

Steve,

Thanks for the message. I appreciate you taking the time to write.

We are in the process of examining the Black Hills Power request. I can promise you that we will be subjecting it to great scrutiny. I do not yet know what the Commission will do, as not all of the facts are in the record yet. I can tell you that ultimately our decision will need to be based on those facts.

I don't yet know if the numbers Black Hills Power has filed are accurate. If they are (and again, I don't know that), and if the Commission chose to deny their request (and again, I'm not saying we will) then Black Hills Power might well have a difficult time securing the financing you described. People generally like to loan money or buy portions of companies that are on firm financial footing and are earning a reasonable rate of return. As we move through this process, we will get a better feel for what the realities are.

Thanks again for your comments. I'll make sure they are added to the record.

Thanks,
Dusty

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

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2009 2:02 PM
To: Johnson, Dustin (PUC)
Subject: rate increase

Black Hills Power should not be allowed to pass a high rate increase to the consumer. 28% following recent 7% increase is too much for anyone to pay.

The consumer is just as much a stakeholder in Black Hills Power, as is the stockholder. If the company needs to raise capital to build power plants, let them do what companies are supposed to do.... sell stock, sell bonds, or borrow from banks or other lenders.

Sincerely,

Steve Hata
Rapid City, SD 57701