

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

CAPITOL BUILDING, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR

500 E. CAPITOL AVE,

Pierre, SD 57501-5070

DATE: APRIL 1, 2014

RECEIVED  
APR 04 2014  
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

RE: BLACK HILLS POWER & LIGHT'S RATE INCREASE REQUEST

DEAR SIRs;

I AM ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO BHP&L'S RECENT RATE INCREASE REQUEST FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS;

1. YOU JUST GAVE THEM AN INCREASE OF 6.4% IN OCTOBER, 2013.
2. THEY ARE A PUBLICLY TRADED COMPANY & AS SUCH THEY CAN RAISE CAPITAL BY MAKING A STOCK ISSUANCE. THAT IS WHAT STOCK IS FOR.
3. BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT COVERED BY INSURANCE FOR THE OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2013 BUZZARD IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR RAISING OUR RATES, THAT IS A COST OF DOING BUSINESS AND THE COSTS SHOULD BE RECOUPED BY REDUCING/ELIMINATING STOCK DIVIDENDS UNTIL THE LOSS AMOUNT IS RECOUPED. CUSTOMERS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY FOR THIS LOSS OR EXCESSIVE GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS!

4, VANCE CROCKER'S RATIONAL FOR NOT PURCHASING INSURANCE IS "BUNK"! BHP&L SHOULD MAINTAIN A CONTINGENCY FUND TO PAY FOR MOTHER NATURES DISASTERS. HOMEOWNERS HAVE TO PAY FOR VARIOUS DISASTERS SUCH AS HOUSE SETTLING BECAUSE INSURANCE COMPANYS WONT COVER THEM, MAYBE BHP&L SHOULD BE MADE TO GIVE US A 20% DISCOUNT ON OUR MONTHLY BILLS UNTIL WE RECOUP OUR LOSSES, AND ANY EXTRA REVENUE WE CAN SQUEEZE OUT OF THEM CAN BE USED TO MAKE OTHER UPGRADES TO OUR PROPERTY IN THE FUTURE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Kenneth R. Kochel

KENNETH R. KOCHEL

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