

**RAPID CITY AREA
SCHOOL DISTRICT 51/4**
300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701-2724

**Board of Education
(605) 394-4031**



RECEIVED

APR 23 2010

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

April 21, 2010

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, First Floor
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Re: Black Hills Power proposed rate increase

Members of the Public Utilities Commission:

On behalf of the Board of Education, I am writing out of concern for the proposed rate increase you have received from Black Hills Power. Rapid City School District's last full-year cost for services provided by BHP was \$1.3 million, a significant part of our operational budget. An increase of 26% or more would cost our school district approximately \$340,000 a year. For a school district that is projecting flat revenue at best for the future and has already been forced to cut over \$5.4 million from its operating budget over the past decade, this request will cost us additional programs, staffing and opportunities for our students. We are just one of many school districts that will be impacted, and likely be forced to cut education opportunities for South Dakota students.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Wes Storm
President, Board of Education
Rapid City Area Schools