

Lyle,

Thanks for your email. I know the proposed increase could negatively impact many families and businesses. We will keep that in mind as we work through this incredibly complex legal proceeding.

State law says that utility companies have a right to reasonable recovery of prudently incurred expenses. Much of our work has been and will be on determining what is reasonable and which decisions have been made prudently.

Lyle, I can promise you that everyone at the commission involved with this proceeding wants your electric rates to be as low as they reasonably can be to provide safe and reliable energy. None of us got into utility regulation to hurt our friends, family, and fellow South Dakotans. We are working hard and I believe the final outcome of this proceeding (whatever it will be) will absolutely serve the public interest.

Thanks,
Dusty

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

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

From: Lyle Casteel

Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 9:42 AM

To: Johnson, Dustin (PUC); Kolbeck, Steve; Hanson, Gary (PUC)

Subject: Black Hills Power Rate Increase

Gentlemen,

I am writing about the proposed rate increase for BHP. How can people afford a 20% rate increase? The fact of the matter is that with the economy in disarray people cannot afford this. This will be the nail in the coffin for many, many families.

Please deny this enormous rate increase.

Thanks,

Lyle Casteel