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**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

James and Bonnie Wilcox

[REDACTED]
Rapid City, SD

Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st floor
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

4-11-2009

Dear Commission:

Recently we have been informed by Black Hills Power that they will request a rate increase of 26.6%. BHP justifies this by explaining they have a new power plant in Wyoming that needs to be funded as well as keeping up with additional costs. According to their own publication included in our last billing statement, there have been no rate increases since the 1990's, and now they are a little behind.

We're writing this letter because we object to this sudden rate increase. Surely BHP could have anticipated some of these costs a few years ago, or at least a year ago. Perhaps they were so worried about the economic news last year they didn't feel the timing was right? Regardless, a few small increases spread over a number of years seems like it would have been a better decision rather than this sudden hike. I'm encouraging the PUC to review the proposed rate increase and decide that, while a rate increase is necessary, BHP should spread this out over a number of years.

Regards,

James and Bonnie Wilcox