

Mick,

I don't know whether the request is "absolutely outrageous." 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.

We will take into consideration the ability of families and businesses to pay higher rates, but we must also take into consideration what legitimate expenses BHP has incurred and would have a legal right under existing law to gain reasonable recovery of.

Thanks,  
Dusty

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

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

From: Mick  
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2010 4:46 PM  
To: Johnson, Dustin (PUC)  
Subject: RE: MDU Hike

Sorry I got my utilities mixed when I wrote. Are you taking into consideration how many older people cannot afford any increases in utility bills? Just wondering, since that increase is absolutely outrageous!  
MLHansen

Please note: message attached

From: Dustin Johnson  
To: Mick  
Subject: RE: MDU Hike  
Date: Wed, 17 Mar 2010 18:04:14 -0500