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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Public Utility Commission,

Nov. 8, 2009

The following letter reflects my views on the large rate increase requested by Black Hills Power of Rapid City, S. Dak.

1. Why should B.H.P. receive a huge rate increase when many S. Dakotans, (and Americans in general), are struggling to pay their bills now.

Any large rate increase, (should be) implemented during times of prosperity, and certainly NOT when the entire nation - teeters on the Brick of another Great Depression!

People simply DO NOT have the money to spare, for this huge increase right now. Many of us are still trying to recover from the ripping that we suffered - from the Oil Companies price increase! Do you gals plan to now let the Utility Companies do the same thing??

2. Obviously, Black Hills Power, is shooting for the moon (ie. 26% increase), in the hopes of you Guys giving them perhaps a 10 to 15% increase. Corporates like B.H.P., and the Commission, can save face, if the initial request is scaled back.

Even a 10% increase, at this time, will cripple many businesses, and create further job loss, in an area that's already hunting for jobs!

3: A vast majority of people in this area - DO NOT want, yet More - "Dirty energy!"

Please -- Read -- On -->

Black Hills Power - rate increase - Continued.

The area east and south of Gillette, Already suffer enough from the effects of Burning COAL.

Please -- help leave that, pollution laden, Coal, in the ground - UNTIL the time-technology catches up, and it can be burnt Clean! This area stands to Gain-soooh much from just wind power, that it would be just plain - stupid, - to enable BHP to build, (yet another,) Coal fire plant!

If you are going to grant them even a 10% increase now, - stipulate that the increase goes towards the development of Wind Energy, and transmission lines to their market.

We are at a crossroads, - for heavens sake - Regulate for tomorrow, NOT just "today." The possibilities, (and the New jobs) are just endless for the development of all of (our) Wind!

4. Before - Any form of a rate increase is approved, the PUC should demand that B.H.P. Settle All Lawsuits involved with the "Grizzly Gulch Forest Fire Victims." BHP could afford to pay the state of S.D., and the U.S. Government \$5.9 Million Dollars, back in 2006, for damages involved in the 2002 Forest Fire, yet those of us, like my Family, and myself, - that lost our Home, 2 garages, 3 automobiles, and nearly everything we once owned - on the face of this earth, have received (absolutely NOTHING) from Black Hills Power.

They have demonstrated to us that, Indeed, they are NOT the Good neighbor that they profess to be, - over

and thru their incredibly (Deep pockets,) they have demonstrated that their attorneys can out spend us in a Court of Law.

This crap has been going on since July 1, 2002 and it is high time that the Government, (whom we pay taxes to,) Steps in, and forces BHP to make a FAIR settlement with those of us that lost Everything to Fire, way back in 2002. They want something from the Govt, (now) would be the logical time, to make them settle (their) fire mess!!

You, as a taxpayer funded entity, holds the power to either approve, or Deny this rate increase for BHP.

In the name of, "justice," and in the name of, "Good regulatory reasoning, myself, and many others would ask you Commissioners to -- DENY this rate increase until such

a time when, #1. BHP has settled ALL lawsuits involving damages to private citizens during the 2002 Grizzly Gulch Forest Fire, and #2. Increase DENIED until such a time when a full environmental impact study, of the effects of yet another, "coal fired," power plant in the Dillite area has been completed, and

#3. until such a time that BHP can convince the (voters) of this great state - that Dirty Energy, is, (Better,) for us than CLEAN-WIND!

Thank You For Reading This

David Sandidge + Family

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