

Jerry,

You raise some excellent points. I can assure you that executive compensation won't be ignored by the PUC. Even if we disallow some compensation with ratepayer dollars, they may choose to pay more than we allow by using shareholder dollars, of course. But at least in that instance it's not your money.

Thanks for emailing. Stay in touch when appropriate.

We'll add you comments (and mine) to the record of this proceeding.

Dusty

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Sent: Thu Oct 01 12:45:55 2009

Subject: Rate Increase in Electricity

So, Black Hills Power (also known as Black Hills Power & Light), a subsidiary of Rapid City-based Black Hills Corporation, wants more money out of its customers in their request for a 26.6% rate increase. Of course, why not. This would mean, at a "minimum," an increase in profits of \$1.15 Million Dollars per month, yes - per month, from only 20 communities in western South Dakota alone (\$18 x 64,100 customers = \$1.15M). I wonder if the compensation of David Emery, C.E.O., is also going to increase? David Emery's total compensation for 2008 was \$1.7 Million Dollars. Do you think his compensation will increase as well? And, just for info - - - Steve Helmers, Senior VP & General Counsel for BH Corp., received a total compensation of \$561,609.00 for 2008. Not bad, Huh!! I wonder if the rest of the Board of Directors will benefit as well. Maybe the SD Public Utilities Commission should take that into consideration in making their decision.

Jerry Thovson
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