

**From:** Jhonda Bruhn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 22, 2026 10:19 PM  
**To:** PUC-PUC <[PUC@state.sd.us](mailto:PUC@state.sd.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Opposition to Black Hills Energy Proposed 45% Rate Increase

Dear South Dakota Public Utilities Commission,

I am writing to formally log my strong opposition to the proposed Black Hills Energy (BHE) 45% electric rate increase.

While a reasonable adjustment for inflation and operational costs over time is understandable, a 45% increase is excessive and places an unbearable financial burden on residential customers. For working families, seniors, and neighbors living on fixed or limited incomes in our community, an increase of this magnitude creates severe and immediate hardship. These financial struggles are real and widespread.

Before approving any rate adjustment, I urge the Commission to require BHE to demonstrate why these costs cannot be absorbed through operational efficiencies, shareholder equity, or spread out over a significantly longer phase-in period rather than being passed on to residential customers all at once.

Thank you for considering the impact on local residents as you evaluate this matter.

Sincerely,

Jhonda Bruhn

[REDACTED]

Belle Fourche, SD

Phone: [REDACTED]