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**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

April 21, 2014

South Dakota Public Utilities Commissions
500 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Black Hills Power and Light Rate Increase

I was disturbed to hear and read that Black Hills Power and Light has applied for a rate increase to help them offset the expenses they incurred from the October 4, 2013 blizzard and to re-build some new power plants.

As someone who has prepared hospital budgets, I feel that Black Hills Power needs to look to see where they maybe able to decrease their operating costs such as employment benefits and salary increases and cut some very unnecessary expenses.

It was not very long ago that our rate per kilowatt was increased significantly and now they want to increase it again? In 2011 for one month we paid a sum of \$224.97 for 2,850 kilowatts of power which was for 33 days compared to one month in 2013 for 2,878 kilowatts for 31 days a sum of \$302.30 a difference of \$77.33.

We have the Rancher's Relief Fund to help offset their income and now we are looking at paying a percentage to help Black Hills Power offset some of their costs due to the blizzard? Who helps the other consumers? I know of people who had to pay between \$2,000.00 and \$3,000.00 due to the October blizzard so I thoroughly hope that the PUC will not allow Black Hills Power and Light to increase their proposed increase in their rates.

Thank you.

Pat Conger
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