

STATE OF COLORADO

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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James K. Tarpey, Commissioner
Matt Baker, Commissioner
Doug Dean, Director

Department of Regulatory Agencies

D. Rico Munn
Executive Director



Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

News Release Contacts:

Terry Bote, 303-894-2827

Deborah Collette, 303-894-2046

PUC APPROVES SALE OF AQUILA'S COLORADO UTILITY OPERATIONS TO BLACK HILLS

DENVER – The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) today approved the sale and transfer of Aquila Inc.'s electric and natural gas utility operations in Colorado to Black Hills Corporation of South Dakota.

The transfer is part of two larger transactions, announced by Aquila last year, to sell its electric and gas operations in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa to Black Hills for \$940 million, with the company's remaining electric assets in Missouri to be acquired by Missouri-based Great Plains Energy. The transactions require various state and federal approvals.

In Colorado, Aquila serves about 92,000 electric customers in 21 communities, including Pueblo, Canon City, Rocky Ford and Florence. It also provides natural gas service to about 64,000 customers in 27 communities, including Castle Rock, Larkspur, Monument, Widefield and Woodland Park.

Black Hills provides retail natural gas and electric service to approximately 137,000 customers in South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana. The acquisitions in Colorado and the three other states will add about 616,000 new utility customers to Black Hills' overall operations.

Rates for Aquila's Colorado customers will not change as a result of the transfer, which is expected to close later this year.

DORA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. Consumer protection is our mission.

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1560 Broadway, Suite 250, Denver, Colorado 80202, 303-894-2000

www.dora.state.co.us/puc
TTY Users 711 (Relay Colorado)
Permit and Insurance (Outside Denver) 1-800-888-0170
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Transportation Fax 303-894-2071
Consumer Affairs (Outside Denver) 1-800-456-0858

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