

From: Kim Payne [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 3:36 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] DOCKET #EL 26-003

Regarding DOCKET #EL 26-003, Black Hills Energy request for a 25% rate increase, NO!

Infrastructure costs (often not even related to Rapid City, but Wyoming and other states/cities) should not be passed to residential customers in the form of utility rate increases!

The energy here is now costing more than it did in VERY BLUE Colorado!

How can you pass these costs onto poor people? 30% of Rapid City is below the poverty level and BHE has the audacity to increase rates by 25%? That will affect every walk of life, including those below poverty level.

BHE is a publicly traded company that makes mega profit. It is wrong to make it off the backs of poor people. They should spend profits on "infrastructure."

Please, do not let this happen.

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