

From: PUC
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 1:44 PM
To: 'Jodie Goldade' [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [EXT] Richard Bell filing

Ms. Goldade:

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission received your comments related to docket [EL26-003](#) - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Authority to Increase Rates For its Utility Service in South Dakota.

To help you better understand how the PUC evaluates rate increase requests, I encourage you to review the [Electric Rate Increase Request Info Guide](#) on the PUC website. This guide outlines the steps and considerations involved in our review.

The Public Utilities Commission takes these matters seriously and is committed to a thorough and transparent review of the proposal. As part of this process, Black Hills Energy is required to provide detailed justification for the increase.

Commission staff analysts and legal counsel are currently conducting a comprehensive review of the company's financial data, operational needs, and the potential impact on customers. This includes multiple rounds of discovery, where staff and expert witnesses request and analyze detailed information from the utility.

Once this comprehensive review is complete, the Commission will publicly discuss the case, ask further questions, and deliberate based on the evidence presented. Each commissioner will then vote to approve, deny, or modify the requested rate increase. It's important to note that the Commission is legally obligated to base its decision on the facts and applicable law and cannot deny a rate increase request without fully vetting the record. We are required to arrive at a reasonable and legally enforceable decision.

Your comments and this response will be posted in the "Comments and Responses" section of the docket. We appreciate your engagement and encourage you to follow the docket as it progresses.

*Chris Nelson, Chairman
Public Utilities Commission
Puc.sd.gov*