

From: PUC
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2026 11:36 AM
To: Jolene Ryan [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: [EXT] Rate increase

Ms. Ryan:

Your message to South Dakota Public Utilities Commissioner Chris Nelson regarding the PUC's 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 is being posted under Comments and Responses in the docket.

Please note that commissioners are not allowed to discuss dockets open before the Commission with individuals outside of a properly noticed, public meeting or via the official docket record. See the following excerpt from the PUC's [Electric Rate Increase Request Information Guide](#):

Communicate on record. Verbal communication between a commissioner and a person with an interest in a matter before the commission that does not occur in a public forum or as part of the official record should be avoided. Those who communicate in writing with a commissioner about an open or imminent docket matter should understand that their comments will become part of the official record and subject to review by all parties and the public. Likewise, comments made at a PUC public proceeding or submitted to the commission relative to a docket matter become part of the record, open to review by all parties and the public. Because commissioners have a decision-making role in docket matters, any discussion with a commissioner about an open or imminent docket must take place in an open forum, such as a public meeting with notice given to all parties.

You can learn more about the laws governing this communication by reading the Ex Parte Communication with the PUC information at <https://puc.sd.gov/commission/publication/ExParteComm.pdf>.

Please also see the guidelines in the [Electric Rate Increase Request Information Guide](#), about submitting comments:

Submit comments. Members of the public are encouraged to submit written comments about an active rate case to the PUC. These informal public comments are reviewed and considered by the PUC commissioners and

staff. Comments should include the docket number or name of the company proposing the rate increase, commenter's full name, mailing address, e-mail address and phone number. These comments should be emailed to puc@state.sd.us or mailed or handdelivered to PUC, 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501. Comments are posted in the "Comments" section of the docket within a reasonable time after having been received. The commenter's name, city and state will be posted along with their comment. Comments received from businesses, organizations or other commercial entities (on letterhead, for example) will include the full contact information for such.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the Commission.

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff
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