

Sandy,

Thanks for your note. Per your request, I am making available to Commissioners Kolbeck and Hanson. You raise some valid concerns and we will absolutely take them into account as we work through this process.

We will take into consideration the ability of families and businesses to pay higher rates, but we must also take into consideration what legitimate expenses BHP has incurred and would have a legal right under existing law to gain timely recovery of.

I do not believe that any of this rate request is related to the Grizzly Gulch fire. If BHP wanted to receive recovery of those costs, that would have been resolved in the rate case they filed in 2005. Your central point is quite correct, though. We need to make sure that all costs they are requesting recovery of are legitimate, reasonable, and appropriate. We will work for the next several months to do that, and won't allow costs not meeting the proper standards to be passed along to you.

Thanks again for taking the time to email. I will have your comments added to the record of this proceeding.

Thanks,
Dusty

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

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

From: Sandy
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2009 4:00 PM
To: Johnson, Dustin (PUC)
Subject: BHP rate increase

I sincerely hope you the PUC does not allow BHP to be able to charge an additional 26% on our electricity bill. The articles states that the average bill would increase by \$18.00. I am a total electric house which is common and my average bill is \$155.00 per month. My bill would increase over \$40.00 a month. That is almost \$500.00 a year!!! With the times as they are, our family can not afford another \$40.00 a month/\$500.00 per year. In addition, why should we be paying for BHP "settlement" to the United States Government for the Grizzly Gulch fire. That fire started very near to my house and we were out of our house for a week. Our neighbors house burned to the ground. They do not need this money for what they are asking, they are wanting it to pay their damages. Thank you for your consideration. I would appreciate it if you would share this with any person that is a part of making this decision. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sandy L. Cleveringa
Spearfish, SD 57783