

10/13/09

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OCT 14 2009

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
501 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Dear Public Utilities Commission,

We are writing to protest the excessive 26.6% rate increase proposed by the Black Hills Power Company. Our rational is point by point.

1. The rate increase is excessive in the current economic conditions for the electrical power consumers that have no other options for electricity.
2. Black Hills Power had a recent realistic increase on 7.2% in 2007.
3. Did Black Hills Power not pre-plan expansion costs as any smart business does?
4. As with any major capital investment, Black Hills Power should take years to recoup the costs. In the current business economy, Black Hills Power should be taking advantage of extremely low interest rates, bond rates, and depreciation options rather than an excessive rate increase for the consumer.
5. Black Hills Power has had a positive increase in users that should off set a majority of the expansion costs.

In this economy Black Hills Power should be lowering their rates not increasing rates. Furthermore, stockholder gratification should not be at the expense of individual consumers that have no alternative options. The price increase by Black Hill Power is an example of corporate greed.

Please take into consideration these points when making your decision on this rate increase by Black Hills Power. This rate increase will be devastating to the consumer.

Sincerely,

Orval & Debra Frahm

Orval and Debra Frahm

[REDACTED]
Custer, SD 57730
[REDACTED]