

March 7i, 2015

Public Utilities Commission

500 East Capitol Avenue

Pierre, South Dakota 57501

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 11 2015**

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

I recently noticed in the paper that you have agreed for Black Hills Power to increase their fees in April. I am a 77 year old person on social security at \$808.00 a month. I do not have any other resources. I wonder how I will be able to continue to pay for heating in the future. I am very happy and grateful to receive South Dakota Heating Services during the winter months . I live in a loft of about 300 square feet and even with the SD heating service, I continue to always be cold as I leave my thermostat on the low setting as I am afraid my South Dakota heating service will run out before May 15. . My heating bill has increased since January 30, 2012 of \$61.00 a month to \$105.80 on January 30, 2015.

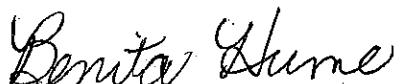
My monthly apartment is \$400.00 a month and I can not afford to move someplace else as I could never receive such a low rate anywhere else nor do I have the funds to move anyway.

I wonder what other social security recipients do that do not have the South Dakota Heating Services and I wonder what I will do to continue on.

I am certainly grateful for the help that South Dakota gives to low income seniors. However, my meager cost of living does not anywhere meet the daily increases. I know that Black Hills Power is not the only company that inceases their fees, it is everyone else piled on top that we are trying to deal with.

I know that I can't be the only low income senior that is wondering how we will continue to struggle on.

Sincerely,

  
Benita Hume

  
Rapid City, SD 57701