

From: ken ballou [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 1:59 PM

To: PUC <PUCPF@state.sd.us>

Subject: [EXT] Kenneth E Ballou, [REDACTED] Newell, SD 57760, [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

My wife and I live off SS payments, our current electric bill is over \$100.00 per month with a high of \$170.00 last winter, we live in a small trailer house and have a small garage. With property taxes increasing every year, insurance rates going up, food and propane prices rising, all rising faster than our measly cost of living raise, retirement is stressful enough without worrying about how to pay our electric bill.

Didn't Black Hills net 273.1 million in 2024?

Net income: \$273.1 million

• Up 4.16% from the prior year's \$262.2 million

I urge the PUC to take a hard look at their request for a 25% rate increase, exorbitant to day the least.

Thank you, Kenneth Ballou