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**From:** Scott Olson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 12, 2014 4:05:35 PM  
**To:** PUC Consumer Info; PUC  
**Subject:** BHP's customer rate increase for storm costs  
**Auto forwarded by a Rule**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to hearing that the Public Utilities Commission of this state has agreed to listen to Black Hills Power's proposal to increase its customers' rates to cover the damage and maintenance from Winter Storm Atlas. First off, this is laughable to say the least that an electric company, the ONLY one in the Black Hills and surrounding area, that brings in millions of dollars each year, would charge its customers more to

cover damage from the weather. It's outrageous that they would even consider this. It is their job to ensure that every one of their customers has access to electricity, even in a bad storm such as Atlas was. Local businesses have no way to recoup their financial losses that were caused due to early or prolonged closures because of the weather. It should be no different for BHP. They need to suck it up, as everyone else did, and deal with their losses. They will easily be able to recoup their losses in the near future since they are the only electrical provider for its 84,000 customers in the area. I would strongly encourage the commission to listen to BHP's customers, who are venting outrage on social media and elsewhere about being charged more considering the already high cost of electricity. I hope that more of them will get in touch with the commission to let them know that this is outrageous and it should even be heard by the commission. I hope that the commission will use its knowledge and common sense in this hearing and side with their constituents in the Black Hills and reject this request by Black Hills Power to raise its rates just to cover expenses that it will ultimately recoup in the future anyway. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Scott O.

Concerned BHP customer