

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

From: Johnson, Dustin (PUC)
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2010 5:01 PM
To: 'Chris Shreves'
Subject: RE: Black Hills Power Increase

Chris,

Thanks for your email.

You ask, "What are you doing about this???" This is an incredibly complex legal proceeding, and we are doing our job. There are thousands and thousands of pages of evidence to review, hundreds of questions that need to be asked of Black Hills Power, and millions of dollars to be accounted for. That type of due diligence should not be rushed. We are going to subject Black Hills Power to all of the scrutiny their sizable request warrants (and that's a lot of scrutiny). We have six regulatory experts and two outside regulatory consulting firms working on this case, and they need to have enough time to prepare their case. Just think about how long most court cases and legal processes take. That's what this is -- an administrative law proceeding. There will be discovery, witnesses testifying under oath, cross-examination by attorneys, and evidence introduced into the record. All of that takes time. I suspect that the party most irritated by the Commission's methodical and thorough review is Black Hills Power. That is too bad, but I am not going rush this process. The ratepayers deserve sufficient scrutiny of this filing.

Chris, 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. We will only allow recovery of costs that are prudently incurred and that come from operations or plants that serve Black Hills Power customers. 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: Chris Shreves
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 10:44 AM
To: Johnson, Dustin (PUC)
Subject: Black Hills Power Increase

What are you doing about this??? 26%, come on? I can't afford that.

Chris Shreves
Rapid City, SD 57701