

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2026 10:37 AM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] BHE rate increase

[EL26-003 - South Dakota Public Utilities Commission](#)

Good morning PUC commissioners for the state of South Dakota. 😊

I have just received from Black Hills Energy a notice of rate increase for my residence in Sturgis SD. With the written page of information they have provided with my last billing statement, it appears that my rate will be **increasing approximately 25%**. While I acknowledge that the cost of everything these days is increasing, it seems to me that the proposed 25 % increase is excessively high.

Yes, the cost of food has also risen...but I have a choice as to what I want to purchase for a price I can afford.

Yes, the cost of transportation has risen, and I again have a choice as to what I purchase and can afford.

Same with prescriptions, health insurance, other services.

What I do not have a choice on is my electricity provider. I have an all-electric home and have

already turned off the heat in some of the rooms. I have a demand controller which already helps me effectively utilize electricity on off peak hours. I have a balanced billing of \$169 a month. A rate increase of 25% would raise that to \$211.25 a month.

I do not know the entire process of utility ratings, so I am only speaking on my behalf....that of an individual family/homeowner. I have not read all the documents or testimonies on the document listing...because I'm sure it outlines all the 'reasons' for justifying the increase, but I would just like to encourage you to consider the everyday customers/homeowners in the Black Hills area and their situations which will likely be similar to mine.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Have a wonderfully blessed day 😊

Connie Udell



Sturgis, SD