

From: Carly Wescott [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 9:38 AM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] ID. EL-26-024

Hello My name is Carly Wescott. My address is [REDACTED] RC SD 57702. Please enter my comments in your hearing regarding Black Hills Energy's request for a surcharge of \$20 monthly per customer for their new pet project that would serve 78,000 people. ID. EL-26-024

First, it seems BHE is doing it's best to find a way to obtain the funds they originally requested of a 25% rate increase. When they didn't get the entire 25% increase they come back and say the need a \$20 per month increase in electric per customer to fund a different pet project. That would be on top of the rate increase that was already approved! Customers of BHE deserve to know what is really going on and it isn't for our benefit This new pet project only serves 78,000 people. Why wasn't this addressed a long time ago? Why now? Funny it coincides with the planned DATA CENTERS being built and their merger with another electric company!

IMO BHE should be REQUIRED to submit to an audit to find all the wasteful spending before they are allowed any further increases or surcharges. They are not taking into consideration all the people who are low income or are on extremely fixed incomes. I am a senior and one of those people. I can barely afford to pay my monthly bill as it is and try to cut costs every way I can. This \$20 monthly rate increase would be an extreme hardship on me and countless others. Maybe BHE should be forced to budget like people on fixed incomes do!

Carly Wescott
UNHAPPY BHE CUSTOMER