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**From:** Kevin ODea  
**Sent:** Friday, November 20, 2009 7:57:29 AM  
**To:** PUC  
**Subject:** BHP Proposed Increase  
**Auto forwarded by a Rule**

Good Morning,

I am writing to express my extreme opposition to the outrageous increased proposed by Black Hills Power. At a time of extreme economic uncertainty and when prices for raw materials are dropping, it is completely inappropriate for a company to propose such an increase. If enacted, it will be detrimental to both business and individuals in western South Dakota.

I do not feel the burden of funding Black Hills Power's regional expansion should be placed on consumers who have no choice in who their electricity provider is. Furthermore, BHP has done nothing to invest in renewal forms of energy here in SD, instead they have chosen to invest 100's of millions of dollars to increase their dirty power capacity by building a new coal-fired power plant in Wyoming. Let the Wyoming taxpayers fund this project if they wish.

At a time when incomes, inflation, and expenses are falling, any increase in rates is unwarranted and irresponsible. Please don't approve the proposed increase and please don't fall into the trap of "protecting" consumers by denying their 26% request only to approve a 13% increase or something similar. No increase is the only reasonable option.

Kevin O'Dea  
Spearfish, SD