

**From:** Diane Ax [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 6:50 PM  
**To:** PUC-PUC <[PUC@state.sd.us](mailto:PUC@state.sd.us)>  
**Cc:** Diane Ax [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXT] Docket EL26-003 Black Hills Energy Rate Increase of 25%

Black Hills Energy is requesting approval for a 25% rate increase under Docket EL26-003. While I understand that rates increases are necessary in order to complete infrastructure projects and cover other costs of business a 25% rate increase is egregious. Even if this increase is implemented over a 5 year period local rate payers would be financially harmed. As a retiree and on a fixed income this would seriously impact my ability to cover all of my daily living expenses.

Please review this request and deny this increase. Black Hills Energy needs to come back with a more reasonable increase request.

Thank You.

Diane Ax

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