
From: Lead Tumc
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 12:54:39 PM
To: PUC
Subject: Black Hills Power 26.6% rate increase
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From: Trinity United Methodist Church
[REDACTED]
Lead, SD 57754

To: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

At our regular November meeting, the Trinity United Methodist Church Administrative Council unanimously voted to have me pen this letter in protest to the Black Hills Power request for a 26.6% increase in rates. As reported in the Black Hills Pioneer by Spearfish City Administrator Greg Sund, part of the increase is to raise the dividend rate by 11.5% to Black Hills Power stockholders.

We fear that rate hike is grossly unfair. South Dakota has the highest unemployment rate in 24 years and we are in a deep recession. Our last 2 years show that our church spent \$6,288.79 in 2008 and \$5,287.68 through October 2009 for electric service. A 26.6% increase would be devastating.

If we could be so bold, we feel that another alternative to BH Power is to lower the dividend or issue some preferred stock to help build this new power plant and fund the plant internally and not on our over-taxed backs.

Thank you for your time and please continue to do your good job of looking out for the taxpayer.

Sincerely,

Terry W. Weisenberg by klb
Trinity United Methodist Church - Finance Chair