

Bob,

Thanks for taking the time to write. You raise some excellent points, and I know the ability of many people to absorb the requested increase is limited.

I want to make it clear that I do not know if Black Hills Power is "just big business and the only interest is the bottom line." I don't yet have enough information to determine whether or not their request is reasonable. Such a determination will have to be based on hard facts and evidence in the record. Their request does seem quite high, and is larger than we have seen in quite a few years. We are in the process of examining the request, and I can promise you that we will be subjecting it to great scrutiny. We have both internal and external experts reviewing the filing, trying to determine which costs have been prudently incurred by Black Hills Power and which have not been. Our ultimate decision will need to be based on what the costs look like after that review.

I am glad you shared your thoughts, Bob, as you raised some points we will absolutely be considering as a part of this process. I will make sure your comments are added to our docket.

Thanks,
Dusty

P.S. I can assure you that Black Hills Power is not the boss.

Dustin "Dusty" Johnson
Public Utilities Commission
605-773-3201

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

From: B Berman
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2010 7:33 AM
To: Johnson, Dustin (PUC)
Subject: Black Hills Power rate increase request

Mr. Johnson,

I am sending this e-mail to you to express my thoughts on this rate increase request. I am completely against it. The timing is all wrong due to the economy and its outlook. They just received a substantial increase and at that time were satisfied. Since then they purchased some other companies and all of the sudden they need a very large rate increase. Do we have to pay for their mistakes? They have ceased to think of their customers who have supported them for years. They are now just big business and the only interest is the bottom line. I have lived here all my life and Black Hills Power and Light was always customer concerned. That has changed. The only way a monopoly has worked is if the government kept control and did their job. This is not political and should not be. It looks like the power company is trying to show its power and let us all know who is boss. Thank you for listening and please don't let them do this.

Bob Berman