

Consumer Affairs Dept
Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building
500E Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

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**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Dear Commissioners:

We are concerned about the current increase proposed by Black Hills Power. This increase would severely impact my family's ability to pay all utilities. This would also effect our spending on other items. The increase would especially hurt in the winter. We installed dual heat, electric and natural gas to combat high costs and have worked diligently to make our house more efficient. The economy would make the possibility of selling our house and moving to a less expensive area, difficult at best.

My other concern is with their claim to defray costs of a new plant they need this increase. Yet, when our home got hit by hail we had to replace our roof. Yes, the insurance paid some of the costs, but not all. Our roof was over 10 years; therefore, it was our responsibility to have saved and paid the deductible and depreciation. If citizens must save for these expenses and cannot pass the cost off on someone, how can a company? I believe Black Hills Power should fall under the same category and save just like everyone else. What happens the next time they have a large expense; are they going to want to increase the price again?

The present state of the economy has prevented many citizens from getting a wage increase and for some a wage decrease. Unfortunately, some families have lost their jobs. How can a utility company justify passing along this staggering increase during this struggling economy?

Please send the message to Black Hills Power that private citizens must save for their expenses and so must businesses. Say no to this proposed increased. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Kenneth and Becky Kauffman


Belle Fourche, SD 57717