
**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

**CURRENT REPORT
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) December 15, 2016

Commission
File Number

Registrant; State of Incorporation
Address; and Telephone Number

I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.

001-31303

BLACK HILLS CORPORATION

46-0458824

(A South Dakota Corporation)
625 Ninth Street
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701
Telephone 605.721.1700

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

Black Hills Corporation (the “Company”) regrets to report the death of one of its directors, Gary L. Pechota, who passed away unexpectedly on December 15, 2016. Mr. Pechota served on the Company’s Board of Directors since 2007. He also served on the Audit Committee and the Governance Committee.

The press release is attached as Exhibit 99 to this Form 8-K.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(a) Exhibits

99 Press release dated December 15, 2016.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

BLACK HILLS CORPORATION, Registrant

By: /s/ Brian G. Iverson

Brian G. Iverson
Senior Vice President
and General Counsel

Date: December 21, 2016



Black Hills Corp. Mourns Passing of Board Member

RAPID CITY, S.D. - Dec. 21, 2016 - Black Hills Corp. (NYSE: BKH) today reported that Gary L. Pechota, a member of its Board of Directors, unexpectedly passed away at age 67, on Dec. 15, 2016.

David R. Emery, chairman and CEO of Black Hills Corp., said, "We are deeply saddened by Gary's untimely passing and extend our sincere condolences to his family." Mr. Pechota served on the Company's Board since 2007, and served on the Company's Audit and Governance Committees.

Black Hills Corporation

Black Hills Corp. (NYSE: BKH) is a customer focused, growth-oriented utility company with a tradition of improving life with energy and a vision to be the energy partner of choice. Based in Rapid City, South Dakota, the company serves 1.2 million natural gas and electric utility customers in eight states: Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. The company also generates wholesale electricity and produces natural gas, oil and coal. More information is available at www.blackhillscorp.com.

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