

From: Laura Blom [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2026 1:23 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] BHE proposed rate increase

I am a Rapid City resident and writing about Black Hills Energy's request for a 25% rate increase.

Considering that in 2025 alone, Black Hills Corp, the parent company of BHE, posted a profit of \$291.6 million, I find the request for a rate increase to be obscene. Additionally, the 5.79 million yearly salary of BHE's CEO would suggest that the company is not only financially sound, but extremely profitable. While the pay of a private company is at the company's discretion, when they are asking for the public's dollars - who have no other choice in electric provider in the city of Rapid City - their internal financials are relevant. If they have invested in infrastructure and maintenance, that is the responsibility of the company; we, the end users, should not be propping up greater profits, nor subsidizing the merger with NorthWestern Energy, nor any infrastructure improvements related to WY's data centers (or the proposed data center in Rapid City, for that matter).

Please deny BHE's rate increase.

Thank you,

Laura Blom

[REDACTED]

Rapid City, SD 57702