

RECEIVED

MAR 01 2010

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

February 26, 2010

David Emery, CEO
Black Hills Power
P. O. Box 1440
Rapid City SD 57709-1440

RE: Rate Freeze or Discount

Dear Mr. Emery:

As long time customers of BHPL, we feel the need for your company to seriously address the issue of cost put upon those who live on a minimal fixed income. I have checked with our local BHP office as well as the PUC to see if or why there isn't some type of program offered to seniors and the Disabled who don't have the means or income to pay their electric bill at current rates let alone the proposed increase. We have qualified for other programs with City on utility bills as well as County as a freeze to our property taxes. We also have qualified for the state energy assistance program (LIEAP) which only allows one utility company. We heat our home with both natural gas and electric base board heat in a portion of our home. My question to you is: Why haven't you implemented such a program within your company? The proposed rate increase that may take effect next month is said to increase our bill by \$18.00 per month. That may not seem like much to someone like you, but for us who live on a bit over \$2000 a month with no other means of increasing it to cover such costs. My husband is a senior and disabled as I am as well. When such increases are imposed on us, where are we to come up with the funds to pay the bill? In order for us to come up with this increase in our budget, we'll have to do without groceries, medicine, etc. taking away from monthly essential expenses.

Please consider implementing some type of assistance program to either freeze rates or give a discount to those who qualify by income, disability and age.

I would appreciate your reply and help with my request. I have also asked for a similar request to the PUC to require you to apply some type of program if they vote for an increase in rates. I'm personally hoping someone out there is listening to citizens like me and my husband.

Sincerely,

Faye R. Potter

Faye R. Potter
Gordon Potter

Rapid City SD 57701-7209

Acct# [REDACTED]

Cc: PUC; Governor Mike Rounds