

Dr. Brian Smith & Tamara Lawson

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Spearfish, SD 57783
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JUN 25 2010

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st floor
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501-5070
Phone: (605) 773-3201
Toll-free Fax: 1-866-757-6031

Dear Dusty Johnson, Steve Kolbeck, and Gary Hanson:

This letter is in reference to the upcoming hearings on Monday for the Black Hills Rate Case. Like many people in our area, we do not make a great deal of money. In fact, many people we know have at least one person in the family that has two jobs in order to make ends meet. There are already people in our neighborhood who are struggling to put food on the table after they pay the bills. Few people in the Black Hills make a lot of money. In addition, those people who work for the state have not had a raise in several years. So, while the cost of living continues to rise at alarming rates, the wages for many here have remained the same for three years. We cannot afford to pay 20% more in electric bills, much less 30%, when our wages are not increasing or, in some cases, jobs have been lost. The economy is still doing poorly. Last month's electric bill, with its increase, has hurt many people we know who are already struggling to keep up with the bills. If the administrators at Black Hills Power, all of whom likely had raises this year, would like to pay for their new plant in Gillette, then they should get a loan like the rest of us have to do when we wish to build something new.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian Smith & Tamara Lawson

Dr. Brian Smith

Tamara Lawson