collective Trust - Fixed Income | — | 242.0 | — | 242.0 | — | 242.0 |
| Common Collective Trust - Real Estate | — | — | — | — | 21.5 | 21.5 |
| Hedge Funds | — | — | — | — | 8.1 | 8.1 |
| Total investments measured at fair value | \$ — | \$ 293.5 | \$ — | \$ 293.5 | \$ 29.6 | \$ 323.1 |
| Non-pension Defined Benefit Postretirement Healthcare Plan | | | | | | |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | 7.8 | — | — | 7.8 | — | 7.8 |
| Total investments measured at fair value | \$ 7.8 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 7.8 | \$ — | \$ 7.8 |

- (a) Certain investments that are measured at fair value using NAV per share (or its equivalent) for practical expedient have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in these tables for these investments are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the amounts presented in the reconciliation of changes in the plan's benefit obligations and fair value of plan assets above.

Additional information about assets of the benefit plans, including methods and assumptions used to estimate the fair value of these assets, is as follows:

Pension Plan

Common Collective Trust Funds: These funds are valued based upon the redemption price of units held by the Pension Plan, which is based on the current fair value of the common collective trust funds' underlying assets. Unit values are determined by the financial institution sponsoring such funds by dividing the fund's net assets at fair value by its units outstanding at the valuation dates. The Pension Plan's investments in common collective trust funds, with the exception of shares of the common collective trust-real estate are categorized as Level 2.

The following investments are measured at NAV and are not classified in the fair value hierarchy, in accordance with accounting guidance:

Common Collective Trust-Real Estate Funds: These funds are valued based on various factors of the underlying real estate properties, including market rent, market rent growth, occupancy levels, etc. As part of the trustee's valuation process, properties are externally appraised generally on an annual basis. The appraisals are conducted by reputable independent appraisal firms and signed by appraisers that are members of the Appraisal Institute, with professional designation of Member, Appraisal Institute. All external appraisals are performed in accordance with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practices. We receive monthly statements from the trustee, along with the annual schedule of investments and rely on these reports for pricing the units of the fund.

Hedge Funds: These funds represent investments in other investment funds that seek a return utilizing a number of diverse investment strategies. The strategies, when combined, aim to reduce volatility and risk while attempting to deliver positive returns under all market conditions. Amounts are reported on a one-month lag. The fair value of hedge funds is determined using net asset value per share based on the fair value of the hedge fund's underlying investments. 10% of the shares may be redeemed at the end of each month with a 15-day notice and full redemptions are available at the end of each quarter with 60-day notice and is limited to a percentage of the total net assets value of the fund. The net asset values are based on the fair value of each fund's underlying investments. There are no unfunded commitments related to these hedge funds.

Non-pension Defined Benefit Postretirement Healthcare Plan

Cash and Cash Equivalents: This represents an investment in Northern Institutional Government Assets Portfolio, which is a government money market fund. As shares held reflect quoted prices in an active market, they are categorized as Level 1.

Components of Net Periodic Expense

The following table provides a reconciliation of components of the net periodic expense (in millions):

| For the years ended December 31, | Defined Benefit Pension Plan | | | Supplemental Non-qualified Defined Benefit Plans | | | Non-pension Defined Benefit Postretirement Healthcare Plan | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------|--------|--|----------|--------|--|--------|--------|
| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
| Service cost | \$ 2.5 | \$ 3.9 | \$ 5.0 | \$ 3.1 | \$ (0.8) | \$ 3.1 | \$ 1.5 | \$ 1.9 | \$ 2.2 |
| Interest cost | 17.5 | 10.8 | 9.3 | 1.5 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 2.4 | 1.3 | 1.0 |
| Expected return on assets | (18.7) | (18.5) | (20.8) | — | — | — | (0.2) | (0.1) | (0.1) |
| Net amortization of prior service cost | (0.1) | (0.1) | — | — | — | — | — | (0.3) | (0.4) |
| Recognized net actuarial loss (gain) | 2.0 | 6.1 | 7.3 | — | 0.3 | 1.8 | — | 0.1 | 0.5 |
| Net periodic expense | \$ 3.2 | \$ 2.2 | \$ 0.8 | \$ 4.6 | \$ 0.3 | \$ 5.6 | \$ 3.7 | \$ 2.9 | \$ 3.2 |

Service costs are recorded in Operations and maintenance expense while non-service costs are recorded in Other expense on the Consolidated Statements of Income.

Actuarial gains and losses are amortized using a straight-line method over the average remaining service period of active plan participants or over the average remaining lifetime of the remaining plan participants if the plan is viewed as "all or almost all" inactive participants.

Other Plan Information

The following tables provide a reconciliation of the employee benefit plan obligations and fair value of employee benefit plan assets, amounts recognized on our Consolidated Balance Sheets, accumulated benefit obligation and elements of AOCI (in millions):

| | Defined Benefit Pension Plan | Supplemental Non-qualified Defined Benefit Plans | Non-pension Defined Benefit Postretirement Healthcare Plan | Defined Benefit Pension Plan | Supplemental Non-qualified Defined Benefit Plans | Non-pension Defined Benefit Postretirement Healthcare Plan |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| | 2023 | | | 2022 | | |
| Accumulated benefit obligation at December 31 | \$ 341.8 | \$ 46.7 | \$ 51.1 | \$ 350.2 | \$ 45.2 | \$ 49.7 |
| Change in benefit obligation: | | | | | | |
| Projected benefit obligation at beginning of year | \$ 358.4 | \$ 45.2 | \$ 49.7 | \$ 478.3 | \$ 55.3 | \$ 63.5 |
| Service cost | 2.5 | 3.1 | 1.5 | 3.9 | (0.8) | 1.9 |
| Interest cost | 17.5 | 1.5 | 2.4 | 10.8 | 0.8 | 1.3 |
| Actuarial (gain) loss | 11.6 | 0.3 | 1.7 | (97.9) | (7.0) | (12.3) |
| Benefits paid | (41.9) | (3.4) | (5.3) | (36.7) | (3.1) | (6.1) |
| Plan participants' contributions | — | — | 1.1 | — | — | 1.4 |
| Projected benefit obligation at end of year | 348.1 | 46.7 | 51.1 | 358.4 | 45.2 | 49.7 |
| Change in fair value of plan assets: | | | | | | |
| Fair value of plan assets at beginning of year | 323.1 | — | 7.8 | 458.4 | — | 8.0 |
| Investment income (loss) | 27.4 | — | 0.2 | (98.6) | — | — |
| Employer contributions | — | 3.5 | 4.3 | — | 3.1 | 4.5 |
| Retiree contributions | — | — | 1.1 | — | — | 1.4 |
| Benefits paid | (41.9) | (3.5) | (5.4) | (36.7) | (3.1) | (6.1) |
| Fair value of plan assets at end of year | 308.6 | — | 8.0 | 323.1 | — | 7.8 |
| Funded status - deficiency | \$ 39.5 | \$ 46.7 | \$ 43.1 | \$ 35.3 | \$ 45.2 | \$ 41.9 |
| Amounts recognized on our Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31: | | | | | | |
| Regulatory assets | \$ 79.9 | \$ — | \$ 4.8 | \$ 78.7 | \$ — | \$ 3.8 |
| Current liabilities | — | 2.4 | 4.2 | — | 2.2 | 4.4 |
| Non-current assets | — | — | 1.3 | — | — | 1.0 |
| Non-current liabilities | 39.4 | 44.3 | 40.2 | 35.2 | 43.0 | 38.5 |
| Regulatory liabilities | 2.9 | — | 5.5 | 2.8 | — | 6.2 |
| Amounts recognized in AOCI, net of tax as of December 31: | | | | | | |
| Net (gain) loss | \$ 5.0 | \$ 1.8 | \$ (0.7) | \$ 5.2 | \$ 1.6 | \$ (0.7) |
| Prior service cost (gain) | — | — | 0.1 | (0.1) | — | 0.1 |
| Total amounts included in AOCI, net of tax not yet recognized as components of net periodic expense | \$ 5.0 | \$ 1.8 | \$ (0.6) | \$ 5.1 | \$ 1.6 | \$ (0.6) |

In 2012, we froze our Pension Plan and closed it to new participants. Since then, we have implemented various de-risking strategies including lump sum buyouts, the purchase of annuities and the reduction of return-seeking assets over time to a more liability-hedged portfolio. As a result, capital markets volatility had a limited impact to our unfunded status.

Assumptions

| | Defined Benefit Pension Plan | | | Supplemental Non-qualified Defined Benefit Plans | | | Non-pension Defined Benefit Postretirement Healthcare Plan | | |
|--|------------------------------|-------|-------|--|-------|-------|--|-------|-------|
| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
| Weighted-average assumptions used to determine benefit obligations: | | | | | | | | | |
| Discount rate | 4.99% | 5.17% | 2.88% | 4.93% | 5.13% | 2.77% | 4.97% | 5.14% | 2.79% |
| Rate of increase in compensation levels | 3.04% | 3.06% | 3.08% | — | — | 5.00% | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Weighted-average assumptions used to determine net periodic benefit cost for plan year: | | | | | | | | | |
| Discount rate ^(a) | 5.17% | 2.88% | 2.56% | 5.13% | 2.77% | 2.41% | 5.14% | 2.79% | 2.41% |
| Expected long-term rate of return on assets ^(b) | 6.00% | 4.25% | 4.50% | N/A | N/A | N/A | 3.10% | 1.70% | 1.80% |
| Rate of increase in compensation levels | 3.06% | 3.08% | 3.34% | — | — | 5.00% | N/A | N/A | N/A |

(a) The estimated discount rate for the Defined Benefit Pension Plan is 5.0% for the calculation of the 2024 net periodic pension costs.

(b) The expected rate of return on plan assets for the Defined Benefit Pension Plan is 6.0% for the calculation of the 2024 net periodic pension cost.

The healthcare benefit obligation at December 31 was determined as follows:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|-------|-------|
| Trend Rate - Medical | | |
| Pre-65 for next year - All Plans | 6.69% | 7.00% |
| Pre-65 Ultimate trend rate - Black Hills Corp | 4.50% | 4.50% |
| Trend Year | 2034 | 2031 |
| | | |
| Post-65 for next year - All Plans | 5.81% | 6.00% |
| Post-65 Ultimate trend rate - Black Hills Corp | 4.50% | 4.50% |
| Trend Year | 2034 | 2031 |

The following benefit payments to employees, which reflect future service, are expected to be paid (in millions):

| | Defined Benefit Pension Plan | Supplemental Non-qualified Defined Benefit Plans | Non-pension Defined Benefit Postretirement Healthcare Plan |
|-------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| 2024 | \$ 24.5 | \$ 2.4 | \$ 5.2 |
| 2025 | 25.4 | 2.8 | 5.0 |
| 2026 | 26.0 | 2.8 | 4.9 |
| 2027 | 25.9 | 2.7 | 4.8 |
| 2028 | 26.2 | 2.6 | 4.6 |
| 2029 - 2033 | \$ 129.7 | \$ 11.7 | \$ 21.4 |

(14) SHARE-BASED COMPENSATION PLANS

Our Amended and Restated 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan allows for the granting of stock, restricted stock, restricted stock units, stock options, performance shares and performance share units. We had 2,132,275 shares available to grant at December 31, 2023.

Compensation expense is determined using the grant date fair value estimated in accordance with the provisions of accounting standards for stock compensation and is recognized over the vesting periods of the individual awards. As of December 31, 2023, total unrecognized compensation expense related to non-vested stock awards was \$10.6 million and is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.7 years. Stock-based compensation expense, which is included in Operations and maintenance on the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income, was as follows for the years ended December 31 (in millions):

| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Stock-based compensation expense | \$ 7.0 | \$ 8.6 | \$ 9.7 |

Restricted Stock

The fair value of restricted stock and restricted stock unit awards equals the market price of our stock on the date of grant.

The shares carry a restriction on the ability to sell the shares until the shares vest. The shares substantially vest over three years, contingent on continued employment. Compensation expense related to the awards is recognized over the vesting period.

A summary of the status of the restricted stock and restricted stock units at December 31, 2023, was as follows:

| | Restricted Stock | Weighted-Average Grant Date Fair Value |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Balance at January 1, 2023 | 178,129 | \$ 67.23 |
| Granted | 110,198 | 63.33 |
| Vested | (97,084) | 67.56 |
| Forfeited | (26,556) | 65.10 |
| Balance at December 31, 2023 | 164,687 | \$ 64.81 |

The weighted-average grant-date fair value of restricted stock granted, and the total fair value of shares vested during the years ended December 31, were as follows:

| | Weighted-Average Grant Date Fair Value | Total Fair Value of Shares Vested |
|------|---|--|
| | | (in millions) |
| 2023 | \$ 63.33 | \$ 5.9 |
| 2022 | \$ 69.03 | \$ 6.4 |
| 2021 | \$ 65.64 | \$ 5.4 |

As of December 31, 2023, there was \$6.3 million of unrecognized compensation expense related to non-vested restricted stock that is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.6 years.

Performance Share Units

Beginning in 2021, certain officers of the Company, and its subsidiaries, were granted performance share units which have a three-year vesting period, do not have voting rights until vested, and are subject to three specified conditions. A market condition of relative total shareholder return and two equally weighted performance metrics of average earnings per share and the average cost to serve. Beginning in 2023, the metric of natural gas emissions reduction by 2035 was added, resulting in three equally weighted performance metrics. The units are paid 100% in common stock should conditions be met and can range from 0% to 200% of the target award. Dividend equivalents are accrued during the vesting period and paid out based on the final number of shares awarded. In the event of participant's death or retirement at age 55 or older, shares awarded vest on a pro-rata basis commensurate with the months of service performed over the three-year period.

Performance Share Units - Market Condition

The fair value of each share unit is based on the Company's closing price at December 31 of the year prior to the award and a Monte Carlo simulation. The Monte Carlo simulation is used to estimate expected share payout based on the Company's TSR for a three-year performance period relative to the designated peer group beginning January 1 of the award year. The significant assumptions included in the company's Monte Carlo simulations were as follows:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Fair value of share units award | \$77.95 | \$74.48 |
| Risk-free rate | 3.84% | 0.97% |
| Black Hills Corporation's common stock volatility | 31% | 30% |
| Volatility range for the peer group | 24-39% | 22-67% |

Performance Share Units - Performance Condition

A performance condition share unit vests at the end of the three-year performance period if the specified performance conditions are achieved. The conditions are based on the Company's average earnings per share, the average cost to serve and natural gas emissions reductions by 2035. The grant-date fair value for an individual outcome of a performance condition is determined by the closing common share price on the grant date or, beginning in 2023, the average ten-day closing common share price preceding the grant date.

The following table summarizes the performance share unit activity for the year ended December 31, 2023:

| | Performance Share Units - Market Condition | | Performance Share Units - Performance Condition | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| | Share Units | Weighted-Average Fair Value per Share Unit | Share Units | Weighted-Average Fair Value per Share Unit |
| Nonvested at January 1, 2023 | 68,474 | \$ 69.91 | 45,666 | \$ 66.19 |
| Granted | 50,440 | 77.95 | 21,615 | 71.50 |
| Forfeited | (8,167) | 73.43 | (4,627) | 68.03 |
| Nonvested at December 31, 2023 | 110,747 | \$ 73.31 | 62,654 | \$ 67.88 |

As of December 31, 2023, there was \$4.0 million of unrecognized compensation expense related to outstanding performance share/units that is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.8 years.

On January 25, 2024, the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors confirmed a payout equal to 16.21% of target shares valued at \$0.5 million. The payout was fully accrued at December 31, 2023.

Performance Share Plan

Prior to 2021, certain officers of the Company and its subsidiaries became participants in a market-based performance share award plan. Performance shares are awarded based on our total shareholder return over designated performance periods as measured against a selected peer group. In addition, certain stock price performance must be achieved for a payout to occur. The final value of the performance shares will vary according to the number of shares of common stock that are ultimately granted based upon the actual level of attainment of the performance criteria.

These performance share awards were paid 50% in cash and 50% in common stock.

The outstanding performance periods at December 31, 2023 were as follows:

| Grant Date | Performance Period | Target Grant of Shares | Possible Payout Range of Target | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| | | | Minimum | Maximum |
| January 1, 2020 | January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2022 | 35,571 | 0% | 200% |

A summary of the status of the Performance Share Plan at December 31, 2023 was as follows:

| | Equity Portion | | Liability Portion | |
|---|----------------|---|-------------------|--|
| | Shares | Weighted-Average Fair Value at Grant Date | Shares | Weighted-Average Fair Value at December 31, 2023 |
| Performance Shares balance at beginning of period | 18,105 | \$ 81.42 | 18,105 | |
| Granted | — | — | — | |
| Forfeited | — | — | — | |
| Vested | (18,105) | 81.42 | (18,105) | |
| Performance Shares balance at end of period | — | \$ — | — | \$ — |

(a) The grant date fair values for the performance shares granted in 2020 were determined by Monte Carlo simulation using a blended volatility of 18%, comprised of 50% historical volatility and 50% implied volatility and the average risk-free interest rate of the three-year United States Treasury security rate in effect as of the grant date.

Performance plan payouts have been as follows (in millions, except stock issued):

| Performance Period | Year Paid | Stock Issued | Cash Paid | Total Intrinsic Value |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2022 | 2023 | 4,958 | \$ 0.3 | \$ 0.7 |
| January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021 | 2022 | 7,582 | \$ 0.5 | \$ 1.0 |
| January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020 | 2021 | 27,515 | \$ 1.6 | \$ 3.3 |

(15) INCOME TAXES**IRS Revenue Procedure 2023-15**

On April 14, 2023, the IRS released Revenue Procedure 2023-15 “Amounts paid to improve tangible property.” The Revenue Procedure provides a safe harbor method of accounting that taxpayers may use to determine whether costs to repair, maintain, replace, or improve natural gas transmission and distribution property must be capitalized. The revenue procedure may be adopted in tax years ending after May 1, 2023. We are currently assessing the Revenue Procedure to determine its impact on our tax repairs deduction.

Income Tax Expense (Benefit)

Income tax expense (benefit) from continuing operations for the years ended December 31 was (in millions):

| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Current: | | | |
| Federal | \$ (0.8) | \$ (0.5) | \$ 0.6 |
| State | 1.0 | 0.1 | (0.7) |
| Current income tax (benefit) | 0.2 | (0.4) | (0.1) |
| Deferred: | | | |
| Federal | 30.9 | 23.2 | 2.2 |
| State | (5.5) | 2.4 | 5.1 |
| Deferred income tax expense | 25.4 | 25.6 | 7.3 |
| Income tax expense | <u>\$ 25.6</u> | <u>\$ 25.2</u> | <u>\$ 7.2</u> |

Effective Tax Rates

The effective tax rate differs from the federal statutory rate for the years ended December 31, as follows:

| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Federal statutory rate | 21.0% | 21.0% | 21.0% |
| State income tax (net of federal tax effect) ^(a) | (0.8) | 0.5 | 1.2 |
| Non-controlling interest ^(b) | (1.0) | (0.9) | (1.2) |
| Tax credits | (6.2) | (7.7) | (8.4) |
| Flow-through adjustments ^(c) | (1.7) | (1.4) | (3.2) |
| Amortization of excess deferred income taxes ^(d) | (3.0) | (2.5) | (3.1) |
| TCJA bill credits ^(e) | — | (0.4) | (3.6) |
| Other | 0.2 | (0.1) | 0.1 |
| Effective Tax Rate | <u>8.5%</u> | <u>8.5%</u> | <u>2.8%</u> |

- (a) The state effective tax rate contains the tax expense attributable to multiple statutory state rate changes in the Company's state jurisdictions. For the year ended December 31, 2023, we recognized an \$8.2 million tax benefit from a Nebraska income tax rate decrease.
- (b) The effective tax rate reflects the income attributable to the non-controlling interest in Black Hills Colorado IPP for which a tax provision was not recorded.
- (c) Flow-through adjustments related primarily to accounting method changes for tax purposes that allow us to take a current tax deduction for repair costs and certain indirect costs. We recorded a deferred income tax liability in recognition of the temporary difference created between book and tax treatment and flowed the tax benefit through to tax expense. A regulatory asset was established to reflect the recovery of future increases in taxes payable from customers as the temporary differences reverse. As a result of this regulatory treatment, we continue to record tax benefits consistent with the flow-through method.
- (d) Primarily TCJA - see Note 2 for additional information.
- (e) Primarily related to one-time bill credits of TCJA benefits delivered to Colorado Electric and Nebraska Gas customers in 2021. These bill credits, which resulted in a reduction in revenue, were offset by a reduction in income tax expense and resulted in a minimal impact to Net income for the year ended December 31, 2021.

Deferred Tax Assets and Liabilities

The temporary differences, which gave rise to the net deferred tax liability, for the years ended December 31 were as follows (in millions):

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Deferred tax assets: | | |
| Regulatory liabilities | \$ 74.0 | \$ 74.7 |
| State tax credits | 22.8 | 22.8 |
| Federal NOL | 146.6 | 192.0 |
| State NOL | 16.5 | 23.0 |
| Partnership | 12.2 | 12.8 |
| Credit Carryovers | 110.1 | 90.9 |
| Other deferred tax assets | 33.7 | 45.4 |
| Less: Valuation allowance | (15.4) | (15.5) |
| Total deferred tax assets | 400.5 | 446.1 |
| Deferred tax liabilities: | | |
| Accelerated depreciation, amortization and other property-related differences | (686.2) | (645.7) |
| Regulatory assets | (65.6) | (94.4) |
| Goodwill | (67.8) | (57.9) |
| State deferred tax liability | (84.5) | (98.2) |
| Other deferred tax liabilities | (44.4) | (58.8) |
| Total deferred tax liabilities | (948.5) | (955.0) |
| Net deferred tax liability | \$ (548.0) | \$ (508.9) |

Net Operating Loss and Tax Credit Carryforwards

At December 31, 2023, we have federal NOL and state NOL and tax credit carryforwards that will expire at various dates as follows (in millions):

| | Amounts | Expiration Dates |
|---------------------------------------|----------|------------------|
| Federal NOL Carryforward | \$ 111.0 | 2036-2037 |
| Federal NOL Carryforward | \$ 587.3 | No expiration |
| Federal Tax Credit Carryforward | \$ 110.1 | 2028-2043 |
| State NOL Carryforward ^(a) | \$ 325.3 | 2024-2042 |
| State Tax Credit Carryforward | \$ 22.8 | 2024-2038 |

(a) The carryforward balance is reflected on the basis of apportioned tax losses to jurisdictions imposing state income taxes.

As of December 31, 2023, we had a \$1.0 million valuation allowance against the state NOL carryforwards. Our 2023 analysis of the ability to utilize such NOLs resulted in no increase in the valuation allowance. If the valuation allowance is adjusted due to higher or lower than anticipated utilization of the NOLs, the offsetting amount will affect tax expense.

As of December 31, 2023, we had a \$14.4 million valuation allowance against the state ITC carryforwards. Our 2023 analysis of the ability to utilize such ITC resulted in a slight decrease in the valuation allowance.

Unrecognized Tax Benefits

The following table reconciles the total amounts of unrecognized tax benefits, without interest, at the beginning and end of the period included in Other deferred credits and other liabilities on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets (in millions):

| Changes in Uncertain Tax Positions: | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Beginning balance | \$ 11.9 | \$ 10.6 | \$ 8.4 |
| Additions for prior year tax positions | — | — | 0.5 |
| Reductions for prior year tax positions | (0.3) | (0.8) | (0.7) |
| Additions for current year tax positions | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.4 |
| Ending balance | \$ 13.7 | \$ 11.9 | \$ 10.6 |

The total amount of unrecognized tax benefits that, if recognized, would impact the effective tax rate is approximately \$6.5 million.

We recognized no interest expense associated with income taxes for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021. We had no accrued interest (before tax effect) associated with income taxes at December 31, 2023 and 2022.

As of December 31, 2023, we do not have any tax positions for which it is reasonably possible that the total amount of unrecognized tax benefits will significantly increase or decrease on or before December 31, 2024.

We are subject to federal income tax as well as income tax in various state and local jurisdictions. As of December 31, 2023, tax years for 2020, 2021, and 2022 are subject to examination by the tax authorities. With few exceptions, we are no longer subject to U.S. or state exam for years before 2020. Tax years 2017 and 2018 was open as of December 31, 2023.

(16) BUSINESS SEGMENT INFORMATION

Our Chief Executive Officer, who is considered to be our CODM, reviews financial information presented on an operating segment basis for purposes of making decisions, allocating resources and assessing financial performance. Our operating segments are based on our method of internal reporting, which is generally segregated by differences in products and services. All of our operations and assets are located within the United States.

Our Electric Utilities segment includes the operating results of the regulated electric utility operations of Colorado Electric, South Dakota Electric, and Wyoming Electric, which supply regulated electric utility services to areas in Colorado, Montana, South Dakota and Wyoming. We also own and operate non-regulated power generation and mining businesses that are vertically integrated with our Electric Utilities.

Our Gas Utilities segment consists of the operating results of our regulated natural gas utility subsidiaries in Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming.

Corporate and Other represents certain unallocated expenses for administrative activities that support our operating segments. Corporate and Other also includes business development activities that are not part of our operating segments and inter-segment eliminations.

Our CODM assesses the performance of our operating segments based on operating income. Our CODM reviews capital expenditures by operating segment rather than any individual or total asset amount. Our operating segments are equivalent to our reportable segments.

Segment information was as follows (in millions):

| Year ended December 31, 2023 | Consolidating Income Statement | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------|
| | Electric Utilities | Gas Utilities | Corporate and Other | Total |
| Revenue - | | | | |
| External Customers | \$ 853.6 | \$ 1,477.7 | \$ — | \$ 2,331.3 |
| Inter-segment | 11.4 | 6.5 | (17.9) | — |
| Total revenue | 865.0 | 1,484.2 | (17.9) | 2,331.3 |
| Fuel, purchased power and cost of natural gas sold | 200.1 | 783.2 | (0.4) | 982.9 |
| Operations and maintenance | 236.2 | 328.7 | (12.9) | 552.0 |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | 142.6 | 113.9 | 0.3 | 256.8 |
| Taxes - property and production | 37.3 | 29.6 | — | 66.9 |
| Operating income (loss) | \$ 248.8 | \$ 228.8 | \$ (4.9) | \$ 472.7 |
| Interest expense, net | | | | (167.9) |
| Other income (expense), net | | | | (3.2) |
| Income tax (expense) | | | | (25.6) |
| Net income | | | | 276.0 |
| Net income attributable to non-controlling interest | | | | (13.8) |
| Net income available for common stock | | | | \$ 262.2 |

| Year ended December 31, 2022 | Consolidating Income Statement | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------|
| | Electric Utilities | Gas Utilities | Corporate and Other | Total |
| Revenue - | | | | |
| External Customers | \$ 888.4 | \$ 1,663.4 | \$ — | \$ 2,551.8 |
| Inter-segment | 11.8 | 5.7 | (17.5) | — |
| Total revenue | 900.2 | 1,669.1 | (17.5) | 2,551.8 |
| Fuel, purchased power and cost of natural gas sold | 266.3 | 965.1 | (0.8) | 1,230.6 |
| Operations and maintenance | 244.8 | 317.3 | (13.7) | 548.4 |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | 135.9 | 114.7 | 0.3 | 250.9 |
| Taxes - property and production | 38.9 | 27.8 | — | 66.7 |
| Operating income (loss) | \$ 214.3 | \$ 244.2 | \$ (3.3) | \$ 455.2 |
| Interest expense, net | | | | (161.0) |
| Other income (expense), net | | | | 1.8 |
| Income tax (expense) | | | | (25.2) |
| Net income | | | | 270.8 |
| Net income attributable to non-controlling interest | | | | (12.4) |
| Net income available for common stock | | | | \$ 258.4 |

| Year ended December 31, 2021 | Consolidating Income Statement | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------|
| | Electric Utilities | Gas Utilities | Corporate and Other | Total |
| Revenue - | | | | |
| External Customers | \$ 830.7 | \$ 1,118.4 | \$ — | \$ 1,949.1 |
| Inter-segment | 11.5 | 6.5 | (18.0) | — |
| Total revenue | 842.2 | 1,124.9 | (18.0) | 1,949.1 |
| Fuel, purchased power and cost of natural gas sold | 248.0 | 494.7 | (0.8) | 741.9 |
| Operations and maintenance | 224.5 | 290.2 | (13.0) | 501.7 |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | 131.5 | 104.2 | 0.3 | 236.0 |
| Taxes - property and production | 35.5 | 24.6 | — | 60.1 |
| Operating income (loss) | \$ 202.7 | \$ 211.2 | \$ (4.5) | \$ 409.4 |
| Interest expense, net | | | | (152.4) |
| Other income (expense), net | | | | 1.4 |
| Income tax (expense) | | | | (7.2) |
| Net income | | | | 251.2 |
| Net income attributable to non-controlling interest | | | | (14.5) |
| Net income available for common stock | | | | \$ 236.7 |

| Capital Expenditures ^(a) for the years ended December 31, | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|
| Electric Utilities | \$ 210.7 | \$ 243.1 | \$ 285.8 |
| Gas Utilities | 371.9 | 349.5 | 383.3 |
| Corporate and Other | 7.3 | 5.1 | 10.5 |
| Total capital expenditures | \$ 589.9 | \$ 597.7 | \$ 679.6 |

(a) Includes accruals for property, plant and equipment as disclosed in the Supplemental Cash Flow Information to the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows.

(17) SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Except as described in Note 2, there have been no events subsequent to December 31, 2023 which would require recognition in the Consolidated Financial Statements or disclosures.

ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

Our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Exchange Act)) as of December 31, 2023. Based on their evaluation, they have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

Our disclosure controls and procedures are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act, as amended, is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

During the quarter ended December 31, 2023, there were no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act) that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting is presented on Page 56 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

None of our directors or officers adopted, modified, or terminated a Rule 10b5-1 trading arrangement or a non-Rule 10b5-1 trading arrangement during the three months ended December 31, 2023.

ITEM 9C. DISCLOSURE REGARDING FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS THAT PREVENT INSPECTIONS

None.

PART III**ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

Information required under this item with respect to directors and information required by Items 401, 405, 406, 407(c)(3), 407(d)(4), 407(d)(5) and 408(b) of Regulation S-K, is set forth in the Proxy Statement for our 2024 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, which is incorporated herein by reference. Information about our Executive Officers is reported in Part 1 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Information required under this item is set forth in the Proxy Statement for our 2024 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, which is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

Information regarding the security ownership of certain beneficial owners and management is set forth in the Proxy Statement for our 2024 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, which is incorporated herein by reference.

EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION

The following table includes information as of December 31, 2023 with respect to our equity compensation plans which includes the Amended and Restated 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan.

| Plan category | Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (a) | Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights (b) | Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) (c) |
|--|--|--|--|
| Equity compensation plans approved by security holders | \$ 290,266 ⁽¹⁾ \$ | — ⁽¹⁾ \$ | 2,132,275 ⁽²⁾ |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders | — | — | — |
| Total | \$ 290,266 \$ | — \$ | 2,132,275 |

- (1) 290,266 full value awards outstanding as of December 31, 2023, comprised of restricted stock units, performance shares, short-term incentive plan (STIP) units and Director common stock units. In addition, 148,163 shares of unvested restricted stock were outstanding as of December 31, 2023, which are not included in the table above because they have already been issued. We do not have any outstanding options, warrants or rights.
- (2) Shares available for issuance are from the 2015 Amended and Restated Omnibus Incentive Plan. The 2015 Amended and Restated Omnibus Incentive Plan permits grant of stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance shares, performance units, cash-based awards and other stock-based awards.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

Information regarding certain relationships and related transactions and director independence is set forth in the Proxy Statement for our 2024 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, which is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES

Information regarding principal accounting fees and services billed to us by our principal accountant, Deloitte & Touche LLP (PCAOB ID No. 34) is set forth in the Proxy Statement for our 2024 Annual Meeting to Shareholders, which is incorporated herein by reference.

PART IV**ITEM 15. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES****(a) Documents filed as part of this report****1. Consolidated Financial Statements**

Financial statements required under this item are included in Item 8 of Part II

2. Schedules

All other schedules have been omitted because of the absence of the conditions under which they are required or because the required information is included in our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto. Consolidated valuation and qualifying accounts are detailed within Note 1 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

3. Exhibits

Exhibits filed herewithin are designated by an asterisk (*). All exhibits not so designated are incorporated by reference to a prior filing, as indicated. Items constituting a board of director or management compensatory plan are designated by a cross (†).

| Exhibit Number | Description |
|----------------|--|
| 2.1 | Purchase and Sale Agreement by and among Alinda Gas Delaware LLC, Alinda Infrastructure Fund I, L.P. and Aircraft Services Corporation, as Sellers, and Black Hills Utility Holdings, Inc., as Buyer, dated as of July 12, 2015 (filed as Exhibit 2.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on July 14, 2015). |
| 2.2 | First Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement effective December 10, 2015, by and among, Alinda Gas Delaware LLC, Alinda Infrastructure Fund I, L.P. and Aircraft Services Corporation, as Sellers, and Black Hills Utility Holdings, Inc., as Buyer (filed as Exhibit 2.2 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2015). |
| 2.3 | Option Agreement, by and among, Aircraft Services Corporation, as ASC, SourceGas Holdings LLC, as the Company and Black Hills Utility Holdings, Inc., as Buyer (filed as Exhibit 2.2 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on July 14, 2015). |
| 3.1 | Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant (filed as Exhibit 3 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on February 5, 2018). |
| 3.2 | Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Registrant dated April 24, 2023 (filed as Exhibit 3.2 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on May 3, 2023). |
| 4.1 | Indenture dated as of May 21, 2003 between the Registrant and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association (as successor to LaSalle Bank National Association), as Trustee (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2003). |
| 4.1-1 | First Supplemental Indenture dated as of May 21, 2003 (filed as Exhibit 4.2 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2003). |
| 4.1-2 | Second Supplemental Indenture dated as of May 14, 2009 (filed as Exhibit 4 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on May 14, 2009). |
| 4.1-3 | Third Supplemental Indenture dated as of July 16, 2010 (filed as Exhibit 4 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed on July 15, 2010). |
| 4.1-4 | Fourth Supplemental Indenture dated as of November 19, 2013 (filed as Exhibit 4 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on November 18, 2013). |
| 4.1-5 | Fifth Supplemental Indenture dated as of January 13, 2016 (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on January 13, 2016). |
| 4.1-6 | Sixth Supplemental Indenture dated as of August 19, 2016 (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on August 19, 2016). |
| 4.1-7 | Seventh Supplemental Indenture dated as of August 17, 2018 (filed as Exhibit 4.2 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on August 17, 2018). |
| 4.1-8 | Eighth Supplemental Indenture dated as of October 3, 2019 (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on October 4, 2019). |

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| 4.1-9 | Ninth Supplemental Indenture dated as of June 17, 2020 (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on June 17, 2020). |
| 4.1-10 | Tenth Supplemental Indenture dated as of August 26, 2021 (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on August 26, 2021). |
| 4.1-11 | Eleventh Supplemental Indenture dated as of March 7, 2023 (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on March 7, 2023). |
| 4.1-12 | Twelfth Supplemental Indenture dated as of September 15, 2023 (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on September 15, 2023). |
| 4.2 | Restated and Amended Indenture of Mortgage and Deed of Trust of Black Hills Corporation (now called Black Hills Power, Inc.) dated as of September 1, 1999 (filed as Exhibit 4.19 to the Registrant's Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (No. 333-150669)). |
| 4.2-1 | First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of August 13, 2002, between Black Hills Power, Inc. and The Bank of New York Mellon (as successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank), as Trustee (filed as Exhibit 4.20 to the Registrant's Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (No. 333-150669)). |
| 4.2-2 | Second Supplemental Indenture, dated as of October 27, 2009, between Black Hills Power, Inc. and The Bank of New York Mellon (filed as Exhibit 4.21 to the Registrant's Post-Effective Amendment No. 2 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (No. 333-150669)). |
| 4.2-3 | Third Supplemental Indenture, dated as of October 1, 2014, between Black Hills Power, Inc. and The Bank of New York Mellon (filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on October 2, 2014). |
| 4.3 | Restated Indenture of Mortgage, Deed of Trust, Security Agreement and Financing Statement, amended and restated as of November 20, 2007, between Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power Company and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association (filed as Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on October 2, 2014). |
| 4.3-1 | First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of September 3, 2009, between Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power Company and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association (filed as Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on October 2, 2014). |
| 4.3-2 | Second Supplemental Indenture, dated as of October 1, 2014, between Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power Company and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association (filed as Exhibit 10.4 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on October 2, 2014). |
| 4.4 | Form of Stock Certificate for Common Stock, Par Value \$1.00 Per Share (filed as Exhibit 4.2 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2000). |
| 4.5 | Description of Securities (filed as Exhibit 4.5 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2019) |
| 10.1† | Amended and Restated Pension Equalization Plan of Black Hills Corporation dated November 6, 2001 (filed as Exhibit 10.11 to the Registrant's Form 10-K/A for 2001). |
| 10.1-1† | First Amendment to Pension Equalization Plan (filed as Exhibit 10.10 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2002). |
| 10.1-2† | Grandfather Amendment to the Amended and Restated Pension Equalization Plan of Black Hills Corporation (filed as Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2008). |
| 10.2† | Restoration Plan of Black Hills Corporation (filed as Exhibit 10.5 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2008). |
| 10.2-1† | First Amendment to the Restoration Plan of Black Hills Corporation dated July 24, 2011 (filed as Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2011). |
| 10.3† | Black Hills Corporation Non-qualified Deferred Compensation Plan as Amended and Restated effective January 1, 2011 (filed as Exhibit 10.4 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2010). |
| 10.3-1† | First Amendment to the Black Hills Corporation Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan as Amended and Restated effective January 1, 2011 (filed as Exhibit 10.5 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2018). |
| 10.4† | Black Hills Corporation Post-2018 Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan (filed as Exhibit 10.4 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2022). |
| 10.5† | Black Hills Corporation 2005 Omnibus Incentive Plan ("Omnibus Plan") (filed as Appendix A to the Registrant's Proxy Statement filed April 13, 2005). |
| 10.5-1† | First Amendment to the Omnibus Plan (filed as Exhibit 10.11 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2008). |
| 10.5-2† | Second Amendment to the Omnibus Plan (filed as Exhibit 10 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on May 26, 2010). |
| 10.6† | Black Hills Corporation Amended and Restated 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan effective January 24, 2023 (filed as Exhibit 10.6 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2022). |

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| 10.7† | Form of Stock Option Agreement for Omnibus Plan effective for awards granted on or after January 1, 2014 (filed as Exhibit 10.7 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2013). |
| 10.8† | Form of Stock Option Agreement effective for awards granted on or after April 28, 2015 (filed as Exhibit 10.8 to Registrant's Form 10-K for 2015). |
| 10.9† | Form of Restricted Stock Award Agreement for 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan effective for awards granted on or after April 28, 2015 (filed as Exhibit 10.10 to Registrant's Form 10-K for 2015). |
| 10.10† | Form of Restricted Stock Award Agreement for 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan effective for awards granted on or after January 26, 2021. (filed as Exhibit 10.11 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2020) |
| 10.11† | Form of Restricted Stock Unit Award Agreement for 2015 Omnibus Plan effective for awards granted on or after April 28, 2015 (filed as Exhibit 10.12 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2015). |
| 10.12† | Form of Performance Share Award Agreement effective for awards granted on or after January 1, 2016 (filed as Exhibit 10.6 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2016). |
| 10.13† | Form of Performance Share Award Agreement effective for awards granted on or after January 1, 2017 (filed as Exhibit 10.12 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2019). |
| 10.14† | Form of Short-term Incentive Plan for Officers Award Agreement effective for awards granted on or after January 1, 2021 (filed as Exhibit 10.16 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2020). |
| 10.15† | Form of Performance Unit Award Agreement for 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan effective for awards granted on or after January 1, 2021. (filed as Exhibit 10.17 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2020) |
| 10.16† | Form of Indemnification Agreement (filed as Exhibit 10.5 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on September 3, 2004). |
| 10.17† | Change in Control Agreement dated November 15, 2022 between Black Hills Corporation and Linden R. Evans. |
| 10.18† | Change in Control Agreements dated November 15, 2022 between Black Hills Corporation and its non-CEO Senior Executive Officers. |
| 10.19† | Outside Directors Stock Based Compensation Plan as Amended and Restated effective January 1, 2009 (filed as Exhibit 10.23 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2008). |
| 10.19-1† | First Amendment to the Outside Directors Stock Based Compensation Plan effective January 1, 2011 (filed as Exhibit 10.16 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2010). |
| 10.19-2† | Second Amendment to the Outside Director's Stock Based Compensation Plan effective January 1, 2013 (filed as Exhibit 10.15 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2012). |
| 10.19-3† | Third Amendment to the Outside Director's Stock Based Compensation Plan effective January 1, 2015 (filed as Exhibit 10.16 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2014). |
| 10.19-4† | Fourth Amendment to the Outside Director's Stock Based Compensation Plan effective January 1, 2017 (filed as Exhibit 10.4 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2016). |
| 10.19-5† | Fifth Amendment to the Outside Director's Stock Based Compensation Plan effective January 1, 2018 (filed as Exhibit 10.16 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2017). |
| 10.19-6† | Sixth Amendment to the Outside Director's Stock Based Compensation Plan effective January 1, 2019 (filed as Exhibit 10.18 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2018). |
| 10.20† | Form of Non-Disclosure and Non-Solicitation Agreement for Certain Employees (filed as Exhibit 10.8 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2016). |
| 10.21 | Equity Distribution Sales Agreement dated June 16, 2023 among Black Hills Corporation and the several Agents named therein (filed as Exhibit 1.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on June 20, 2023). |
| 10.22 | Fourth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement dated as of July 19, 2021 (relating to \$750 million Revolving Credit Facility), among Black Hills Corporation, as Borrower, the financial institutions party thereto, as Banks, and U.S. Bank, National Association, as Administrative Agent (filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on July 19, 2021). |
| 10.22-1 | First Amendment to Fourth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement dated as of May 9, 2023 (relating to \$750 million Revolving Credit Facility), among Black Hills Corporation, as Borrower, the financial institutions party thereto, as Banks, and U.S. Bank, National Association, as Administrative Agent (filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q filed on August 3, 2023). |
| 10.23† | Letter Agreement between Black Hills Corporation and Jennifer C. Landis (filed as Exhibit 10.1 to Form 10-Q filed May 4, 2023). |
| 10.24† | Non-Employee Director Equity Compensation Plan effective January 1, 2022 (filed as Exhibit 10.25 to the Registrant's Form 10-K filed on February 15, 2022). |

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| 10.25† | Form of Restricted Stock Unit Award Agreement (Non-Employee Director) effective for awards granted on or after January 1, 2022 (filed as Exhibit 10.26 to the Registrant's Form 10-K filed on February 15, 2022). |
| 10.26 | Coal Leases between WRDC and the Federal Government -Dated May 1, 1959 (filed as Exhibit 5(i) to the Registrant's Form S-7, File No. 2-60755) -Modified January 22, 1990 (filed as Exhibit 10(h) to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 1989) -Dated April 1, 1961 (filed as Exhibit 5(j) to the Registrant's Form S-7, File No. 2-60755) -Modified January 22, 1990 (filed as Exhibit 10(i) to Registrant's Form 10-K for 1989) -Dated October 1, 1965 (filed as Exhibit 5(k) to the Registrant's Form S-7, File No. 2-60755) -Modified January 22, 1990 (filed as Exhibit 10(j) to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 1989). |
| 10.27 | Assignment of Mining Leases and Related Agreement effective May 27, 1997, between WRDC and Kerr-McGee Coal Corporation (filed as Exhibit 10(u) to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 1997). |
| 10.28† | Form of Restricted Stock Award Agreement for the Amended and Restated 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan effective for awards granted on or after January 24, 2023 (filed as Exhibit 10.30 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2022). |
| 10.29† | Form of Performance Unit Award Agreement for the Amended and Restated 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan effective for awards granted on or after January 1, 2023 (filed as Exhibit 10.29 to the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2022). |
| 10.30*† | Form of Short-term Incentive Plan Award Agreement for the Amended and Restated 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan effective for awards granted on or after January 1, 2024. |
| 10.31*† | Form of Performance Unit Award Agreement for the Amended and Restated 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan effective for awards granted on or after January 1, 2024. |
| 19* | Insider Trading Policy |
| 21* | List of Subsidiaries of Black Hills Corporation. |
| 23.1* | Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm. |
| 31.1* | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a - 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes - Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 31.2* | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a - 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes - Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32.1* | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32.2* | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 95* | Mine Safety and Health Administration Safety Data |
| 97*† | Mandatory Compensation Recovery Policy dated December 1, 2023 |
| 101.INS* | Inline XBRL Instance Document - the instance document does not appear in the Interactive Data File because its XBRL tags are embedded within the Inline XBRL document |
| 101.SCH* | Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema with Embedded Linkbases Document |
| 104* | Cover Page Interactive Data File (formatted as Inline XBRL and contained in Exhibit 101) |

ITEM 16. FORM 10-K SUMMARY

None.

INVESTOR INFORMATION

Common Stock

Transfer Agent, Registrar &
Dividend Disbursing Agent
EQ Shareowner Services
P.O. Box 64854
St. Paul, MN 55164-0854
800-468-9716
www.shareowneronline.com

Senior Unsecured Notes — Black Hills Corporation

Computershare Trust Company, N.A.
Corporate Trust
WF 8113
P.O. Box 1450
Minneapolis, MN 55485

First Mortgage Bonds — Black Hills Power, Inc.

The Bank of New York Mellon
Corporate Trust, CF
101 Barclay 7 West
New York, NY 10286

First Mortgage Bonds — Cheyenne Light, Fuel & Power

Computershare Trust Company, N.A.
Corporate Trust
WF 8113
P.O. Box 1450
Minneapolis, MN 55485

Industrial Development Revenue Bonds — Cheyenne Light, Fuel & Power

Trustee & Paying Agent
Corporate Trust Services
US Bank National Association
EP-MN-WN3L
60 Livingston Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55107

Corporate Offices

Black Hills Corporation
P.O. Box 1400
7001 Mount Rushmore Road
Rapid City, SD 57709
605-721-1700
www.blackhillscorp.com

2024 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders will be held at Horizon Point, the Company's corporate headquarters at 7001 Mount Rushmore Road, Rapid City, South Dakota, at 9:30 a.m. local time on Tuesday, April 23, 2024. Prior to the meeting, formal notice, proxy statement and proxy will be mailed to shareholders.

Market for Equity Securities

The Company's Common Stock (\$1 par value) is traded on the New York Stock Exchange. Quotations for the Common Stock are reported under the symbol BKH. The continued interest and support of equity owners are appreciated. The Company has declared Common Stock dividends payable in each year since its incorporation in 1941. Regular quarterly dividends when declared are normally payable on March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1.

Internet Account Access

Registered shareholders can access their accounts electronically at www.shareowneronline.com. Shareowner Online allows shareholders to view their account balance, dividend information, reinvestment details and much more. The transfer agent maintains stockholder account access.

Direct Deposit of Dividends

We encourage you to consider the direct deposit of your dividends. With direct deposit, your quarterly dividend payment can be automatically transferred on the dividend payment date to the bank, savings and loan,

or credit union of your choice. Direct deposit assures payments are credited to shareholders' accounts without delay. A form is attached to your dividend check where you can request information about this method of payment. Questions regarding direct deposit should be directed to EQ Shareowner Services.

Dividend Reinvestment and Direct Stock Purchase Plan

A Dividend Reinvestment and Direct Stock Purchase Plan provides interested investors the opportunity to purchase shares of the Company's Common Stock and to reinvest all or a percentage of their dividends. For complete details, including enrollment, contact the transfer agent, EQ Shareowner Services. Plan information is also available at www.shareowneronline.com.

Website Access to Reports

The reports we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission are available free of charge at our website www.blackhillscorp.com as soon as reasonably practicable after they are filed. In addition, the charters of our Audit, Governance and Compensation Committees are located on our website along with our Code of Business Conduct, Code of Ethics for our Chief Executive Officer and Senior Finance Officer, Corporate Governance Guidelines of our Board of Directors, and Policy for Director Independence.

