

Charles,

No apology is necessary. I understand how emotional and difficult an issue this can be.

We will absolutely keep the "average working person" in mind. We haven't made any decision on the merits of the case, and Black Hills Power has a great deal to prove before any final increase would be approved. At the end of the day though, I know that Black Hills Power customers won't be required to pay for any expenses that weren't prudently incurred or that they didn't receive some benefit from.

We will absolutely keep working on this.

Thanks,
Dusty

Dustin "Dusty" Johnson
Public Utilities Commission
605-773-3201
dustin.johnson@state.sd.us

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

From: Sender **On Behalf Of** Charles Christie
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 9:32 PM
To: Johnson, Dustin (PUC)
Subject: Re: BHP increase April 1

thanks for your reply Dustin. You are correct, I have not heard both sides, just that there is a 26% increase which seems huge. I'm not sure why there is such a hit at once, but I appreciate you looking into this matter, and taking the average working person in mind. I'm currently unemployed, and for the last 5 years my I was lucky to get a 2% increase in pay. That has not kept up with the cost of living.

I apologize for the original email. I'm sure you have received many of the same emails that have been forwarded. Please continue to work on this matter.

Charles

On Tue, Mar 2, 2010 at 8:11 PM, Dustin Johnson wrote:
Charles,

I believe you have some serious misconceptions about this situation. What would leave you to believe we have not been working on this? What makes you think we in any way have abdicated our responsibility?

I am willing to call you at a time convenient to you to discuss. You're my boss, after all. When works for you?

Dusty

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

From: Sender

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

Sent: Tue Mar 02 20:36:02 2010

Subject: BHP increase April 1

Unbelievable!

This must be a bad dream.

How can this be happening?

The virtual monopoly of Black Hills Power is getting ready to increase our monthly bills by 26.6% and you people are just sitting on your hands doing nothing about it?

Why are you in office? You were elected to serve the interests of your constituents, not the all mighty power company's!

There is no way that this type of increase could ever be justified, what with the daily headlines of massive lay offs, record unemployment and foreclosures happening all around us, and yes, right here in Rapid City. Would we boycott the local gas station for a 26% increase, would we change supermarkets if they instituted a 26% price increase? The answer is yes, of course we all would.

But it's not like we have any choice from whom to purchase our electric power, so how do you justify your total inaction regarding this matter?

I read that if the increase is later ruled invalid, then BHP would have to refund, with interest, the increased amounts, which would be done through credits.

Excuse me! I didn't pay my bill with credits, you will refund my money with cash!

I can assure you, there is no excuse and your failure to act according to your sworn duties to represent the people, will result in drastic actions from the people. We will no longer sit by as our elected officials turn a blind eye to our plight.

Either do your job (and stop this insanity) or abdicate your position.