

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE)	
APPLICATION OF BLACK HILLS)	Application No. NG-0109
NEBRASKA GAS, LLC d/b/a)	
BLACK HILLS ENERGY, RAPID CITY,)	PROTEST
SOUTH DAKOTA, SEEKING)	(Public Advocate)
APPROVAL OF A GENERAL RATE)	
INCREASE.)	

Pursuant to Neb. Admin. Code Title 291, Chpt. 1, §002.12C, the Nebraska Public Advocate hereby files his 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 a general rate increase (“the Application”). As required by §002.12C5, the Nebraska Public Advocate states as follows:

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

William F. Austin
Nebraska Public Advocate
Blake|Austin Law Firm, LLP
Cornhusker Plaza
301 South 13th Street, Suite 101
Lincoln NE 68508
Telephone: (402) 480-7003
Email: waustin@blakeaustinlaw.com

2. The interest of the Protestant is predicated upon his 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 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 a need for the Public Advocate to participate fully in these proceedings and this statutory duty cannot be performed adequately by any other party hereto.

WHEREFORE, the Nebraska Public Advocate hereby respectfully submits this 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 10th day of June, 2020.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE

By: 
William F. Austin, #10140
Blake|Austin Law Firm, LLP
Cornhusker Plaza
301 South 13th Street, Suite 101
Lincoln NE 68508
(402) 480-7003
waustin@blakeaustinlaw.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of Public Advocate's Protest was served electronically on this 10~~th~~th day of June, 2020, upon the following:

Mike Hybl
Nebraska Public Service Commission
mike.hybl@nebraska.gov

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Nebraska Public Service Commission
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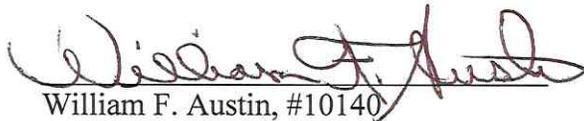
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