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From: maryanne rohrer

To: Gary Hanson

ReplyTo: maryanne rohrer

Subject: Black Hills Power and Light

Sent: Apr 25, 2014 12:23 PM

Dear Mr. Hanson;

I am writing again to ask about the BHP rate increase request. One of the companies comments (Rapid City Journal) was that they had no insurance to pay for the damage. I would like to know if insurance was available for this type of damage and BHP simply did not purchase it. If it was available and not purchased I see no reason for customers to pay for the damage. I am not sure I see a reason for the customer to pay regardless. Thousands of families in western South Dakota suffered much damage and I don't believe a good share of them can charge anyone to recoup thier losses.

Considering that a new rate increase went into effect last fall I think it is unreasonable for another increase. We are a senior couple paying with the averaged payment plan The bill has gone up ten dollars a month over the last few months. It does not seem reasonable that a bill for electricity for two people (gas furnace and gas water heater) who average 3-4 loads of laundry a week, have the television on less than two hours a day, have energy efficient appliances, etc., should be one hundred dollars a month let alone 113 dollars a month if this is approved. Most of us just have to 'tighten our belts' when things happen and I see no reason that BHP can't do that as well. I have heard that they are building new offices just south of Rapid City but have no way of verifying that. Can you tell me if that is correct? If so, perhaps that should be put on hold until the company recovers from the storm - just as the rest of us have to do. I certainly wish competition were available in the power market.

I am afraid most of us see this as a money grab to support lack of planning and preparation for disaster. I understand that you may disagree, but that is a comment I have heard from people I am acquainted with.

Thank you for your time.

Maryanne Rohrer