

Sorry. I should have sent this with my last email. You asked how we publicized our meetings. Here is some information.

Thanks,
Dusty

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

From: Mohr, Leah

Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2010 1:31 PM

To: Johnson, Dustin (PUC)

Subject: RE: BHP informational meetings

Nov. 24 meeting at the Journey:

- PUC news release distributed Nov. 5 to statewide media and other listserv subscribers.
- Posted on the PUC events page
- Listed in announcements section of Nov. 10 PUC Commission Meeting agenda, distributed Nov. 3

MEDIA COVERAGE:

- Rapid City Journal: Nov. 8 and Nov. 11
- KOTA-TV: Nov. 8
- KNBN: Nov. 9 and Nov. 11
- Black Hills Pioneer: Nov. 11

March 29 meeting at the Journey details; dates announced for April 14 and 23 meetings:

- PUC news release distributed March 25
- Event details posted on the EL09-018 docket page, PUC Web site
- E-mailed and mailed meeting information to consumers who registered comments with the PUC re: the rate case.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

- KOTA-TV: March 25 (3 meetings mentioned); March 29 (re: 3/29 mtg)
- Rapid City Journal: March 25 online (3 mtgs mentioned), March 26 print edition; March 30 (sidebar, April mtgs)
- Black Hills Business Blog: March 29 (re: 3/29 mtg)
- KEVN: March 27 & March 29 (3 mtgs mentioned)
- KNBN: March 28
- KELO-TV: March 29 (re: 3/29 mtg)

Details for April 14 & 23 meetings:

- PUC news release distributed March 30 to statewide media and other listserv subscribers
- Posted on the PUC Web site events page
- Posted on the EL09-018 docket page
- Listed in announcements section of April 20 PUC Commission Meeting agenda, distributed April 13

MEDIA COVERAGE:

- RCJ: March 30, March 31, April 12, April 13
- Pierre Capital Journal: March 31

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

From: Johnson, Dustin (PUC)
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2010 11:30 AM
To: Mohr, Leah
Subject: Fw: BHP informational meetings

How did we publicize?

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

Penny,

I am sorry you and I weren't able to connect a few weeks ago by phone. I didn't want to ignore you, though, so here is some additional information.

How did we publicize? We sent out a press release which was picked up by a number of news outlets. Incidentally, according to our information officer, KOTA did receive our release.

Regarding compensation, much of what is paid to executives is not paid by ratepayers. Unreasonable compensation can be disallowed by the commission, paid for by shareholders, or allocated to a non-regulated business. Regarding the time of day of the meeting, the PUC had three public input hearings, two in the evening, one in the morning, and one in the afternoon. All had about the same attendance.

You write that the "PUC is merely going through the motions and has every intention of rolling over and granting BHP everything they're asking for. " That absolutely isn't the case. I can promise you BHP will not get everything they are asking for, and that I won't be doing any rolling over. What led you to believe that?

You also write that "You had my vote the last time you ran for office, but I can assure that you will not receive it this time if you don't do everything in your power to negotiate this exorbitant rate increase down." I promise I will do my job in this proceeding. But, I won't do so because I am scared of losing your vote . . . I will do so because it is my job and I am proud to work hard for the public interest. It isn't my job to be popular or get re-elected. It is my job to work hard, follow the law, and fight for the public interest.

Penny, I sincerely appreciate you taking the time to email and to speak with me briefly on the phone. Please let me know if you have other questions.

Thanks,
Dusty

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

From: Penny Lore

To: Johnson, Dustin (PUC)
Sent: Wed Apr 14 11:18:13 2010
Subject: BHP informational meetings

Mr. Johnson,

How are you publicizing the BHP meetings? After the last meeting, the PUC commissioner stated he was surprised there weren't more people there. I work for a media company and no one in my department even knew about the meeting. I just found out this morning that there is another one scheduled today at the Colonial House and no one here knew about this one either. Considering that the meeting today is scheduled during the business day, for what percentage of people who live here does that make it impossible for them to attend? It doesn't appear that the commission is getting the information out to the public or that it cares if people are able to attend.

After reading that Sheridan was able to negotiate a reduced price increase, I am going to be very disappointed if your commission cannot hold the line on our proposed rate increase. Why should we be held hostage when they pay their employees well over the average salaries in our area, in addition to offering their employees benefits that hardly anyone else in our area has as part of their employment package. That's great for their employees, but I feel like the people in this area who are working at minimum wage are paying the price. I haven't heard a word of discussion regarding their upper management salaries and benefit packages. Do we have highly overcompensated positions in this company, a la Wall Street?

As a consumer who doesn't have the opportunity to do business with another utility company, this whole procedure feels like the PUC is merely going through the motions and has every intention of rolling over and granting BHP everything they're asking for. That is not why we elected you. You had my vote the last time you ran for office, but I can assure that you will not receive it this time if you don't do everything in your power to negotiate this exorbitant rate increase down.

How are people like my 81 year old mother who lives on a small fixed income supposed to manage? Our economy has been damaged by the downturn, and yet they believe they deserve a rate increase which will actually end up being over 30% if you grant their request.

Be the people's advocate, not the utility company's.

Penny Lore
Black Hawk, SD 57718