BLACK HILLS CORP /SD/

Form S-3ASR August 06, 2014

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 6, 2014.

Registration No. 333-____

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

BLACK HILLS CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

South Dakota 46-0458824

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or

organization)

(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

625 Ninth Street

Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

(605) 721-1700

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Steven J. Helmers, Esq.

Senior Vice President and General Counsel

625 Ninth Street

Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

(605) 721-2303

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

WITH COPIES TO:

Sonia A Shewchuk, Esq.

Faegre Baker Daniels LLP

2200 Wells Fargo Center

90 South Seventh Street

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

(612) 766-7000

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement.

If the only securities being registered on this form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box. []

If any of the securities being registered on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box. [X]

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. []

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. []

If this form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box. [X]

If this form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box. []

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b 2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one)

Non-accelerated filer []

 $Large\ accelerated\ filer\ [\] \qquad (Do\ not\ check\ if\ a\ smaller \qquad Smaller\ reporting\ company\ [\]$

reporting company)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered(1)	Proposed maximum offering price per share(2)	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price(2)	Amount of registration fee
Common stock, par value \$1.00	260,000	\$51.70	\$13,442,000	\$1,731
Common stock, par value \$1.00	240,000	N/A	N/A	(3)

Pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), the number of shares being (1) registered shall be adjusted to include any additional shares that may become issuable as a result of stock splits,

(1) registered shall be adjusted to include any additional shares that may become issuable as a result of stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.

Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the amount of the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(c) under the

(2) Securities Act, on the basis of the average of the high and low prices of the Common Stock reported on the New York Stock Exchange on August 4, 2014.

These securities represent a portion of the 500,000 shares of common stock previously registered on Registration (3) Statement No. 333-176139, which was filed on August 8, 2011. The registration fee for these securities was paid

and is transferred and carried forward to this registration statement pursuant to Rule 415(a)(6) under the Securities Act with respect to 240,000 shares of common stock that remain unsold under such earlier Registration Statement.

PROSPECTUS
BLACK HILLS CORPORATION
625 Ninth Street
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701
(605) 721-1700

Dividend Reinvestment and Direct Stock Purchase Plan Common Stock (\$1.00 Par Value)

CUSIP 092113 10 9

Our Dividend Reinvestment and Direct Stock Purchase Plan (the Plan) provides you an economical and convenient method of purchasing our Common Stock and reinvesting cash dividends in shares of our Common Stock. Current holders of record of our Common Stock can purchase additional shares of our Common Stock by reinvesting all or a portion of their cash dividends and/or making optional cash investments. Persons who are not already shareholders can purchase Common Stock through the Plan by making an initial investment of at least \$250 or authorizing automatic monthly withdrawals from a United States or Canadian financial institution of at least \$25 per month for a minimum of ten consecutive months.

The Plan allows you to:

elect to have cash dividends paid on all or a percentage of your shares automatically reinvested in additional shares of our Common Stock;

purchase our Common Stock through cash investments made by check or automatic monthly withdrawals from a checking or savings account;

deposit all or a portion of your Common Stock certificates for credit to your Plan account;

purchase shares for the account of another person;

transfer shares to the existing account of another participant or to a newly-created account of a person not participating in the Plan;

sell shares held in the Plan and obtain certificates for shares held in the Plan; and

execute certain transactions via shareowneronline.com or by telephone.

The Administrator of the Plan is Wells Fargo Shareowner Services, a division of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Cash dividends and cash investments will be used to purchase shares of our Common Stock which, at our option, will be either newly issued or purchased by the Administrator on behalf of Plan participants in the open market. To the extent required by applicable law in certain jurisdictions, shares of Common Stock offered under the Plan to persons not presently shareholders are offered through Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC.

Our Common Stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "BKH." The price of newly issued shares of Common Stock will be the average of the high and low sale prices of our Common Stock, as reported on the New York Stock Exchange Composite Tape, on the applicable investment date. The price of shares purchased in the open market will be the weighted average price at which the Administrator acquires the shares plus a brokerage commission. The closing sale price of a share of our Common Stock on the New York Stock Exchange on August 4, 2014 was \$52.91.

This prospectus relates to 500,000 shares of our Common Stock registered for purchase under the Plan. We suggest that you retain this prospectus for future reference.

There are significant risks associated with an investment in our securities. You should read carefully the risks we describe on page 4 of this prospectus and in our periodic reports that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission for a better understanding of the risks and uncertainties that investors in our securities should consider.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is August 6, 2014.

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You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. This prospectus is not an offer to sell nor is it seeking an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus is only accurate as of the date of those documents. Our business, financial condition and results of operations may have changed since those dates.

When we refer to "Black Hills," "our company," "we," "us," and "our" in this prospectus under the headings "Risk Factors," "Forward-Looking Statements," and "Black Hills Corporation," we mean Black Hills Corporation, a South Dakota corporation, and all of its subsidiaries collectively unless the context indicates otherwise. When such terms are used elsewhere in this prospectus, we refer only to Black Hills Corporation (parent company only) and not any of its subsidiaries unless the context indicates otherwise.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus replaces and supersedes our earlier Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan prospectus, dated August 8, 2011. This prospectus amends the Plan to:

register additional shares for issuance under the Plan; add three new sale types; and revise and update certain procedures and fees payable in connection with the Plan.

The amendment and restatement of the Plan will be effective upon filing of the registration statement containing this prospectus with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC. All current participants in our Plan will automatically continue in the Plan. If you do not wish to continue participation in the Plan, you should contact the Plan Administrator.

Please read this prospectus carefully. If you own shares now, or if you decide to buy shares in the future, please keep this prospectus with your permanent investment records, since it contains important information about the Plan.

The Plan does not represent a change in our dividend policy, which will continue to depend on future earnings, financial requirements and other factors. The payment of dividends is at the discretion of our board of directors, which may change the amount and timing of dividends at any time without notice.

SUMMARY OF THE PLAN

The following summary description of the Plan is qualified by reference to the full text of the Plan which appears in this prospectus.

Dividend Reinvestment. You may elect to reinvest cash dividends on all, some or none of your shares of Common Stock. The Plan Administrator will use the cash dividends from the shares for which you elect reinvestment to purchase additional shares of Common Stock that will be added to your Plan account (see Question 11). We will pay cash dividends to you by check or direct deposit on shares for which you do not select reinvestment.

Optional Cash Investments. After enrolling in the Plan, you may purchase shares of our Common Stock through the Plan in any amount from a minimum of \$25 per investment to a maximum of \$25,000 per month. You may make optional cash investments by making a one-time debit or by authorizing automatic withdrawals from your United States or Canadian financial institution or by sending a check to the Plan Administrator at any time (see Question 12).

Initial Investment. If you are not already a shareholder of record, you may purchase Common Stock through an initial investment of at least \$250 or by authorizing automatic monthly withdrawals from your United States or Canadian financial institution and corresponding investments of at least \$25 for a minimum of ten consecutive months (see Questions 8 and 12).

Enrollment. To enroll in the Plan, you must complete and sign an Account Authorization Form and return it to the Plan Administrator or establish online access and enroll over the Internet at shareowneronline.com (see Question 7).

Price of Shares Purchased Under the Plan. The price of shares of Common Stock purchased under the Plan will depend on whether the shares are purchased directly from us or on the open market. If the shares are purchased on the open market, the price will be the weighted average price at which the Plan Administrator acquires the shares for all Plan participants plus a brokerage commission (see Question 35). If the shares are purchased directly from us, the

price of the shares will be the average of the high and low sale prices as reported on the New York Stock Exchange Composite Tape on the applicable investment date (see Question 16).

Frequency of Purchases for Dividend Reinvestment. The Plan Administrator expects to reinvest cash dividends on the applicable dividend payment date or, if the dividend payment date is not a trading day, the next trading day following the dividend payment date (see Question 17).

Frequency of Purchases for Optional Cash Investments. The Plan Administrator expects to invest initial and optional cash investments generally within five (5) trading days from receipt of your investment amount (see Question 17).

Certificate Issuance. You may receive stock certificates for any whole shares held in your Plan account without charge at any time upon request (see Question 21).

Share Transfers and Gifts. You can transfer shares from your Plan account to another person and/or purchase shares for others as a gift (see Questions 22 and 23).

Selling Shares. You may request the Plan Administrator to sell some or all of the shares held in your Plan account. You will be charged certain transaction costs such as a service fee and broker's commission (see Questions 24 and 25).

Safekeeping. You may deposit Common Stock certificates with the Plan Administrator for safekeeping (see Question 33).

RISK FACTORS

Before you decide to participate in the Plan, you should carefully consider the risks, uncertainties and any cautionary language or other information incorporated by reference in this prospectus, including the information in Item 1A, "Risk Factors," in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, as supplemented by the information in our subsequent filings, including Part II, Item 1A, "Risk Factors," in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q filed since our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K. The risks described in those reports are those that we consider to be the most significant to your decision whether to invest in shares of our Common Stock through the Plan. If any of the events described therein occurs, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially adversely affected. In addition, there are risks associated with participation in the Plan, as described below.

Risks Relating to Participation in the Plan

You will not know the price of the shares you are purchasing under the Plan at the time you authorize the investment or elect to have your dividends reinvested.

The price of our shares may fluctuate between the time you decide to purchase shares under the Plan and the time of actual purchase. In addition, during this time period, you may become aware of additional information that might affect your investment decision, but you may not be able to change or cancel your purchase authorization.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein include forward-looking statements as defined by the SEC. We make these forward-looking statements in reliance on the safe harbor protections provided under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements are all statements other than statements of historical fact, including without limitation those statements that are identified by the words "anticipates," "estimates," "intends," "plans," "predicts" and similar expressions, and include statements concerning plans, objectives, goals, strategies, future events or performance, and underlying assumptions and other statements that are other than statements of historical facts.

Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results or outcomes to differ materially from those expressed. Our expectations, beliefs and projections are expressed in good faith and are believed by us to have a reasonable basis, including without limitation, management's examination of historical operating trends, data contained in the Company's records and other data available from third parties. Nonetheless, the Company's expectations, beliefs or projections may not be achieved or accomplished. The reasons for this include the risks, uncertainties and factors described under the section entitled "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, and in any other documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus. You should consider these risks, uncertainties and other factors when considering any forward looking statement, and should not unduly rely on any forward looking statements.

Any forward-looking statement contained in this document speaks only as of the date on which the statement is made, and we undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement or statements to reflect events or circumstances that occur after the date on which the statement is made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. New factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for management to predict all of the factors, nor can it assess the effect of each factor on the Company's business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement.

BLACK HILLS CORPORATION

We are a growth-oriented, vertically-integrated energy company headquartered in Rapid City, S.D. Our predecessor company, Black Hills Power and Light Company, was incorporated and began providing electric utility service in 1941. It was formed through the purchase and combination of several existing electric utilities and related assets, some of which had served customers in the Black Hills region since 1883. In 1956, we began producing, selling and marketing various forms of energy through non-regulated businesses. We operate principally in the United States with two major business groups: Utilities and Non-regulated Energy. Our Utilities Group is comprised of our regulated Electric Utilities and regulated Gas Utilities segments, and our Non-regulated Energy Group is comprised of Power Generation, Coal Mining and Oil and Gas segments.

Our Electric Utilities segment generates, transmits and distributes electricity to approximately 203,500 electric customers in South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado and Montana and also distributes natural gas to approximately 35,500 gas utility customers of Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power Company in and around Cheyenne, Wyoming. Our Gas Utilities segment serves approximately 538,000 natural gas utility customers in Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas. Our Electric Utilities segment owns 709 megawatts of generation and 8,599 miles of electric transmission and distribution lines, and our Gas Utilities segment owns 604 miles of intrastate gas transmission pipelines and 19,998 miles of gas distribution mains and service lines. Our Utilities Group generated net income of \$85 million for the year ending December 31, 2013, and had total assets of \$3.3 billion at December 31, 2013.

Our Non-regulated Energy Group conducts business in three segments:

Power Generation. Our power generation segment produces electric power from our generating plants and sells the electric capacity and energy primarily to our utilities under long-term contracts. At December 31, 2013, we held varying interests in independent power plants operating in Wyoming and Colorado with a total net ownership of 309 megawatts.

Coal Mining. Our coal mining segment produces coal at our coal mine located near Gillette, Wyoming, in the Powder River Basin and sells the coal primarily under long-term contracts to electric generation facilities including our own regulated and non-regulated generating plants. We produced approximately 4.3 million tons of coal in 2013.

oil and Gas. Our oil and gas segment engages in the exploration, development and production of oil and natural gas primarily in the Rocky Mountain region of the United States. As of December 31, 2013, the principal assets of our Oil and Gas segment included: (i) operating interests in crude oil and natural gas properties, including properties in the San Juan Basin (with holdings primarily on the tribal lands of the Jicarilla Apache Nation in New Mexico and Southern Ute Nation in Colorado), the Powder River Basin (Wyoming) and the Piceance Basin (Colorado); (ii) non-operated interests in crude oil and natural gas properties including wells located in the Williston (Bakken Shale primarily in North Dakota), Wind River (Wyoming), Bearpaw Uplift (Montana), Arkoma (Oklahoma), Anadarko (Texas) and Sacramento (California) basins; and (iii) a 44.7 percent ownership interest in the Newcastle gas processing plant and associated gathering system located in Weston County, Wyoming. We also own natural gas gathering, compression and treating facilities serving the operated San Juan and Piceance Basin properties and working interests in similar

facilities serving our non-operated Montana and Wyoming properties. At December 31, 2013, we had total reserves of approximately 87 billion cubic feet equivalent, of which natural gas comprised 73 percent and crude oil comprised 27 percent.

Our Non-regulated Energy Group generated net income of \$18 million for the year ended December 31, 2013, and had total assets of \$0.5 billion at December 31, 2013.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "BKH." Our principal and executive offices are located at 625 Ninth Street, Rapid City, South Dakota 57701 and our telephone number is (605) 721-1700. Our Internet address is blackhillscorp.com. Information on our website does not constitute part of this prospectus.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We have no basis for estimating either the number of shares of Common Stock that will ultimately be sold pursuant to the Plan or the price at which such shares will be sold. We will receive no proceeds from open market purchases of Common Stock under the Plan. We expect to use the proceeds from the sale of newly issued shares of Common Stock pursuant to the Plan for corporate development or general corporate purposes, which may include the repayment of short-term borrowings incurred for such purposes.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

The following question and answer statements constitute the full provisions of the Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan (the "Plan") of the Company.

Purpose

1. What is the purpose of the Plan?

The purpose of the Plan is to provide participants with an economical and convenient method of purchasing our Common Stock. When we direct the Plan Administrator to purchase Common Stock directly from us, the Plan provides us with a cost-efficient way to raise additional capital.

Advantages

2. What are some of the advantages of participating in the Plan?

You have an economical and convenient method of automatically investing all or a portion of your cash dividends and/or making optional cash investments in shares of our Common Stock.

You may deposit all of your certificates of Common Stock with the Plan Administrator for safekeeping and credit to your Plan account.

You pay no commission on shares purchased when newly issued shares are purchased under the Plan.

Full investment of funds is possible under the Plan because the Plan permits fractions of shares, as well as full shares, to be credited to your account.

Since the Plan Administrator holds shares in your account in book-entry form, you will avoid the cost and risk associated with the storage, loss, theft or destruction of stock certificates. You may receive stock certificates without charge at any time, upon request.

Regular statements of account provide simplified record keeping.

You can execute certain transactions over the telephone or online.

Disadvantages

3. What are some of the disadvantages of participating in the Plan?

You will not be able to precisely time your purchases through the Plan and will bear the market risk associated with the fluctuations in the price of the Common Stock pending the investment of funds under the Plan (see Question 17). Sale of shares under the Plan are subject to market conditions, system availability, restrictions and other factors; therefore the actual sale date, time or price received for any shares sold through the Plan cannot be guaranteed (see Question 24).

You will not earn interest on funds held by the Plan Administrator pending their investment (see Question 17). You may not pledge the shares credited to your Plan account until you withdraw the shares from the Plan.

Plan accounts are not insured by the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other entity.

Administration

4. Who administers the Plan?

Wells Fargo Shareowner Services (the "Plan Administrator") administers the Plan. The Plan Administrator is responsible for enrolling new participants in the Plan, reinvesting dividends, processing optional cash investments, processing share sale requests, depositing and safekeeping Plan shares, processing requests for certificates, and issuing account statements. You can obtain information about the Plan, the Plan Administrator or your Plan account by contacting the Plan Administrator online, by telephone or in writing as follows:

Contact Information Internet shareowneronline.com

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for access to account information and answers to many common questions and general inquiries.

To enroll in the Plan:

If you are an existing registered shareowner:

- 1.Go to shareowneronline.com
- 2. Select Sign Up Now!
- 3. Enter your Authentication ID* and Account Number

*If you do not have your Authentication ID, select I do not have my Authentication ID. For security, this number is required for first time sign on.

If you are a new investor:

- 1. Go to shareowneronline.com
- 2. Under Invest in a Plan, select Direct Purchase Plan
- 3. Select Black Hills Corporation
- 4. Under New Investors, select Invest Now
- 5. Follow instructions on the Buy Shares

Email

Go to shareowneronline.com and select Contact Us.

Telephone 1-800-468-9716 Toll-Free 651-450-4064 outside the United States

Shareowner Relations Specialists are available Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Central Time.

You may also access your account information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week using our automated voice response system.

Written correspondence and deposit of certificated shares*: Wells Fargo Shareowner Services P.O. Box 64856 St. Paul, MN 55164-0856

Certified and overnight delivery Wells Fargo Shareowner Services 1110 Centre Pointe Curve, Suite 101 Mendota Heights, MN 55120-4100

*If sending in a certificate for deposit, see Certificate Deposit and Withdrawal information.

When communicating with the Plan Administrator about an existing account, you should provide your account number and a daytime telephone number. Be sure to also refer to "Black Hills Corporation."

The Plan Administrator is also responsible for purchasing and selling shares of Common Stock for participants' Plan accounts, including the selection of the broker/dealer through which open market purchases and sales of Common Stock are made for the Plan. We have no control over the times or prices at which the Plan Administrator effects transactions in the open market or the selection of the broker/dealer used by the Plan Administrator to effect open market transactions.

If Wells Fargo Shareowner Services ceases to serve as Plan Administrator, we will designate its successor.

Eligibility for Participation

5. Who is eligible to participate in the Plan?

Any interested investor, whether or not an existing shareholder of record of our Common Stock, is eligible to participate in the Plan. If you hold our Common Stock through a broker, bank or other nominee, please see Question 9 for information about how you may participate.

Regulations in certain countries may limit or prohibit participation in this type of Plan. Accordingly, persons residing outside the United States who wish to participate in the Plan should first determine whether they are subject to any governmental regulation prohibiting their participation.

Account Forms

6. What forms do I use to enroll in the Plan, request certain transactions or make changes to my Plan account?

You should obtain the proper form as described below and return it to the Plan Administrator. You may obtain these account forms by downloading the forms online or by contacting the Plan Administrator by telephone (see Question 4).

Account Authorization Form. An Account Authorization Form is used to enroll in the Plan, change address of record, select or change a dividend reinvestment option and, if you choose, authorize, change or terminate your automatic withdrawals and/or authorize automated account access.

Transaction Request Form. A Transaction Request Form is used to establish, change or terminate automatic monthly withdrawals, make optional cash investments, sell Plan shares, deposit share certificates, request certificates for Plan shares and terminate participation in the Plan. A Transaction Request Form is attached to each account statement mailed to participants.

Automated Request Authorization Form. An Automated Request Authorization Form is used to establish telephone access to your Plan account and enable you to conduct Plan transactions by telephone.

You can conduct certain Plan transactions by telephone and online without having to submit account forms to the Plan Administrator once you have established telephone or online account access (see Questions 26 and 27). Questions 7 and 28 describe how you can establish online account access.

Enrollment

7. How do I enroll in the Plan?

You may enroll in the Plan online or by completing an Account Authorization Form and returning it to the Plan Administrator.

Online. You can enroll online at shareowneronline.com. At the time of establishing online account access, you will be required to provide certain information such as: social security number(s), account number(s), company name (Black Hills Corporation) and email address in order to complete the enrollment process. After establishing online account access, you will be able to view your account online and conduct certain transactions online (see Questions 27 and 28).

Mail.