

Wesley,

You raise some excellent issues, and I can promise you we won't overlook them. I can't guarantee we'll decide one way or another, but I can promise there be honest, legitimate, and thorough scrutiny. It will take us several months to work through all of these numbers.

Sincerely,
Dusty

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

From: Johnson, Wesley
To: Johnson, Dustin (PUC); Kolbeck, Steve; Hanson, Gary (PUC)
Sent: Fri Oct 02 13:16:41 2009
Subject: Rate Increase

I see in the paper that Black Hills Power and Light has asked for a 26 per cent rate hike.

I would ask you to look at their own published numbers....

Such as an increase in demand by thirty per cent(From new Customers)
To me that is an increase of income by thirty per cent.

How much did they get when they sold Fiber Com?
How much gross income gain did they get when they bought the Nebraska Company
And then reduced the staff of the Nebraska company.

Also, they had the option to sell off the Natural Gas portion of the Nebraska Company.

Without my looking into all the details and numbers.....
I would think that they should get the same amount of increase the State of South Dakota
State Employees got in this economy...which is nothing.

My wife has not worked since 1- Dec-2008 and our income has dropped by \$24,000 a year.

I have neighbors and friends who work for Black Hills Power and Light....and I can tell you
that I cannot afford their life style.

I do not see a 26 per cent rate hike as reasonable.

Wesley M. Johnson
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702.