

**From:** Robin Englehart-Bagley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 11, 2026 1:43 PM  
**To:** PUC-PUC <[PUC@state.sd.us](mailto:PUC@state.sd.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Comments on EL26-003, Black Hills Power/Energy rate increase in SD

Dear South Dakota Public Utilities Commissioners:

In regard to EL26-003, Black Hills Power's application to increase utility rates in South Dakota, I am opposed to this increase. BHP has asked for a 25% rate increase, which is far too much for one increase. This will squeeze many household budgets that are already being squeezed with other rising prices, and people simply don't have the money to cover such a dramatic increase in their bill.

BHP has maintained that this rate increase has nothing to do with either their merger with Northwestern Energy, which they filed for first. I find that hard to believe. The companies announced their merger - no rate hikes due to this, they said - and then a few handful of months later, a rate hike.

Also, the company has said that this rate hike has nothing to do with data centers. But what about the ones in Wyoming? Meta is building a hyperscale data center near Cheyenne that will be a Cheyenne Power & Light customer, CPL is a BHP subsidiary. Also, Microsoft is expanding their existing data center, which is also a CPL customer. Are we ratepayers supposed to believe that this rate increase on us here in South Dakota has nothing to do with the enormous demand that this data center in Wyoming will cause?

I urge you to deny BHP this rate increase. Make them explain how these data centers in WY are impacting ratepayers here in SD.  
Thank you for your time and service.

Respectfully,  
Robin Englehart-Bagley

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