

NORTHWESTERN CORP
Form 425
February 08, 2006

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) February 7, 2006

BLACK HILLS CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

South Dakota
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

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001-31303

(Commission File Number)

46-0458824

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

625 Ninth Street, PO Box 1400

57709-1400

Rapid City, South Dakota

(Zip Code)

(Address of principal executive offices)

605.721.1700

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

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 8.01. Other Events.

On February 7, 2006, Black Hills Corporation issued a press release announcing it entered into a confidentiality agreement with NorthWestern Corporation.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits

99 Press Release dated February 7, 2006.

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

By: /s/ Mark T. Thies
Mark T. Thies
Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer

Date: February 7, 2006

Exhibit Index

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99	Press Release dated February 7, 2006