

**From:** sharon cole [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2026 1:37 PM  
**To:** PUC-PUC <[PUC@state.sd.us](mailto:PUC@state.sd.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Black Hills Energy increase

To Chris Nelson,

I am writing in concern about the 25% increase being requested by Black Hills Energy. Please, please, please think of those who do not make a huge income and/or are retired!!! We have had the water company here in Rapid City increase our bills over the past couple of years, all medical, food, gas, insurances, property taxes, rise by leaps and bounds. We are senior citizens and are being PUSHED out of our homes whether we want to or not. We are almost 70 and my husband has not been able to retire due to all these increases.

I can understand them asking for a small increase below 10% due to their expenses increasing. From what I can tell under this 25% increase, our bill will go up over \$50 per month! Our son in Colorado put solar panels on his home and says the payment breaks even with when he would have to pay on his electric. He will have it paid off soon and then they will be paying him for his extra electric. We are SERIOUSLY considering this!!

Please, do NOT allow BHE to raise our rates by 25%!!!

Sincerely,  
Bob and Sharon Cole  
[REDACTED]  
Rapid City, SD 57702

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