

From: Sierra Frazier-Riggs [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2026 10:29 AM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Black Hills Energy

Hello all,

My name is Sierra and I live in Sturgis, SD. I'm writing in regards to Black Hills Energy proposed rate increases and docket number EL26-003.

As a citizen escaping the realm of poverty, these increases will knock down so much progress my family has built and overcome. We are a two-income household with one child paying a mortgage and two car payments. We have discussed trading a car payment for an older vehicle to save costs but the cost-benefit doesn't add up. We need reliable vehicles for work and school.

The council in Sturgis has already voted on the 2027 budget, preparing for these increases by Black Hills Energy, and raised our property taxes to the max allowed to recoup some of that expense.

How are families like mine and those less fortunate supposed to survive and an even more limited budget after these taxes and bills?

We cook our meals at home and take leftovers for lunch. We don't frequent family experiences like going to a movie or the pumpkin patch because of our current budget. Next year, things will be worse.

How can we support our communities when large corporations are taking what little money we have left after bills??

Tell me, what are we supposed to do?!

I took on a second job, part time, this summer to help cover our gap already. There are only so many hours in a day. Our quality of life is already suffering.

Please help families like ours and deny the rate increase. It's unsustainable.

Sierra Frazier-Riggs

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Sturgis, SD
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Sent from my iPhone