

From: Petals & Pages <petalspages605@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 4:34 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Black Hills Energy proposed rate increase

Hello,

I am sure you have been flooded with emails regarding BHE's proposed increase. I will keep my comments brief - and hopefully I am not late in sending them.

I greatly oppose this increase. I largely feel for many people, this 45% increase is quite a leap and will be a hindrance to many. While BHE says it should only increase the bill \$19.70 for the average customer, I fear that in our current economy and state, that may be too much.

As a business owner, I can adjust this price to my operating costs - essentially passing it on to customers. However, as I am already battling with increases in other services (trash, internet/phone) and tariffs with importing flowers and some containers and home goods. I find this rate increase just exacerbates the costs I need to charge and will ultimately bring in less revenue. I have already noticed a decline in my average price per order - understandable, considering the economic state we are in.

As a business, I do understand the need for an increase. These are new services coming to the area. This could be argued that the new services could be paid for from current bills paid. Our area seems to be paying a LOT for electricity and there is no other choice but to pay. When I want to bring something new to my business, I look for ways to make it happen with what I already have. I strongly feel like BHE should do the same.

I appreciate that BHE hasn't had an increase since 2014. So again, I understand the need for it. But 45% seems like so much at one time. Perhaps middle ground could be reached with a lesser percentage.

Sorry - I guess my comments weren't as brief as I thought. I appreciate your time and listening to this matter. Thank you for your service to PUC. If you need more information, my contact information is below.

Carrie

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