From: PUC
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2026 2:35 PM
To: 'Ben & Laura DeRuyter' [redacted]
Subject: RE: [EXT] unchecked rate increases

Mr. DeRuyter:

This is in response to your comments submitted to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

Docket 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 was opened on February 19, 2026. In this docket, Commission staff analysts and legal counsel have been conducting a comprehensive review of the company's financial data, operational needs, and the potential impact on customers.

On Oct. 26, 2026, Black Hills Power, Commission Staff, and intervenor South Dakota Large Customer Group submitted a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation, along with a Settlement Stipulation and supporting documents. These filings are available in the online docket.

The Commission is scheduled to consider and discuss the proposed settlement at its next Commission meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2026, beginning at 9:30 a.m. CST at the State Capitol in Pierre. The meeting agenda is available on the PUC's website. An audio livestream of the meeting may be accessed by selecting the "Listen LIVE" link on the PUC homepage that morning.

In Docket EL26-024- In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Approval to Amend its Phase In Plan Rate, Commission staff analysts and legal counsel are evaluating the application to determine whether the project is prudent and whether the proposed rate is just and reasonable. As part of that review, staff will conduct discovery by requesting information and supporting documentation related to the petition and the costs the company seeks to recover. Once staff's review is complete, the analysis will be filed in the docket and presented to the Commission at a public, noticed meeting or hearing. The three commissioners will vote on whether to grant the request during that meeting or hearing.

To help you better understand how the PUC evaluates utility rate requests, I encourage you to review the Electric Rate Increase Request Info Guide available on

the PUC website. The guide outlines the process and the factors considered during the Commission's review.

Your comments and this response will be filed under Comments and Responses in both the EL26-003 and EL26-024 dockets. Given your interest in these matters, we encourage you to follow the dockets as additional information is filed and posted.

Chris Nelson, Chairman
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
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