

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 4:37 PM

To: Nelson, Chris

Subject: Black Hills Power - Rate increase

Dear Mr. Nelson:

I presume I am way off base here, but will vent the steam anyway, and you can set me straight. A couple of years ago (memory lapse) BHP asked for a nice rate increase and you folks cut them back some. If memory serves me correct, this was to build a new coal fired plant at their site in Wyoming. I guess that several questions come to mind, and one is since the EPA has been working on getting rid of these plants, why did BHP continue to build and your office then OK'd part of the increase to the consumer in the form of a rate hike. It seems to me that building a new plant or renovation of an existing one is a major capital outlay and they should either borrow the funds (if they don't have it in the bank) or sell additional shares of stock for this purpose, instead of hitting up the consumer at the outset. I realize that the consumer is the one to get hit in the long run but it shouldn't be until the project is completed then file for a hike. If these present coal fired plants are eventually closed down and sold for whatever the market will bear, will the funds be credited back to the consumer to lower the rates? I presume it will somehow disappear into a black hole somewhere as rates never go down.

So this brings up the next item. I notice that BHP is going to close down the coal fired plants and go natural gas and have or will ask for a rate increase to do so. This again is a capital expenditure and should not be placed on the consumers shoulders until it is finished and then only partially. And then this brings up another part of the preceding question of fortune telling. These are big boys in the power business and should have considered optional ways (natural gas) when they built the latest over in Wyoming. And you folks are also in the guessing game, why didn't you foresee the EPA getting its way eventually. You know by this time that BIG GOVERNMENT always wins. There should have been some foresight on yours and BHP part, since the consumer gets it in the end and you should be looking out for the consumer.

Thanks for your time.

Lewis W. Rohrer, a retiree on Social Security where theres not enough to go around.