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**From:** Dowell Caselli-Smith[S] [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 05, 2014 9:29:11 PM  
**To:** PUC  
**Subject:** Re: BHP Rate Case, EL14-026  
**Auto forwarded by a Rule**

Gary,  
Thanks for your response. You are not faced with an easy task.

BHP wants a rate increase for the benefit of its shareholders through the perpetuation of centralized fuel based power generation. Its direct attack on decentralized consumer based solar generation was taken off the table but that also tables any discussion of net metering as an alternative to new plant capacity. We must change directions instead of letting them take us over the cliff. It may be too little too late but if we care at all about our kids and grandkids, we must try to switch horses even if it is in the middle of the stream! No more carbon emissions please, please, please. Thanks for hearing me out. Here's hoping you choose to make choices that give my grandkids a shot at a livable planet.

Dowell Caselli-Smith, PhD

002203

-----Original Message-----

From: Lynn langer

To: Gary Hanson

ReplyTo: [REDACTED]

Subject: Reject the Black Hills Power rate request

Sent: Oct 3, 2014 5:39 PM

Chair

Chair Hanson and Commissioners Nelson and Fiegen:

I strongly oppose the rate increase by Black Hills Power, and I urge you to deny their request. It is not in the public interest and it is not good for South Dakota. Black Hills Power tried to use this rate increase to make it harder for us to invest in our own electricity generation; it seems they are not making choices in the best interest of South Dakotans.

Black Hills Power should be investing in local energy and creating a more stable future for South Dakota's citizens and rate payers. The company knew coal was going to get more expensive, and now they're risking our future by investing in natural gas, another fossil fuel subject to price increases and further regulation.

Please deny Black Hills Power's rate increase request.

Lynn langer

[REDACTED]

002204

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**From:** PUC

**Sent:** Monday, October 06, 2014 8:43 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** BHP Rate Case, EL14-026

Lynn Langer:

This is response to your message regarding the Black Hills Power rate case currently before the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

BHP is a public utility and as such, extensive laws at the federal and state levels govern it and also govern the commission as to regulatory oversight of the utility. The utility is allowed to pass along to its consumers most of the costs it incurs in providing you and all customers with electric service. This government oversight is in contrast to most other businesses providing us with services.

When a utility files a rate case with the commission, the commission is obligated by law to thoroughly process the case. We cannot simply say no and reject it outright since we are legally required to investigate it and make a just and reasonable decision. This process can take almost a year to complete. Each commissioner, the commission's staff and expert consultants hired by staff will review the entire case – also referred to as a docket – separately, along with any intervenors in the case. We request and review additional data and information from the utility before a decision is rendered.

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My fellow commissioners and I are consumers too. We have family of several generations affected by utility costs and we understand how rate increases affect all of us. We have a strong desire to keep rates down and to protect citizens against increases. None of us want to raise rates. In fact, we hate to agree to any rate increase.

I believe your comments regarding BHP making it harder for ratepayers to invest in their own electric generation are in reference a rate change the utility decided to withdraw. Thus, as the commission won't be ruling on that request, those comments are not addressed in this letter.

Your comments and my response will be filed in the open docket so my fellow commissioners and others can read them. You can access the complete docket online at <http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2014/EL14-026.aspx>

Given your interest, I encourage you to read the key documents filed in this docket as well as submissions that continue to be posted. This will allow you to become educated on the issues in this case. Here is a document which helps explain the commission's processing of rate cases:

<http://www.puc.sd.gov/commission/Publication/electricratecasehandout.pdf>

Gary Hanson, Chairperson  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov)

-----Original Message-----

From: Lori johnson

To: Gary Hanson

[REDACTED]  
Subject: Reject the Black Hills Power rate request

Sent: Oct 3, 2014 7:51 PM

Chair

Chair Hanson and Commissioners Nelson and Fiegen:

I strongly oppose the rate increase by Black Hills Power, and I urge you to deny their request. It is not in the public interest and it is not good for South Dakota. Black Hills Power tried to use this rate increase to make it harder for us to invest in our own electricity generation; it seems they are not making choices in the best interest of South Dakotans.

Black Hills Power should be investing in local energy and creating a more stable future for South Dakota's citizens and rate payers. The company knew coal was going to get more expensive, and now they're risking our future by investing in natural gas, another fossil fuel subject to price increases and further regulation.

Please deny Black Hills Power's rate increase request.

Lori johnson  
[REDACTED]

002207

**From:** PUC

**Sent:** Monday, October 06, 2014 8:54 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** BHP Rate Case, EL14-026

Ms. Johnson:

This is response to your message regarding the Black Hills Power rate case currently before the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

BHP is a public utility and as such, extensive laws at the federal and state levels govern it and also govern the commission as to regulatory oversight of the utility. The utility is allowed to pass along to its consumers most of the costs it incurs in providing you and all customers with electric service. This government oversight is in contrast to most other businesses providing us with services.

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Gary Hanson, Chairperson  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov)

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeff geist [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, October 03, 2014 11:51 PM

To: Fiegen, Kristie

Subject: Reject the Black Hills Power rate request

Commissioner

Chair Hanson and Commissioners Nelson and Fiegen:

I strongly oppose the rate increase by Black Hills Power, and I urge you to deny their request. It is not in the public interest and it is not good for South Dakota. Black Hills Power tried to use this rate increase to make it harder for us to invest in our own electricity generation; it seems they are not making choices in the best interest of South Dakotans.

Black Hills Power should be investing in local energy and creating a more stable future for South Dakota's citizens and rate payers. The company knew coal was going to get more expensive, and now they're risking our future by investing in natural gas, another fossil fuel subject to price increases and further regulation.

Please deny Black Hills Power's rate increase request.

Jeff geist  
[REDACTED]

002210



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**From:** PUC

**Sent:** Monday, October 06, 2014 8:57 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** BHP Rate Case, EL14-026

Mr. Geist:

This is response to your message regarding the Black Hills Power rate case currently before the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

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South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Lisa spraitz [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, October 04, 2014 1:28 AM

To: Fiegen, Kristie

Subject: Reject the Black Hills Power rate request

Commissioner

Chair Hanson and Commissioners Nelson and Fiegen:

I strongly oppose the rate increase by Black Hills Power, and I urge you to deny their request. It is not in the public interest and it is not good for South Dakota. Black Hills Power tried to use this rate increase to make it harder for us to invest in our own electricity generation; it seems they are not making choices in the best interest of South Dakotans.

Black Hills Power should be investing in local energy and creating a more stable future for South Dakota's citizens and rate payers. The company knew coal was going to get more expensive, and now they're risking our future by investing in natural gas, another fossil fuel subject to price increases and further regulation.

Please deny Black Hills Power's rate increase request.

Lisa spraitz  
[REDACTED]

002213

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**From:** PUC

**Sent:** Monday, October 06, 2014 8:59 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** BHP Rate Case, EL14-026

Ms. Spraitz:

This is response to your message regarding the Black Hills Power rate case currently before the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

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Gary Hanson, Chairperson  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Kristy Ward [mailto:

Sent: Saturday, October 04, 2014 7:56 AM

To: Fiegen, Kristie

Subject: Reject the Black Hills Power rate request

Commissioner

Chair Hanson and Commissioners Nelson and Fiegen:

I strongly oppose the rate increase by Black Hills Power, and I urge you to deny their request. It is not in the public interest and it is not good for South Dakota. Black Hills Power tried to use this rate increase to make it harder for us to invest in our own electricity generation; it seems they are not making choices in the best interest of South Dakotans.

Black Hills Power should be investing in local energy and creating a more stable future for South Dakota's citizens and rate payers. The company knew coal was going to get more expensive, and now they're risking our future by investing in natural gas, another fossil fuel subject to price increases and further regulation.

Please deny Black Hills Power's rate increase request.

Kristy Ward



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**From:** PUC

**Sent:** Monday, October 06, 2014 9:01 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** BHP Rate Case, EL14-026

Ms. Ward:

This is response to your message regarding the Black Hills Power rate case currently before the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

BHP is a public utility and as such, extensive laws at the federal and state levels govern it and also govern the commission as to regulatory oversight of the utility. The utility is allowed to pass along to its consumers most of the costs it incurs in providing you and all customers with electric service. This government oversight is in contrast to most other businesses providing us with services.

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Gary Hanson, Chairperson  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Lori Wood [mailto:

Sent: Saturday, October 04, 2014 8:21 PM

To: Fiegen, Kristie

Subject: Reject the Black Hills Power rate request

Commissioner

Chair Hanson and Commissioners Nelson and Fiegen:

I strongly oppose the rate increase by Black Hills Power, and I urge you to deny their request. It is not in the public interest and it is not good for South Dakota. Black Hills Power tried to use this rate increase to make it harder for us to invest in our own electricity generation; it seems they are not making choices in the best interest of South Dakotans.

Black Hills Power should be investing in local energy and creating a more stable future for South Dakota's citizens and rate payers. The company knew coal was going to get more expensive, and now they're risking our future by investing in natural gas, another fossil fuel subject to price increases and further regulation.

Please deny Black Hills Power's rate increase request.

Lori Wood  


002219

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**From:** PUC

**Sent:** Monday, October 06, 2014 9:03 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** BHP Rate Case, EL14-026

Ms. Wood:

This is response to your message regarding the Black Hills Power rate case currently before the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

BHP is a public utility and as such, extensive laws at the federal and state levels govern it and also govern the commission as to regulatory oversight of the utility. The utility is allowed to pass along to its consumers most of the costs it incurs in providing you and all customers with electric service. This government oversight is in contrast to most other businesses providing us with services.

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Gary Hanson, Chairperson  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Wendy freier [mailto: [REDACTED]]

Sent: Sunday, October 05, 2014 2:22 PM

To: Fiegen, Kristie

Subject: Reject the Black Hills Power rate request

Commissioner

Chair Hanson and Commissioners Nelson and Fiegen:

South Dakota needs to get up with other states. There are other ways to get electricity.

I strongly oppose the rate increase by Black Hills Power, and I urge you to deny their request. It is not in the public interest and it is not good for South Dakota. Black Hills Power tried to use this rate increase to make it harder for us to invest in our own electricity generation; it seems they are not making choices in the best interest of South Dakotans.

Black Hills Power should be investing in local energy and creating a more stable future for South Dakota's citizens and rate payers. The company knew coal was going to get more expensive, and now they're risking our future by investing in natural gas, another fossil fuel subject to price increases and further regulation.

Please deny Black Hills Power's rate increase request.

Wendy freier  
[REDACTED]

002222

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**From:** PUC

**Sent:** Monday, October 06, 2014 9:06 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** BHP Rate Case, EL14-026

Ms. Freier:

This is response to your message regarding the Black Hills Power rate case currently before the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

BHP is a public utility and as such, extensive laws at the federal and state levels govern it and also govern the commission as to regulatory oversight of the utility. The utility is allowed to pass along to its consumers most of the costs it incurs in providing you and all customers with electric service. This government oversight is in contrast to most other businesses providing us with services.

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I believe your comments regarding BHP making it harder for ratepayers to invest in their own electric generation are in reference a rate change the utility decided to withdraw. Thus, as the commission won't be ruling on that request, those comments are not addressed in this letter.

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Gary Hanson, Chairperson  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov)

-----Original Message-----

From: Jillian Anawaty [mailto:

Sent: Sunday, October 05, 2014 6:21 PM

To: Fiegen, Kristie

Subject: Reject the Black Hills Power rate request

Commissioner

Chair Hanson and Commissioners Nelson and Fiegen:

I strongly oppose the rate increase by Black Hills Power, and I urge you to deny their request. It is not in the public interest and it is not good for South Dakota. Black Hills Power tried to use this rate increase to make it harder for us to invest in our own electricity generation; it seems they are not making choices in the best interest of South Dakotans.

Black Hills Power should be investing in local energy and creating a more stable future for South Dakota's citizens and rate payers. The company knew coal was going to get more expensive, and now they're risking our future by investing in natural gas, another fossil fuel subject to price increases and further regulation.

Please deny Black Hills Power's rate increase request.

Jillian Anawaty



002225

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**From:** PUC

**Sent:** Monday, October 06, 2014 9:08 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** BHP Rate Case, EL14-026

Ms. Anawaty:

This is response to your message regarding the Black Hills Power rate case currently before the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

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Gary Hanson, Chairperson  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
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-----Original Message-----

From: marcie Reynolds [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
Sent: Sunday, October 05, 2014 9:40 PM

To: Fiegen, Kristie

Subject: Reject the Black Hills Power rate request

Commissioner

Chair Hanson and Commissioners Nelson and Fiegen:

I strongly oppose the rate increase by Black Hills Power, and I urge you to deny their request. It is not in the public interest and it is not good for South Dakota. Black Hills Power tried to use this rate increase to make it harder for us to invest in our own electricity generation; it seems they are not making choices in the best interest of South Dakotans.

Black Hills Power should be investing in local energy and creating a more stable future for South Dakota's citizens and rate payers. The company knew coal was going to get more expensive, and now they're risking our future by investing in natural gas, another fossil fuel subject to price increases and further regulation.

Please deny Black Hills Power's rate increase request.

marcie Reynolds  
[REDACTED]

002228

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**From:** PUC

**Sent:** Monday, October 06, 2014 9:10 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** BHP Rate Case, EL14-026

Ms. Reynolds:

This is response to your message regarding the Black Hills Power rate case currently before the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

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<http://www.puc.sd.gov/commission/Publication/electricratecasehandout.pdf>

Gary Hanson, Chairperson  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov)

-----Original Message-----

From: Ami Coleman [mailto:

Sent: Monday, October 06, 2014 8:01 AM

To: Fiegen, Kristie

Subject: Reject the Black Hills Power rate request

Commissioner

Chair Hanson and Commissioners Nelson and Fiegen:

I strongly oppose the rate increase by Black Hills Power, and I urge you to deny their request. It is not in the public interest and it is not good for South Dakota. Black Hills Power tried to use this rate increase to make it harder for us to invest in our own electricity generation; it seems they are not making choices in the best interest of South Dakotans.

Black Hills Power should be investing in local energy and creating a more stable future for South Dakota's citizens and rate payers. The company knew coal was going to get more expensive, and now they're risking our future by investing in natural gas, another fossil fuel subject to price increases and further regulation.

Please deny Black Hills Power's rate increase request.

Ami Coleman



002231

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**From:** PUC

**Sent:** Monday, October 06, 2014 9:14 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** BHP Rate Case, EL14-026

Ms. Coleman:

This is response to your message regarding the Black Hills Power rate case currently before the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

BHP is a public utility and as such, extensive laws at the federal and state levels govern it and also govern the commission as to regulatory oversight of the utility. The utility is allowed to pass along to its consumers most of the costs it incurs in providing you and all customers with electric service. This government oversight is in contrast to most other businesses providing us with services.

When a utility files a rate case with the commission, the commission is obligated by law to thoroughly process the case. We cannot simply say no and reject it outright since we are legally required to investigate it and make a just and reasonable decision. This process can take almost a year to complete. Each commissioner, the commission's staff and expert consultants hired by staff will review the entire case – also referred to as a docket – separately, along with any intervenors in the case. We request and review additional data and information from the utility before a decision is rendered.

All discussion involving commissioners on the case must be available to the public. The commission's work is done electronically to be the most time and cost effective, and therefore, anyone can review the majority of the filings in the case online. Consumers can submit comments to the commission electronically and these are made public.

My fellow commissioners and I are consumers too. We have family of several generations affected by utility costs and we understand how rate increases affect all of us. We have a strong desire to keep rates down and to protect citizens against increases. None of us want to raise rates. In fact, we hate to agree to any rate increase.

I believe your comments regarding BHP making it harder for ratepayers to invest in their own electric generation are in reference a rate change the utility decided to withdraw. Thus, as the commission won't be ruling on that request, those comments are not addressed in this letter.

Your comments and my response will be filed in the open docket so my fellow commissioners and others can read them. You can access the complete docket online at <http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2014/EL14-026.aspx>

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Gary Hanson, Chairperson  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov)

-----Original Message-----

From: KIM ANDERSON [mailto:

Sent: Monday, October 06, 2014 10:30 AM

To: Fiegen, Kristie

Subject: Reject the Black Hills Power rate request

Commissioner

Chair Hanson and Commissioners Nelson and Fiegen:

I strongly oppose the rate increase by Black Hills Power, and I urge you to deny their request. It is not in the public interest and it is not good for South Dakota. Black Hills Power tried to use this rate increase to make it harder for us to invest in our own electricity generation; it seems they are not making choices in the best interest of South Dakotans.

Black Hills Power should be investing in local energy and creating a more stable future for South Dakota's citizens and rate payers. The company knew coal was going to get more expensive, and now they're risking our future by investing in natural gas, another fossil fuel subject to price increases and further regulation.

Please deny Black Hills Power's rate increase request.

KIM ANDERSON



002234



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**From:** PUC

**Sent:** Monday, October 06, 2014 11:12 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** BHP Rate Case, EL14-026

Kim Anderson:

This is response to your message regarding the Black Hills Power rate case currently before the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

BHP is a public utility and as such, extensive laws at the federal and state levels govern it and also govern the commission as to regulatory oversight of the utility. The utility is allowed to pass along to its consumers most of the costs it incurs in providing you and all customers with electric service. This government oversight is in contrast to most other businesses providing us with services.

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Gary Hanson, Chairperson  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
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