

**From:** Paul Mitchell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2026 10:25 AM  
**To:** PUC-PUC <[PUC@state.sd.us](mailto:PUC@state.sd.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Objection to BHE Proposed Rate Increase docket number: EL26-003

Good Morning,

My name is Paul Mitchell and I live at [REDACTED] in Hot Springs, Sd. I am writing to file an informal objection to the 25% rate increase proposed by Black Hills Energy **docket number: EL26-003**. I find this rate increase to an outrageous amount. In the area of Hot Springs majority of residents, including myself, have no option of natural gas heat, leaving us with the more expensive or dangerous options of wood, electric or propane heat or a mixture of the three. My winter energy bill is already in the 200s due to the fact that I have to use electric heat as my primary heat source. Included in this is already an exorbitant "cost adjustment" for simply provided electricity to a more rural area. A 25% rate increase would have a significant financial impact on myself as a single income household and many in the community as Hot Springs in general is a fixed or low-income area. I strongly urge you to deny this proposed rate increase. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Have a blessed day

Paul Mitchell  
[REDACTED]