
From: Lorna Squyer
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2009 8:51:55 PM
To: PUC
Subject: bhp rate increase
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Taking public comments regarding the proposed 26.6% increase is very brave! After all, when is the last time anyone in Western South Dakota has even heard of such a marathon increase? No one I know here has ever gotten a 26.6% raise. In fact, necessary public services such as public school teachers and community hospital registered nurses are getting rate increases less than 4%, 0% increases, or even a negative "increase" (such as a 3% pay cut). I would be surprised if fire fighters and police officers have gotten any more of a rate increase around here. I realize that BHP is probably just asking for 26.6 hoping to get 8 to 13%, still somewhat preposterous in light of the average Black Hills family income increases in recent years. How much is Mr. White getting to offer the brilliant and all explaining statement of why the increase is necessary? ("...provide safe and reliable service and that these communities we live in will have the opportunity to grow and prosper"). I live in the woods; does that mean that the person who comes out in a freezing blizzard to trouble shoot when our power is out or the "meter reader" who also braves the weather is getting a 26.6% raise?? Why not just cut some from the top down or eliminate vice presidents. If Black Hills residents have to give BHP 26.6% more, that will TAKE AWAY from what they can spend in local communities. How about trying to reward those who conserve electricity and use less; REDUCE their rate and charge those who consume more an 8 to 13% increase.

Lorna K. Squyer
Nemo, SD 57759 605-578-1318