

From: maryanne rohrer
To: Gary Hanson
ReplyTo: maryanne rohrer
Subject: Black Hills Power and Light
Sent: Jan 12, 2014 5:12 PM

Dear Mr. Hanson;

I have read with concern the article in today's Rapid City Journal that Black Hills Power and Light is seeking yet another rate increase to cover costs from the October storm as well as an increase to recover cost of closing some plants. It seems unacceptable for BHP to continually seek rate increases. It seems to me that costs from storms and closures would be part of doing business. We, as consumers, have no way to ask someone else to pay for our storm costs. I have looked at the BHP annual report from 2012. I am not anything close to being an expert on understanding those reports, but it seems that they sold some part of their business for 165 million dollars, had a more balanced debt vs equity ratio, positive credit rating outlook and increased dividends. Their stock price was 36 something in the 2012 report and is nearly 54 now. I cannot see justification for yet another rate increase. I have balanced billing payments and have had those increase by ten dollars beginning in November - a result of the latest rate increase I assume as my use for the most recent billing period was less than last year. With a 1.5 percent increase in Social Security benefits and no increase in pay in my part time jobs it seems unacceptable for a company to ask for a rate increase when they have a glowing annual report. We are a two person household with natural gas heating and a natural gas water heater. We do a load of dishes a couple of times a week, three or four loads of laundry a week, minimal television use (less than two hours most days and none on some days), etc and yet have to pay 100 dollars a month for electricity. I notice that BHP sometimes sponsors activities at the civic center and while that is a minimal cost compared to the amount of income they have it seems like a slap in the face to see that and then be hit with yet another rate increase request.

Thank you for your time.

Maryanne Rohrer