

David & Karen Webb

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Rapid City, SD 57701

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November 6, 2009

Patricia Van Gerpen  
Executive Director  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
500 East Capitol  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

RE: BH Power's request for increase

Docket: E09-018

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is in opposition to the request of Black Hills Power's 26.6% increase in its South Dakota electric service.

We find this requested increase to be **excessively** high, especially given the state of our economy. This increase will affect everyone in this area, homeowners and businesses alike. People are out of work, some have not had raises due to the economy, many of us have lost a good portion of our retirement investments and, as you well know, times are tough.

We visited the SD Secretary of State website to look at the corporate documentation of Black Hills Power, Inc. and found there are numerous individuals who sit on the Board as presidents, vice presidents, directors (a list that took up approximately 3 pages). Black Hills Power should make public its financial documentation to show what its assets are and how much money all these directors/officers make per year. Most likely, it is well above the average wage of most South Dakotans. Please take this into consideration when you make your decision. Perhaps if Black Hills Power were to cut back in salaries and other means, an increase of this high percentage would not be necessary.

We will be unable to attend the meeting you are hosting in Rapid City later this month, but felt compelled to write you of our opposition to such a high increase. It just does not make any sense.

Sincerely,

*Dave & Karen Webb*

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