

**From:** Jim White [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2026 7:42 PM  
**To:** PUC-PUC <[PUC@state.sd.us](mailto:PUC@state.sd.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Complaint about the "confidentiality" of EL26-008

BHE is proposing a 25% rate increase and THAT includes the \$100 every resident has to pay to get their lines to our residences/businesses. I believe they wanted a 39% rate increase, but you lowered it to 25%. I called BHE to ask how long I need to continue to pay this \$100 fee and the response was for a helluva long time. If one calculates that fee for every meter they've install, that have to be mega-millions over a long period of time.

Realizing they are a publicly controlled utility, it's a bit much. Give the public the information. Our tax dollars pay for these developments.

NOW, they want confidentiality for the proposed bitcoin data center reported by the media. That's, first of all, is a terrible way to do business, and secondly, there new to be transparency in all they do.

As the chairman of the Mayor's Beautification Committee for almost 20 years, we, as a committee, asked BHP (now BHE) to place the power lines underground all along Canyon Lake Drive when it was being rebuilt. They met with us and described that it costs more. Yes, it costs more, but in the long run (1) is a beautifying caveat and (2) protected from the winds and snow.

If power lines were placed underground as they have been for probably 50 years in my old hometown of Mountain View, CA, they'd be way ahead of the game during terrible storms. Yes, they can claim acidic soils, but in today's manufacturing world, they have that issue covered.

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