

BLACK HILLS CORP /SD/  
Form 11-K  
June 28, 2007

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 11-K

ANNUAL REPORT

PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

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For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006

Commission File Number 001-31303

BLACK HILLS CORPORATION  
RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN

BLACK HILLS CORPORATION  
625 NINTH STREET  
PO BOX 1400  
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57709



***Black Hills Corporation***  
***Retirement Savings Plan***

Financial Statements as of and for the Years

Ended December 31, 2006 and 2005,

Supplemental Schedule as of December 31,

2006, and Report of Independent Registered

Public Accounting Firm

**BLACK HILLS CORPORATION RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN**

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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

To the Plan Administrator and Participants of

Black Hills Corporation Retirement Savings Plan

Rapid City, South Dakota

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the Black Hills Corporation Retirement Savings Plan (the Plan ) as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The Plan is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2006, is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements, but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. This schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. Such schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the 2006 basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects when considered in relation to the 2006 basic financial statements taken as a whole.

DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

June 20, 2007

**BLACK HILLS CORPORATION RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN**

**STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS**

**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005**

|  | <b>2006</b>          | <b>2005</b>          |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| ASSETS:  |                      |                      |
| Cash   | \$ 33,123            | \$ 34,722            |
| Investments at fair value:   |                      |                      |
| Participant-directed investments   | 56,336,970           | 48,081,057           |
| Receivables  |                      |                      |
| Employer contribution  | 30,536               | 19,420               |
| Investments transactions pending   | 8,191                | 231,823              |
| <b>NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS AT FAIR VALUE</b>   | <b>56,408,820</b>    | <b>48,367,022</b>    |
| <b>ADJUSTMENTS FROM FAIR VALUE TO CONTRACT VALUE<br/>FOR FULLY BENEFIT-RESPONSIVE INVESTMENT CONTRACTS</b> | <b>205,200</b>       | <b>174,154</b>       |
| <b>NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS</b>   | <b>\$ 56,614,020</b> | <b>\$ 48,541,176</b> |

See notes to financial statements.

**BLACK HILLS CORPORATION RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN****STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS****FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005**

|   | <b>2006</b>   | <b>2005</b>   |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS                             |               |               |
| Beginning of year   | \$ 48,541,176 | \$ 43,533,139 |
| INCREASE (DECREASE) DURING THE YEAR:                          |               |               |
| Participant contributions                                     | 4,077,598     | 3,874,976     |
| Participant rollovers   | 440,949       | 334,775       |
| Employer matching contributions                               | 1,528,361     | 1,496,152     |
| Investment interest and dividends                             | 2,390,023     | 1,570,861     |
| Net realized and unrealized gain in fair value of investments | 3,702,117     | 2,596,068     |
| Administrative expenses                                       | (9,118)       | (8,430)       |
| Distributions to participants                                 | (4,064,073)   | (2,886,701)   |
| Other   | 6,987         | (344,471)     |
| NET INCREASE DURING THE YEAR                                  | 8,072,844     | 6,633,230     |
| NET TRANSFERS OUT OF PLAN*                                    |               | (1,625,193)   |
| NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS End of Year                 | \$ 56,614,020 | \$ 48,541,176 |

\* Transfers out of the Plan are a result of the sale of FiberCom and its Subsidiaries to Prairiewave; effective June 30, 2005.

See notes to financial statements.

## BLACK HILLS CORPORATION RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS OF AND FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005

#### 1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

The following is not a comprehensive description of the Black Hills Corporation Retirement Savings Plan (the Plan) and, therefore, does not include all situations and limitations covered by the Plan. Participants should refer to the plan agreement for more complete information.

**General** The Plan is a defined contribution plan for eligible employees of Black Hills Corporation and certain subsidiary companies (the Company). The eligible employees may have a percentage of their compensation withheld and contributed to the Plan, subject to limitations, as defined. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employment Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and is designed to comply with the provisions of Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

Merrill Lynch serves as the asset custodian and recordkeeper. The Plan is administered by the Black Hills Corporation Benefits Committee (the Committee). The Committee is the trustee of the Plan.

**Eligibility and Vesting** Employees are eligible to participate in the Plan on the first day of employment.

Participants are immediately vested in the value of their pretax salary reduction contributions. Participants vest 20% per year in employer matching contributions until reaching five years of service. At that time, participants are 100% vested in employer matching contributions. Participants also become fully vested in employer matching contributions if their employment with the Company is terminated due to retirement at or after attainment of age 65, total and permanent disability, or death.

**Contributions** The maximum percentage of compensation an employee may contribute to the Plan is 20%, with an annual maximum contribution of \$15,000 for 2006, as provided by the Code. There is no limit to how often participants may change their contribution percentages. Amounts contributed are invested at the discretion of plan participants in any of the 21 investment options or individual investments as directed by the participant.

Effective January 1, 2000 (May 1, 2000, for employees covered by a collective bargaining agreement), the Plan was amended to include a dollar-for-dollar company matching contribution, up to a maximum of 3% of an individual participant's compensation. Effective April 1, 2001, there is an automatic enrollment provision in which eligible employees who are employed on or after April 1, 2001, shall be deemed to have made an automatic election to participate in the Plan at a rate of 3%.

**Rollover Contributions** The Plan received \$440,949 and \$334,775 in rollover transfers from other qualified plans in 2006 and 2005, respectively.



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**Participant Accounts** Individual accounts are maintained for each Plan participant. Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution, the Company's matching contribution, and allocations of Company discretionary contributions (e.g., participant forfeitures) and Plan earnings, and charged with withdrawals and an allocation of Plan losses and administrative expenses. Allocations are based on participant's earnings or account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

**Investments** Participants direct the investment of their contribution into various investment options offered by the Plan.

**Participant Loans** The Plan contains a loan provision that allows participants to borrow a minimum of \$1,000 and a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balances at an interest rate of 1% over the prime interest rate and to repay the loan through payroll deductions, with a maximum repayment period of five years. During 2006 and 2005, interest rates on outstanding participant loans ranged from 5.00% to 9.25%. Loans are prohibited for terminated employees.

**Distributions to Participants** Employee account balances are distributable upon retirement, disability, death, termination from the Company, or hardship. Upon the occurrence of one of these events, a participant (or the participant's beneficiary in the case of death) may receive his or her account balance as a lump-sum payment or as installment payments over a period of no more than 10 years.

**Forfeited Accounts** Forfeitures from participants who have terminated from the Plan prior to attaining 100% vesting rights are used to reduce the Company's annual matching contributions. During 2006 and 2005, forfeitures of \$132,946 and \$113,652, respectively, were used to reduce the Company's annual matching contribution.

**Amendments and Termination** Although it has not expressed any intention to do so, the Company reserves the right to amend or terminate the Plan at any time. Upon termination of the Plan, participants become 100% vested and all assets will be distributed among the participants in accordance with plan provisions.

## 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Basis of Accounting** The financial statements have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**Investment Valuation and Income Recognition** Investments of the Plan are stated at fair value. Shares of registered investment companies are valued at quoted market prices, which represent the net asset value of shares held by the Plan at year-end. Common stock is valued at quoted market prices. The fully benefit-responsive investment contract is stated at fair value and then adjusted to contract value. Participant loans are valued at the outstanding loan balance.

Realized gains and losses on sales of investments represent the difference between the net proceeds from the sale of investments and their beginning-of-year market value. Unrealized appreciation or depreciation of the investments represents changes in the market value of investments.



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Purchases and sales of securities are reflected on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recognized when earned. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date.

**Adoption of New Accounting Guidance** The financial statements reflect the retroactive adoption of Financial Accounting Standards Board Staff Position, FSP AAG INV-1 and SOP94-4-1, *Reporting of Fully Benefit-Responsive Contracts Held by Certain Investment Companies Subject to the AICPA Investment Company Guide and Defined-Contribution Health and Welfare Pension Plans* (the FSP). As required by the FSP, the statements of net assets available for benefits presents investment contracts at fair value as well as an additional line item showing an adjustment of fully benefit-responsive contracts from fair value to contract value. The statement of changes in net assets available for benefits is presented on a contract value basis and was not affected by the adoption of the FSP. The adoption of the FSP did not impact the amount of net assets available for benefits at December 31, 2006 and 2005.

**Plan Expenses** Administrative fees of approximately \$76,332 and \$73,490 were paid by the Company in 2006 and 2005, respectively. Administrative expenses for loan fees are paid by the individual plan participants.

**Use of Estimates** The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires Plan management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of net assets available for benefits at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of changes in net assets available for benefits during the reporting period. Ultimate results could differ from those estimates.

### 3. INVESTMENTS

The investment options of the Plan at December 31, 2006 and 2005, include collective trusts of Merrill Lynch, mutual funds, common stock of the Company, and other investments as self-directed by participants. Units (shares) of the various investment funds are valued daily at net asset value (which equals market value). The investment options are participant-directed and participants may change their investment elections daily.

The investments that represent 5% or more of the Plan's net assets as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, consist of the following:

|   | 2006         | 2005         |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Black Hills Corporation common stock        | \$ 8,891,312 | \$ 8,173,264 |
| Merrill Lynch Retirement Preservation Trust | 11,009,159   | 9,918,095    |
| Merrill Lynch Equity Index Trust 1          | 7,972,391    | 6,579,585    |
| Davis New York Venture Fund                 | 5,159,703    | 4,139,612    |
| PIMCO Total Return Fund                     | 3,452,343    | 3,123,037    |
| Templeton Foreign Fund                      | 4,298,646    | 3,156,307    |
| Franklin Balance Sheet                      | 3,248,671    | 2,585,151    |

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During 2006 and 2005, the Plan's investments (including gains and losses on investments bought and sold, as well as held during the year) appreciated in value as follows:

|                          | <b>2006</b>  | <b>2005</b>  |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Common stock             | \$ 547,365   | \$ 1,249,703 |
| Mutual funds             | 2,084,777    | 1,055,846    |
| Common collective trusts | 1,069,975    | 290,519      |
| Total                    | \$ 3,702,117 | \$ 2,596,068 |

#### **4. TAX STATUS**

The Plan obtained its latest determination letter on October 9, 2001, in which the Internal Revenue Service stated that the Plan, as then designed, was in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code. The Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter; however, the plan administrator and the Plan's legal counsel believe that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code and, as a result, no provision for income tax is believed necessary.

#### **5. PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS**

The Plan invests in Merrill Lynch funds and Black Hills Corporation stock. These transactions qualify as exempt party-in-interest transactions.

At December 31, 2006 and 2005, the Plan held 240,696 and 236,153 units, respectively, of common stock of Black Hills Corporation, the sponsoring employer, with a cost basis of \$6,868,044 and \$6,566,102, respectively. During the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005, the Plan recorded dividend income from this investment of \$316,532 and \$336,992, respectively.

#### **6. RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES**

The Plan provides for investment in a variety of investment funds. Investments in general are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, credit, and overall market volatility. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investments, it is reasonably possible that changes in the values of the investments will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

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**SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE**

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**BLACK HILLS CORPORATION RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN**

(EIN: 46-0458824) (Plan No. 003)

FORM 5500, SCHEDULE H, PART IV, LINE 4i

SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (Held at End of Year)

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2006

| Description   | Cost** | Current Value |
|---|--------|---------------|
| Collective trusts:  |        |               |
| Merrill Lynch Equity Index Trust 1*   |        | \$ 6,671,107  |
| Merrill Lynch Equity Index Trust 1-GM*  |        | 1,301,284     |
| Merrill Lynch Retirement Preservation Trust*  |        | 10,324,147    |
| Merrill Lynch Retirement Preservation Trust-GM*   |        | 685,012       |
| Total collective trusts   |        | 18,981,550    |
| Mutual funds:   |        |               |
| AIM Small Cap Growth Fund Class A   |        | 1,035,383     |
| PIMCO Total Return Fund Class A   |        | 1,844,398     |
| PIMCO Total Return Fund Class A-GM  |        | 1,607,945     |
| Allianz CCM MID-CAP Fund CLA  |        | 751,313       |
| Munder Framlington Health Care Fund   |        | 475,131       |
| Oppenheimer Gold & Special Minerals Fund  |        | 693,633       |
| Seligman Communications Fund  |        | 1,916,264     |
| Oppenheimer Global Fund   |        | 2,749,482     |
| Templeton Foreign Fund  |        | 3,248,074     |
| Templeton Foreign Fund-GM   |        | 1,050,572     |
| Oppenheimer US Government Fund  |        | 350,690       |
| Franklin Balance Sheet Fund   |        | 3,248,671     |
| Davis New York Venture Fund   |        | 4,016,372     |
| Davis New York Venture Fund-GM  |        | 1,143,331     |
| Van Kampen Real Estate Securities Fund  |        | 1,521,478     |
| Blackrock Balanced Capital Fund Class A   |        | 940,445       |
| Total mutual funds  |        | 26,593,182    |
| Common stock Black Hills Corporation*   |        | 8,891,312     |
| Self-directed accounts  |        | 718,846       |
| Participant loans, with interest rates ranging from 5% - 9.25%<br>Maturity dates extending through December 31, 2009* |        | 1,357,280     |
|   |        | \$ 56,542,170 |

\* Denotes party-in-interest

\*\* Cost is not required for participant-directed accounts.

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

| <u>Exhibit Number</u> | <u>Description</u>               |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 23                    | Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP |

**SIGNATURE**

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

Black Hills Corporation  
Retirement Savings Plan

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

Date: June 28, 2007

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

| <u>Exhibit Number</u> | <u>Description</u>               |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 23                    | Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP |

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