
From: Sandra McLain
Sent: Saturday, November 07, 2009 9:20:17 AM
To: PUC
Subject: comments on proposed 26% increase
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Dear PUC: I am writing not only as a business owner but as a board member for the Town of Keystone, SD. I object to the proposed 26% rate increase. As owner of Big Thunder Gold Mine in Keystone our average usage per month is approximately \$600 per month in the winter and \$900.00 per month in the summer and fall months. The total usage of electricity is approximately \$9,000.00. That would be a \$2500.00 increase per year. This year's revenue's at the mine were about even with last year. That proposed hike would cause us to cut expenses and in a questionable tourism year to come with the down turn in the economy, that will be very hard to do. As a board member I am very concerned for the Town of Keystone. Our annual usage is approximately \$36,000 per year with a rate hike of \$9,360.00 makes this a no-win situation for our community. We live on sales tax revenues, only, in our community as we have opted out of property tax. If tourism is down, our revenues go down. We barely meet any of our goals on our list of projects for our community. Since we are a small community of 315 we did not receive any stimulus money as well as other small communities. We have to repair our bridges which are in need of drastic repair. State funding for bridges will not be released until 2016. Spending \$9,000 per year more will only take us into the negative. One more bridge and one more road will not be repaired. Please consider a more reasonable rate hike of possibly 10%. People may see more relevance and not debate the issue. I know Black Hills Power's needs are imminent as well as ours, but consider how our economy is and make your judgement please.

Sandi McLain
Big Thunder Gold Mine
Keystone Town Trustee