

Dusty Johnson

Opposing The Proposed Black Hills Power & Light Rate Increases

I would like to address the PUC on behalf of myself and thousands of other Black Hills Power & Light customers. We are completely opposed to the proposed 26.6% increase of electrical rates.

I recommended to the PUC, in a letter and on a telephone call, to allow only a 10% increase in overall rates, for a certain length of time. Possibly for one year. At that time, the PUC would look at BHP & L gross sales, at their net profit, and at their debt retirement progress. After viewing all of the financial records, the PUC can make a final decision, based upon how profitable BHP & L is doing.

Their revenues are definitely going to increase. In their application to the PUC to increase their rates, they wrote that they expected higher revenues because of additional customers, higher electrical usage, and, of course, higher revenues because of the increased rates.

There is no doubt that if BHP & L receives the authority to raise rates by 26.6 %, it will have a negative "cause and effect" in all of the communities that it serves. It will "cause" homeowners to spend less in their communities. They will have less disposable income to spend in restaurants, retail stores, movie theatres and other businesses. Higher rates will "cause" businesses to have higher operating costs, to have less profit and ultimately, making businesses increase their prices. So the negative "effect" will be higher prices everywhere, less spending, and endangering our communities' economy.

Therefore, after all of the investigation and fact finding, I would hope that the PUC would not allow BHP & L to have their 26.6% rate increase.

Thank you,

Dennis Stoltz

[REDACTED]
Rapid City, SD 57702
[REDACTED]

RECEIVED

APR 26 2010

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION