

BLACK HILLS CORP /SD/  
Form 8-K  
December 17, 2004

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

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**FORM 8-K**

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**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 16, 2004**

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**BLACK HILLS CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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**South Dakota  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)**

**001-31303  
(Commission File Number)**

**46-0458824  
(IRS Employer Identification No.)**

**625 Ninth Street, PO Box 1400  
Rapid City, South Dakota  
(Address of principal executive offices)**

**57709-1400  
(Zip Code)**

**605.721.1700  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)**

**Not Applicable**  
**(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)**

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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))

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**Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Principal Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Principal Officers**

On December 16, 2004, David S. Smith, Vice President Corporate Controller and Chief Accounting Officer of the Registrant resigned. On December 16, 2004, the Board of Directors of the Registrant named Mark T. Thies as the Chief Accounting Officer. Mr. Thies will assume the position of Chief Accounting Officer in addition to his current position of Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer which he has served since March 2000. The additional information required by Item 5.02(c) of this Form in regards to Mr. Thies is incorporated herein by reference from Item 4a of the Registrant's Form 10-K for 2003.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits**

(c) Exhibits

99 Press Release dated December 17, 2004.

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/ David R. Emery  
David R. Emery  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: December 17, 2004