From: Don Ribordy [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2026 12:05 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Docket EL26-003 Comment

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern about the rate proposal for Black Hills Energy. This rate increase is too much all at once, especially when combined with the the proposed PIPR on Docket #EL26-204.
I recently received my BHE bill for August. I used the exact same amount of power as last August (456 kwh) and my bill increased by $14.89 which was a 19% increase in cost for last year. Yes, it's easy to dismiss it as just $14.89 per month, however it's much more concerning that it is a 19% jump in just a single year.
When you combine the $14.89 with the proposed $19.70 from Docket #EL26-204 in now becomes an increase of $34.59 or 44.2% per month.

A 44.2% increase is onerous to every single residential customer in Black Hills Corp. territory. Especially when you take into consideration the fact that Black Hills Corp's net profitability was 13.4%. In addition to that they are paying a dividend at 3.99%. Profit and Cash flow doesn't seem to be an issue for BHE.
When you take all that together this just seems to be an unreasonable request on the part of BHE.
And if I am understanding the information correctly that 13.4% net profitability is after the costs of building the Lange II plan

I realize they have not had a rate increase in 10 years. I believe a combined (Docket EL26-003 + Docket EL26-204) overall rate increase of 8% now and 8% in another year would be acceptable at the present time.
Asking for both of these increases at the suggested rates at this time doesn't seem reasonable. To me it seems to just be driven by greed and nothing more.

I hope the commission will do the right thing and protect rate-payers by reigning in these extremely high increases to consumers before approving any rate increases.
Thank you,

Don Ribordy
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