

OMB APPROVAL

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### INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>SMITH DAVID S</u>	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) <u>08/30/2004</u>	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>BLACK HILLS CORP /SD/ [ BKH ]</u>	
		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director _____ 10% Owner _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <u>VP - Controller</u>	5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)
(Last) (First) (Middle) <u>PO BOX 1400</u>		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person	
(Street) <u>RAPID CITY SD 577091400</u>			
(City) (State) (Zip)			

#### Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
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#### Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			
Option (Right to Buy)	08/30/2005	08/30/2014	Common Stock	1,666	27.75	D	
Option (Right to Buy)	08/30/2006	08/30/2014	Common Stock	1,667	27.75	D	
Option (Right to Buy)	08/30/2007	08/30/2014	Common Stock	1,667	27.75	D	

Explanation of Responses:

/s/ Smith, David S

09/08/2004

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5 (b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.

## CONFIRMING STATEMENT

This statement confirms that the undersigned has authorized and designated each of Steven J. Helmers, Mark T. Thies, Roxann R. Basham and Lorna G. Zacher, signing singly, to execute and file on the undersigned's behalf all Forms 3, 4 and 5 (including any amendments thereto) that the undersigned may be required to file with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission as a result of the undersigned's ownership of or transactions in securities of Black Hills Corporation (the "Company"). The authority of Steven J. Helmers, Mark T. Thies, Roxann R. Basham and Lorna G. Zacher, under this Statement shall continue until the undersigned is no longer required to file Forms 3, 4 and 5 with regard to the undersigned's ownership of or transactions in securities of the Company, unless earlier revoked in writing. The undersigned acknowledges that Steven J. Helmers, Mark T. Thies, Roxann R. Basham and Lorna G. Zacher, are not assuming, nor is the Company assuming, any of the undersigned's responsibilities to comply with Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

Date: September 7, 2004

/s/David S. Smith

Name: David S. Smith