

From: C Douglas EAGLESON [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 7, 2026 6:20 AM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Docket No EL26-003

Dear PUC Commissioners:

I am writing to respectfully express my strong opposition to the proposed rate increases being requested by Black Hills Energy.

As I understand the proposal, the average residential electric customer could see a monthly bill increase from approximately \$98.96 to \$143.70 — an increase of nearly 45 percent. For many families, seniors, individuals on fixed incomes, and small businesses, an additional \$45 or more every month is not insignificant.

The City of Deadwood operates essential public infrastructure—including water pumping facilities, street and public-area lighting, buildings, and other municipal operations—that require significant amounts of electricity.

A significant increase in the City's utility costs affects every taxpayer and resident because those additional expenses must be absorbed somewhere within the municipal budget. Higher electricity costs could mean less money available for streets, water and sewer infrastructure, parks, public safety, employee compensation, equipment, and other services—and could put additional pressure on future taxes, fees, or utility rates.

As a City Commissioner, I have a responsibility to carefully examine expenditures and protect the financial interests of the residents of Deadwood. I am therefore particularly concerned that this proposed increase could substantially increase the City's operating costs at a time when municipalities are already facing rising costs in virtually every area.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission to reject the proposed rate increase as requested.

Charles Eagleson
Deadwood City Commissioner
[REDACTED]
Deadwood, SD 57732
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone