

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF BLACK HILLS NEBRASKA GAS, LLC, d/b/a BLACK HILLS ENERGY, RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA, SEEKING A GENERAL RATE INCREASE.))))))	Application No. NG-124 PETITION FOR FORMAL INTERVENTION AND PROTEST (Nebraska Public Advocate)
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Pursuant to Neb. Admin.Code Title 291, Chpt. 1, §002.12C, the Nebraska Public Advocate hereby files her Formal Intervention and Protest in the above-captioned matter to become a party for all purposes regarding the application by Black Hills Nebraska Gas, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy for general rate increase (“the Application”). As desired by §002.12C5, the Nebraska Public Advocate states as follows:

1. Correspondence or communications regarding this Intervention and Protest, including service of all notices and orders of the Nebraska Public Service Commission should be addressed to:

Chris Dibbern, #17286
9411 Thornwood Drive
Lincoln, NE 68512
(402) 432-1706
DibbernLaw@gmail.com
2. The interest of the Protestant is predicated upon her statutory duties as Public Advocate to represent the interests of Nebraska citizens and all classes of jurisdictional utility ratepayers, other than high volume ratepayers, in matters involving jurisdictional utilities and to investigate the legality and reasonableness of rates, charges, and practices of jurisdictional utilities. Neb. Rev. Stat. §66-1831 authorizes the Public Advocate to

represent and appear for ratepayers and the public in any proceedings before the Commission concerning such utilities. The grounds of the protest include, but are not limited to, the Application generally, the calculation of proposed rate base, the nature, level and structure of proposed rates, the treatment of regulatory assets as described in the Application, and adjustment of proposed riders and surcharges. It is in the position of the Public Advocate that the Application requires a full review of all testimony, submittals and exhibits in order to determine the appropriate form and level of rates and the tariffs to which Nebraska natural gas utility ratepayers should be subject and an order entered accordingly by the Commission. There is need for the Public Advocate to participate fully in these proceedings and this statutory duty cannot be performed adequately by any other party hereto.

The grounds upon which the intervention is made include, but are not limited to, the need of the Nebraska Public Advocate to be informed of prospective changes to rates, charges and practices of jurisdictional utilities, as falling within the statutory responsibilities of the Nebraska Public Advocate and to establish the need for the Nebraska Public Advocate to participate fully in these proceedings. This statutory duty cannot be performed by any other party in the proceeding.

WHEREFORE, the Nebraska Public Advocate hereby respectfully submits this Intervention and Protest to the Application, and, after full examination of the Application and after the receipt of testimony and the conduct of a hearing thereon, requests that the Commission enter an order establishing the just and reasonable rates to be charged to all classes of jurisdictional ratepayers served by the Applicant.

DATED this 5th day of May, 2025.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC ADVOCATE

By: *CS* Chris Dibbern

Chris Dibbern, #17286
9411 Thornwood Drive
Lincoln, NE 68512
(402) 432-1706
DibbernLaw@gmail.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of “Public Advocate’s Protest was served electronically on this 5th day of May, 2025, upon the following:

Thomas Golden Executive Director
Nebraska Public Service Commission
thomas.golden@nebraska.gov

Jonathan Smith, Nichole Mulcahy, Deena Ackerman
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By: *CS* Chris Dibbern

Chris Dibbern, #17286