
From:

Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2009 8:45:37 AM

To: PUC

Subject: BHP proposed rate increase

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Attn: Dusty Johnson

Dusty,

We are writing this letter to protest BHP's proposed 26% rate increase. In these current difficult economic times, any rate increase in power costs is totally irresponsible. For [REDACTED] to maintain any sales, it has been necessary for us to cut our prices by as much as 10%. This, of course, affects our margin and our ability to pay power costs, which are a major expense in our business. Our power bill currently runs between \$3,000 and \$4,000 per month on a year round basis.

To examine BHP's historical pricing structures, you should take a good look at the fuel adjustment charges that have been imposed on their customers for the past several years. This charge was set forth originally to protect power companies from exorbitant fuel costs that might be charged by coal mining companies. In the case of BHP, they own the coal mines from which they generate their fuel sources and, in our minds, because of their ability to pass their mining costs on to their electric customers, they have irresponsibly allowed their mining costs to escalate out of control. This fuel adjustment charge, in effect, has constituted a significant increase in the price of BHP's electric power that has been paid for by their customers. This charge alone is like issuing BHP a license for irresponsible actions, and therefore, so long as they have the ability to continue with the fuel adjustment charges, they should have no need to increase the rate for electric power.

We appreciate the difficulty presented the PUC and all the hard work you and others are doing to serve the public's best interests. Keep up the good work!

Thanks.