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**From:** PUC  
**Sent:** Monday, July 12, 2021 12:10 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** EL21-016

Ms. Wright-Pigman,

Thank you for your message and interest in Black Hills Energy's cold weather costs docket EL21-016. Your message will be posted under Comments and Responses in this docket along with my response.

The concerns you have raised are valid. That said, Black Hills is legally entitled to recover their costs for the fuel used to generate electricity. Docket EL21-016 determined what method should be used to recover those costs.

At the Public Utilities Commission's May 13 meeting to consider this matter, I voted "no". Decisions of the commission are determined by majority vote and the majority voted to use a different methodology than normal to recover Black Hills Energy's cost for natural gas used to generate electricity during that cold weather period.

You can read all of the information associated with this docket at <https://puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2021/EL21-016.aspx>. You can listen to the meeting discussion on this issue at <https://puc.sd.gov/commission/media/2021/puc05132021.mp3> beginning at 1:11:30.

Here is a link to an Information Guide posted online, <https://puc.sd.gov/contact/guidelines.aspx>, and a link to the Extreme Cold and Energy Cost FAQ posted on the PUC's website that may also be helpful, <https://puc.sd.gov/Publications/extremecoldfaq.aspx>.

Chris Nelson, Chairman  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[PUC.sd.gov](https://puc.sd.gov)