

**From:** PUC  
**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2026 3:37 PM  
**To:** 'Dr. James Schwierert' [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [EXT] Docket EL26-003

Dr. Schwierert:

Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns regarding Black Hills Energy's proposed rate increase. You'll find the full docket, which was opened on February 19, 2026, on the PUC website: [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. Your input is an important part of the public process.

On March 10, 2026, the Commission suspended the imposition of the new rate for 180 days. See the [order](#) posted in the docket. A public hearing and/or public meeting will be held prior to concluding this rate case.

We understand that affordability is a top concern for customers, especially given recent economic pressures. 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.

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

Your comments and petition 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*