

Date: August 27, 2026

Re: Public Comment in Opposition to Black Hills Energy Rate Increase

To:

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

Office of the Attorney General Division of Consumer Protection
1302 E. Hwy 14, Suite 3
Pierre, SD 57501

From:

Mr & Mrs John T Reagan

Edgemont, SD 57735

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**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Subject: Strong Opposition to Proposed Rate Increase by Black Hills Energy

Dear Utility Commissioners and Attorney General,

I am writing to express my vehement opposition to the rate increase of up to 45% requested by Black Hills Energy. As a resident and consumer in South Dakota, this unprecedented financial burden would have a severe, detrimental impact on my household budget and our local community.

While I understand that utilities providers face operational cost, passing a potential 45% increase onto captive consumers is unacceptable. Many households are already stretching their budgets to keep up with rising cost of housing, groceries, and fuel. A rate increase of this magnitude places an unreasonable and unsustainable financial burden on South Dakota households, working families, and seniors living on fixed incomes, especially here in Edgemont South Dakota.

Electricity is not a luxury; it is an absolute necessity for survival through harsh South Dakota winters and hot summers, as well as a basic daily livelihood. I ask the Public Utilities Commission to protect South Dakota consumers by thoroughly auditing the utility's financial records, rejecting unnecessary rate increases, and ensuring final rates remain fair and reasonable.

I respectfully urge the Public Utility Commission to:

1. **Deny this excessive rate increase** in the interest of public protection.
2. **Thoroughly audit and scrutinize** the utility company's claimed expenses, operational efficiencies, and justification for the hike.
3. **Deny this excessive rate increase** in the interest of public protection.

I also ask the Attorney General's Office to closely monitor these proceedings to ensure that customer rights are fiercely defended and that South Dakotans are not subject to predatory or unjust utility pricing.

Thank you for your time, public service, and consideration of this urgent matter. I look forward to your response and to seeing the Commission stand up for everyday ratepayers.

Sincerely,




John T & Rheta L Reagan