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**From:** Marlene Barrett  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 24, 2009 11:04:21 AM  
**To:** PUC  
**Subject:** Black Hills Power Rate Increase  
**Auto forwarded by a Rule**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Lawrence County Commissioners voted to notify you of our protest to Black Hills Power & Light's request for a 26.6% increase in rates. Lawrence County taxpayers paid over \$97,000 in 2008 power bills and over \$84,000 so far in 2009. This rate increase would devastate an already stressed county budget. We fear that rate hike request is unfair and at a time when South Dakota has the highest unemployment rate in 24 years and we are in recession. We object to a rate hike request to raise the dividend rate to Black Hills Power stockholders.

The Commission endeavors to be a vigilant custodian of taxpayer dollars and a rate hike of this magnitude would make us cut services to our citizens.

*/s/ Bob Ewing,*  
Bob Ewing, Chair  
Terry W. Weisenberg  
Tommy Thompson  
Daryl Johnson  
Connie Douglas

Lawrence County Commissioners  
Deadwood SD 57732