From: Sabrina LaCroix [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2026 10:47 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Public Comment: Strong Opposition to Docket EL26-024 (Lange II Surcharge)

Dear Chairman Nelson and Commissioners,

I am writing as a captive customer of Black Hills Energy to enter my formal opposition to the proposed Phase-In Plan Rate amendment for the Lange II facility under Docket EL26-003 / EL26-024.

While Black Hills Energy and the Commission have publicly framed the recent base rate case as a modest average increase of $16.34, the reality hitting my household bill is far higher. The addition of the parallel Lange II surcharge (which effectively doubles the monthly impact for the average consumer) is a severe financial burden.

Because this surcharge is structured heavily around volumetric kilowatt-hour (kWh) usage, it creates an unfair and disproportionate penalty on residential consumers, particularly during South Dakota winters. Families who have aggressively reduced their energy consumption are still seeing their bills skyrocket.

I urge the Commission to take the following actions:

Deny Interim Rates: Black Hills Energy should not be permitted to collect a single dollar from ratepayers for this facility on an interim basis until the plant is entirely operational and actively delivering reliable power to the grid.

Enforce a Strict Prudence Review: The cost of the Lange II project has reportedly ballooned by tens of millions of dollars over its original projections. Ratepayers should not be forced to bail out corporate cost overruns or project mismanagement. The utility's shareholders must absorb these overruns.

The narrative that these combined increases are matching general inflation over a 12-year window ignores the structural reality of the newly approved tariffs, which guarantee increased utility revenue regardless of consumer conservation efforts. I ask that the Commission prioritize its duty to protect the public from monopoly overreach.

Sincerely,
Sabrina LaCroix
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