

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 19, 2012 8:41 AM

**To:** Nelson, Chris

**Subject:** rate increase

Dear Mr. Nelson: I am contacting you regarding the requested 13% rate increase by Black Hills Power that was in our local paper yesterday. The article also gave a history of the rate increase request by Black Hills Power in 2010 which was 26%. I realize that they did not receive the 26% but they did receive a 12.9% increase at that time. Living in Lead and working in Deadwood, I see the impact of any type of increase on our residents. The wages in our area DO NOT increase by double digits. We have a school district where 50% plus of the students receive free or reduced lunches. Please keep this in mind during the hearing on the increase. I do understand that companies need to recoup investments costs to a point, but this will be a strain on too many of their customers. Thank you. Rose Burns,