

From: Three Flags RV Park & Camp
Sent: Saturday, November 07, 2009 2:55:59 PM
To: PUC
Subject: PUC letter re: Black Hills Power Increase
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**SHARON AND RANDY OLSON
THREE FLAGS RV PARK
9484 THREE FLAGS LANE
BLACK HAWK SD 57718**

Via email: puc@state.sd.us

SDPUC
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Black Hills Power Proposed Increase

Dear Sirs:

My husband and I own a small business. Utility costs currently account for 47% of our annual operating expense. We can pass some of these charges onto our customers, but must also remain competitive.

Black Hills Power bought new companies across the Midwest and is expanding its facilities in Wyoming. To place the burden of their acquisitions on their customers is ridiculous. When I make improvements at my business, I get more clients, have more referrals and ultimately make more money over time. I do not raise the price to recoup the money immediately. That is Business 101; business owners and shareholders should not expect to get their expenditures back immediately.

Black Hills Power holds us and many others hostage because we have no other electric supplier or coop. If we could afford alternative energy like wind or solar, we would certainly do it, however, we are not a large corporation like Black Hills Power.

My husband and I are firmly opposed to any rate increase from Black Hills Power, and especially a 26.6% increase. The economy has not recovered, our clients have less money and there are fewer clients, therefore, we have less money. We cannot afford that kind of increase on a necessity. Black Hills Power received a 7.2% increase in 2007. Demanding another increase almost 4 times that two years later is preposterous. The present state of the economy has prevented many citizens from getting a wage increase. Young families, people on fixed incomes and business owners cannot afford such a large increase. How can Black Hills Power justify this kind of increase in the current economy? I would ask that you disapprove this increase. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sharon Olson

Sharon Olson