

From: Mike and Melissa Hurley [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2026 6:32 PM
To: PUC <PUCPF@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Docket 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

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to formally submit a public comment regarding the recent notice issued by Black Hills Energy outlining a proposed increase of more than 39% in base revenue, which is expected to result in an average electric bill increase exceeding 25% for customers.

As a customer, I have significant concerns regarding both the magnitude of this proposed increase and its potential impact on households and communities. While I understand the need for utilities to maintain infrastructure and ensure reliable service, an increase of this scale places a substantial financial burden on individuals and families—particularly during a time when many are already managing rising costs across essential expenses.

Additionally, upon reviewing billing statements more closely, it appears that the actual impact to some customers may exceed the stated “average,” with increases that could be considerably higher. This raises concerns around transparency, communication, and the consistency of impact across customer groups.

I strongly oppose this proposed rate increase and urge the Commission to take decisive action to protect consumers from what I believe to be an excessive and disproportionate financial impact. Specifically, I ask the Commission to:

Conduct a rigorous and transparent review of the proposed increase.

Require clear and compelling justification for the magnitude of this request.

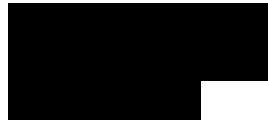
Prioritize the financial well-being of customers, particularly those most vulnerable.

Ensure full transparency in how these increases are calculated and communicated.

I appreciate the Commission's responsibility to balance operational needs with consumer protection and trust that this proposal will be evaluated with the seriousness it warrants. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike and Melissa Hurley

 Rapid City, SD 57702