

April 2, 2010

Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

RECEIVED

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**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Dear Sirs:

I appreciate the meetings you are holding to hear concerns about Black Hills Power's rate increase; however it is very difficult for me to attend; not to mention – expensive - - - so I will voice my concerns in written form.

In trying to explain to you the hardship Black Hills Power's proposed unreasonable rate increase would cause, I don't know where to begin. I don't know what I can tell you that you haven't already heard many times - - -

ONE MORE TIME:

Senior Citizens on a poverty level fixed income already, as I am, were not even given a “cost of living” increase in 2010 - - yet insurance premiums took a huge jump (with option (theirs) to increase it even further July 1); all necessities, from toilet tissue to food to over the counter medicine - - - the list could go on and on - - - are constantly increasing in cost. I cut corners every place I can - - new clothes, as an example, are luxuries I simply can't afford.

Families with children – From higher fuel costs to get to their employment (if they are fortunate enough to still have a job), to food, to taxes, to clothes (new clothes for growing children are not a luxury) and neither are good condition clothing to wear to work. Also the cost of laundry is not a luxury - - and that cost includes electricity.

I'm sure you are also aware of the news coming out of Washington DC – costs of almost everything we need (or don't need) will be increasing –

We have all had to adjust our spending; choosing whether “it” is a necessity or if it is something we can do without; we have had to tighten our belts until it hurts. **Black Hills Power needs to do the same. Black Hills Power does not need a Cadillac income at the expense of their hurting customers.**

I do not understand your reluctance to rein in this company – this company that is proposing a price increase that will be so devastating to nearly every household and business in our great state. Please, please, think of the people of this great state who are counting on you to “go to bat” for us. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Louise Rohlf

[REDACTED]
Belle Fourche, South Dakota 57717

*Sincerely,
Louise
Rohlf*

Phone # [REDACTED]

BHP's hike will cost more than 20 percent



The Black Hills Power monthly bill of this Rapid City single-family home owner — who uses gas appliances — would rise 24 percent.

	Current	April 1
Customer Charge	\$8	\$10.50
Energy Charge	\$24.81	\$30.53
Energy Cost Adj.	\$0.96	\$0.96
City Sales Tax	\$0.68	\$0.84
State sales tax	\$1.35	\$1.68
Total charges	\$35.80	\$44.51
Increase (24%)		\$8.71



The Black Hills Power monthly bill for this all-electric Rapid City apartment dweller would rise 23 percent.

	Current	April 1
Customer Charge	\$10.50	\$13.00
Energy Charge	\$80.22	\$99.42
Energy Cost Adj.	\$3.83	\$3.83
City Sales Tax	\$1.89	\$2.33
State sales tax	\$3.78	\$4.65
Total charges	\$100.22	\$123.23
Increase (23%)		\$23.01

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Journal staff

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Utility's request was to boost revenue; your bill will increase 23 percent or more

By Barbara Soderlin
Journal staff

Black Hills Power residential customers will see an average of a 23.8 percent rate increase when the utility's interim rates go into effect April 1.

The state Public Utilities Commission last week voted to allow the company to increase its revenue by 20 percent. But that won't mean that

rates will rise by only 20 percent.

They will go up more than that to absorb the cost of an annual cost adjustment the utility has been including as a separate line item in customers' bills.

That adjustment totals \$6.8 million, and that portion of the company's revenue will be built into customers' base rates starting April 1.

But customers will have to keep paying that extra charge in a line item

until the end of February 2011. That line item amount reimburses the company for 2009 costs; the amount built into the new rates is for costs in 2010, said Bob Knadle, staff analyst with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

"You're still paying for your 2009 cost adjustment," Knadle said.

"They have to recoup that amount

See BHP, Page A10

Fixed income residents worry about rising costs



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By Andrea
Journal staff

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