

10-14-09

Lead, S.D.

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.
Dusty Johnson -

I am writing to protest the huge 26.6% increase in electric rates requested by Black Hills Power. The real cost will be twice that when we pay resulting costs for services, higher taxes and higher cost for goods as government and businesses pass this increase on to the consumer.

Consider the following facts: No COLA raise in social security people; no raise for S.D. state employees, 3% raise less for county and city and school employees; medical high S.D. unemployment; Medical insurance premiums up 27% in '09 and again in 2010. State raising all kinds of fees (taxes), difficult weather conditions and depressed prices for lumber, crops, livestock, ect.

People can only pay out so much. We have too many living at the poverty level now.

Perhaps Black Hills Power should curb their big investment plans in other states and request a modest raise of 6% to keep their facilities in repair and hit the bullet with the rest of us in this difficult financial time.

Awaiting your reply, I remain Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Betty M. Ryan

~~Lead, S.D. 57154-3741~~
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