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**JAN 25 2010**

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**[REDACTED]**  
Deadwood, S. Dak. 57732  
January 22, 2010

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
500 E. Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota

Gentlemen:

This letter is written in oposition to the extremely high rate hike requested by Black Hills Power Company.

We built our small home at [REDACTED] - Terry Peak in 1968. At that time, the power company offered incentives such as free disposals, outdoor lighting, etc. if we would go "all-electric" instead of propane. Gas was not an option at that time.

My December bill is \$314.39 for my home. The rate hike they are requesting is certainly excessive and will be a burden to home owners such as myself.

I respectfully request that you carefully study this problem before granting them any large increase in rates.

Yours truly,

*Helen I. Schold*

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