

From: Mike Zachmeier [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 2:16 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Docket EL 26-003

Dear PUC Commissioners-

I was recently notified that Black Hills Energy has proposed a substantial increase in our residential electrical rates. I understand prices are going up everywhere, but I don't understand why such a large increase has been requested, nor why it is necessary. I know that it's your charter to "ensure utility companies in South Dakota provide safe and reliable service and that investor-owned companies do so with just and reasonable rates."

I sincerely hope you will challenge the rate proposal vigorously and ensure any capital expenditures proposed to justify the increase will NOT support the potentially higher energy needs of data centers, since President Trump has procured the Ratepayer Protection Pledge, wherein those companies agree to pay for their own energy infrastructure.

Please be sure to widely publicize the details of your ruling so we citizens understand your efforts to balance the true needs of the voters with the aspirations of BHE.

Sincerely,
Mike Zachmeier
[REDACTED]
Spearfish, SD 57783