

Marshall,

Thanks for your email. You raise some important issues.

I can promise you the you and other Black Hills Power ratepayers won't be paying to ship power elsewhere or to provide Black Hills Power with unreasonable profits. The complex proceeding we are currently working through is focused on determining what costs should be passed onto ratepayers. Black Hills Power ratepayers are only going to pay for the portion of plant that serves Black Hills Power ratepayers.

At this time, I can't make a decision about whether or not it was prudent for Black Hills Power to decide against buying the power from your plant. If you have evidence that suggests the price of the power from your plant would actually be cheaper than the cost of the power from Wygen III, you will want to provide that to the Commission staff or the other interveners in this case.

Marshall, 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 will absolutely serve the public interest.

Thanks,
Dusty

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

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

From: Marshall Deibert
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2010 1:03 PM
To: Johnson, Dustin (PUC); Kolbeck, Steve; Hanson, Gary (PUC)
Subject: Black Hills Power rate increase

I am writing to let you know of my opposition to the Black Hills Power rate increase. The only reason they are asking for this increase in my opinion is because they want to increase the production of electricity in order to sell it else where and increase profits. I work for a company that wants to build a co-gen plant and burn some of the forest waste to produce steam and energy. Black Hills Power tells them they have more electricity than they need and aren't interested in buying the excess. If this is true then they should not need to increase the rates for there customers by 26.6 percent just so they can make record profits by selling excess electricity else where. They should have to pay for the new plant in Wyoming on there own. I have taken a 15 yr. paycut and can not afford this increase let alone the retired people on fixed incomes. This is just a note to let you all know of my opposition and the fact that the people I know simply can't afford this at this time.

Thank you

Marshall Deibert