

From: PUC
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 3:52 PM
To: 'Amanda Loy' [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [EXT] Filing of Richard Bell

Ms. Loy:

Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns regarding Black Hills Energy's proposed rate increase. The full docket, opened on February 19, 2026, is available on the PUC website: [EL26-003](#) - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Authority to Increase Rates For its Utility Service in South Dakota. Your input is an important part of the public process.

To help you better understand how the PUC evaluates rate increase requests, I encourage you to review the [Electric Rate Increase Request Info Guide](#) on the PUC website. This guide outlines the steps and considerations involved in our review.

The Public Utilities Commission takes these matters seriously and is committed to a thorough and transparent review of the proposal. As part of this process, Black Hills Energy is required to provide detailed justification for the increase.

Commission staff analysts and legal counsel are currently conducting a comprehensive review of the company's financial data, operational needs, and the potential impact on customers. This includes multiple rounds of discovery, where staff and expert witnesses request and analyze detailed information from the utility.

Once this comprehensive review is complete, the Commission will publicly discuss the case, ask further questions, and deliberate based on the evidence presented. Each commissioner will then vote to approve, deny, or modify the requested rate increase. It's important to note that the Commission is legally obligated to base its decision on the facts in this case and applicable law and cannot deny a rate increase request without fully vetting the record. We are required to arrive at a reasonable and legally enforceable decision.

The "Delivery and Distribution" section you mentioned is a standard part of your Black Hills Energy bill, although the amount charged in this section changes each billing cycle based on your usage. The components of this section recover the utility's cost to deliver electricity to your home or building. It includes costs associated with generation assets, transmission, distribution, and administrative and general functions. These costs are further broken apart and allocated to each customer and billed by a monthly Customer Charge, the same amount each billing cycle, and also by an Energy Charge based on the amount of electricity they use, which varies each billing cycle.

Your comments and this response will be posted in the “Comments and Responses” section of the docket. We appreciate your engagement and encourage you to follow the docket as it progresses.

*Chris Nelson, Chairman
Public Utilities Commission
Puc.sd.gov*

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