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[REDACTED]  
Lead, South Dakota 57754

November 25, 2009

**RECEIVED**  
NOV 30 2009  
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Public Utilities Commission  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

RE: Proposed Black Hills Power Rate Increase

We want to be on record as opposing the proposed 26.6% rate increase requested by Black Hills Power. It is being reported that that increase would result in an additional \$18.00 per month to the average household. I live on a very average street in Lead and I doubt that anyone's monthly electric bill during the Spring, Fall and Winter months would be only \$70.00 a month (which would be the amount that they are basing their figures on). Like many on our street, we are on a fixed income and by necessity are not wasteful in our energy use.

Every month we pay a "Customer Charge" \$10.50....I suspect every one else pays that, too. Our statement in September 2008 reflects an "Energy Cost Adjustment" of 51 cents. I don't know how this cost adjustment is calculated but my most recent statement (October 6 through November 4) the Energy Cost Adjustment was \$8.10. I would think that if Black Hills Power increases their rates, they should suspend these two charges that resulted in \$18.60 which we had to pay in addition to our actual energy usage and taxes.

Black Hills Power has provided us good service, but that is their business. Although there hasn't been an actual rate increase since January 2006, they have dealt out increases in the form of "Energy Cost Adjustments". A smaller rate increase could be justified as long as the Customer Charge and Energy Cost Adjustment are suspended. Our Social Security check is not being increased but every utility and insurance premium we pay, gasoline costs and food prices have increased. For example, our homeowners insurance policy with Farmers jumped by over \$400 this year and we have never filed a claim. We don't know what to do.

26.6% is asking for too much.

*Afton Moss*  
*Lee Moss*