

Dennis,

Thanks for the email. I can understand your comments, and realize that the filing has upset a number of Black Hills Power customers. As you indicated, we will be looking at lots of information before making any decision. You asked specifically about a smaller short-term increase, with another review in a few months. That isn't a typical approach, but that doesn't mean it isn't a possibility. Thanks for the suggestion.

I will make sure that your comments are added to the record of this proceeding.

Thanks,
Dusty

Dustin "Dusty" Johnson
Public Utilities Commission
605-773-3201

-----Original Message-----

From: Dennis Stoltz
Sent: Saturday, November 07, 2009 5:36 PM
To: Johnson, Dustin (PUC)
Subject: B.H.Power & Light proposed rate hike

Dustin,

I wish to comment on the proposed rate hike by B.H. Power & Light. First, I believe that the proposal is an excessive rate increase for residential and other classes. I see where they listed that they anticipate higher Kwh sales for the next calendar year. With increase sales, you would think that increasing customer rates would not have to be in the 20 some percent. By the way, is it normal for utility companies to keep on revising their proposals to the PUC as did B.H. Power & Light?

Is it possible to authorize an increase of approximately 10% across the board, for six months, (if their facts prove that they need an increase) and then look at their sales, gross profit and net profit in six months, and then again, make a decision after that? It seems like that would be more reasonable, and fair, to both consumers and to B.H. Power & Light.

I know that there is much more information that you look at. But I am still concerned about giving an order to allow the power company to increase rates by 25 or 26 or 28 percent.

Thank you for your time,

Dennis Stoltz
Rapid City, SD 57702