

**From:** PUC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2026 8:00 AM  
**To:** 'Mike Hays' [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [EXT] Opposition to Rate Increases

Mr. Hays – This is in response to your comments submitted to the Public Utilities Commission. Your comments relate to two separate dockets:

- [EL25-024](#) - In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Authority to Increase its Electric Rates, was opened on June 30, 2025. The Commission voted on this docket on May 8, 2026.
- [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, was opened on February 19, 2026.

Regarding EL26-003, Black Hills Energy’s request for authority to increase its electric rates, Commission staff analysts and legal counsel are currently conducting a comprehensive review of the company’s financial data, operational needs, and the potential impact on customers. This includes multiple rounds of discovery, during which staff and expert witnesses request and analyze detailed information from the utility. The Public Utilities Commission is committed to a thorough and transparent review. As part of this process, Black Hills Energy is required to provide detailed justification for the proposed 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 this response will be posted in the “Comments and Responses” section of dockets EL25-024 and EL26-003.

*Chris Nelson, Chairman  
Public Utilities Commission  
PUC.sd.gov*