

November 9, 2009

Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Via Fax# 866-757-6031

Re: BHP Proposed Rate Increase Docket# EL09-018

Dear Commissioners:

First of all I am all for companies being able to recoup their expenses and being able to make a reasonable return on their investments. However, I believe that BHP's proposed rate increase to be excessive given the percentage increase for 2010 along with the 2007 increase of 7.8% and the energy cost adjustment implemented in March 2008 which in my last billing was 4.8%.

Much has been written about a 26.6% increase resulting in an average increase for a BHP customer of \$18 per month, but as an all-electric residential customer of BHP my circumstances are much different.

Customer Charge \$14.08 versus 10.50 up \$3.58 or 34.1%

Energy Charge 9.13 cents kW versus 6.81 cents kW up 2.32 cents kW or 34.1%


The above rate change would increase my monthly bills based upon the last 12 months by \$580 a year or \$48 per month. Most significant to me would be my winter bills from December thru April, which would increase from \$216 per month to \$290 per month, which is an increase of \$74 per month.

The proposed BHP rate increase would actually amount to a 46.7% increase over three years (34.1% for 2010 plus 7.8% in 2007 plus 4.8% energy cost adjustment).

As an all-electric residential customer of BHP I have few options to minimize the cost to heat my home without incurring significant financial costs to convert to another energy source for my home.

I hope that the Commission will take into consideration the financial hardships that such a proposed rate increase will have on not only myself but also all residential and business users of BHP.

Sincerely,



Stephen D Skromeda
Rapid City, SD 57702