

Not a problem. I understand how emotional and difficult an issue this can be.

I can promise you this is not a done deal. 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.

Your email isn't a burden . . . I wish more people were motivated enough to email. Most just sit and grumble. Let me know if you have other questions.

Thanks,
Dusty

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

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

From: Rob and Tom

Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 10:46 PM

To: Johnson, Dustin (PUC)

Subject: Re: black hills power 26 percent increase

Dusty,

Yes, perhaps I miss stated and I apologize. I probably mean to say it would be unconscionable to allow that size of a rate hike, even as an interim I have the impression that it is as good as a done deal which would lead me to believe that it has been allowed. If the review is still in process, all the better.

For essentially a power monopoly to be able to raise its rate for development of a power plant while in the meanwhile other people's efforts to develop wind energy even at a local level are thwarted, efforts which would help relieve Black Hills Power of some of its burdensome demand seems curious.

But I'll take your word for it that you are working on it and hope that more of that process can be made public so that you don't have to be burdened by one on one explanations.

Thank you,
Tom

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

Tom,

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: Rob and Tom
To: Hanson, Gary (PUC); Kolbeck, Steve; Johnson, Dustin (PUC)
Sent: Tue Mar 02 19:50:13 2010
Subject: Fwd: black hills power 26 percent increase

Gentlemen,

I am participating in a forwarding action to get your attention regarding the power rate hike. It is an unconscionable neglect of duty to allow this hike. Especially when it is to pay for more power from fossil fuels. the world is abuzz with news about wind and solar power, especially in South Dakota.

This kind of hike reflects, as far as I can tell, a fossil mindedness dragging of the feet and losing out to the competition on clean renewable energy abundantly available in South Dakota. If I knew this hike were to help fund a turnover of systems to enhance an infrastructure of wind energy I would gladly pay some more. But just to help the system pollute more and send our population into financial straights? Come on guys. Do your job.

Tom Thorson

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.