From: burrill [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 3:30 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Black Hills Energy rate increases.

Dear PUC members:

Regarding the Black Hills Energy rate increase requests: I've seen different rate increases proposed: 45%, 32% or 15%. Here's our take on this item:

- Black Hills Energy has said this rate request is to finance a new power plant in Rapid City. I know they are expanding in other locations and I would begin to doubt this need based on those other locations. BHE has constructed a large power line between the Black Hills and Cheyenne, Wyoming. I would conjecture that this power line is to serve Cheyenne. Why should South Dakota rate payers be paying for this power line (and increased capacity for Cheyenne)?
- There needs to be an impact fee assessed to pay for new construction, even in Rapid City. Existing rate payers should not be required to pay for expansion in new developments.

Bottom line: Existing rate payers need to be protected from costs of expansion of facilities that they will never use.

Thanks very much!

James and Carol Burrill

[redacted]

Belle Fourche, SD 57717