
From: Pam Adamson
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 4:50:30 PM
To: PUC Consumer Info
Subject: Black Hills Power and Light
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Dear Commisioners;

I'm writing this letter to protest the new rate increase that has been allowed to be implemented by Black Hills Power and Light.. I know that increases are an inevitable part of life, but in todays trying times this exorbitant amount is very hard to swallow. I'm sure that many of the consumers serviced by BHP are in the same situation that I find myself in. There is not eough income to keep up with todays rising cost of living. Many of us live on fixed or very limited incomes and to have an increase of this size implemented on us is very hard to accept.

Also for many of us their new policy on balanced billing has hit very hard and is taking an extermely hard toll on our situations. Did you know that now if you get behind on your bill for 2 months in a row they remove you from the program, and you're **not allowed** back on the program until you've had 12 consecutive months of on time payments

I for one am unable to make 12 consecutive payments to get back on the program, and I fear that this new system plus the added increase in the rates will cost me my husband before the summer is over.

My husband is seriously disabled with COPD and on O2 24/7, therefore I am our sole income for meeting the daily needsof our household living. He has been totally housebound for 3 yrs now and I work a part-time job because full-timeis unavailable. His Social Security payment covers our mortgages and the car payment, my part-time wages then haveto cover the utilites, groceries, life insurance, atou insurance and maintanace on the auto.

I have been on the balanced billing program with BHP for the past 10 yrs. and generally I run behind every month on at least 2 of my utilities payments.

I must maintian a constant temprature in the house for my husband to continue to live fairly comfortable, and \$200 to \$300 a month electric bills for me to run the A/C this summer will not be included in my budget.

For this reason I fear that I will lose him before the summer ends. I understand that I'm required to pay for my electric usage, but if I cannot get back on balanced billing for 12 months or lo9nger they won't have to worry about my usage because I'll be living somewhere else.

Please if you can help the situation for us and so many others that live on limited incomes it would be greatly appreciated. We don't want to have the service given to us we just want to be able to continue to live and keep taking care of our loved ones the best we can, and the added stress isn't good for any of us.

Thank you in advance for any and all help you might be able to provide.

My mailing address is :

Pam Adamson
Rapid City, SD 57701-3720

Sincerely,
Pam Adamson