

From: Jenna Ruth [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 4:14 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Public Comment – Docket EL26-003: Black Hills Energy Rate Increase Request

Dear South Dakota Public Utilities Commissioners,

I am writing as a Black Hills Energy ratepayer to formally voice my strong opposition to the proposed utility rate increase under **Docket EL26-003**.

While operational costs rise over time, imposing a rate hike of this magnitude places an unrealistic and severe financial burden on everyday working families, seniors on fixed incomes, and local households. Essential living costs—including groceries, taxes, and general inflation—are already stretching budget limits across South Dakota. Adding tens of dollars more per month to an essential utility bill is something many households simply cannot absorb.

As a guaranteed regional monopoly, Black Hills Energy faces no market competition, leaving consumers with no option to switch providers. The Public Utilities Commission serves as our essential line of defense. I ask the Commission to reject this excessive request and hold Black Hills Energy accountable to manage its infrastructure and growth costs responsibly without passing unsustainable financial hardship onto consumers.

Thank you for reviewing and considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Jenna Hardy

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