

Date: April 7, 2026

To: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
500 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

**Re: Formal Objection to Black Hills Power, Inc. (d/b/a Black Hills Energy) Rate Increase – Docket EL26-003**

To the Honorable Commissioners,

We, the undersigned customers of Black Hills Energy, formally submit this objection to the proposed electric rate increase filed under Docket EL26-003.

Under SDCL § 49-34A-12, we request that the Commission continue to suspend the proposed rates and conduct a full evidentiary public hearing to determine if these increases are "just and reasonable."

Our objections are based on the following concerns:

1. **Economic Hardship:** The proposed 25.4% increase for residential customers is excessive and creates an undue financial burden on households, particularly those on fixed incomes.
2. **Service vs. Cost:** While current service is adequate, it does not demonstrate the high level of improvement or innovation that would warrant a 25.4% premium over existing rates. Also, Black Hills Energy's current reliability is expected to serve as the baseline; however, the company's existing profit margins should cover infrastructure maintenance without shifting such a heavy burden onto residential customers.
3. **Transparency:** We request further scrutiny of the utility's claimed infrastructure costs to ensure they are necessary and accurately reported.

We respectfully urge the Commission to either reject the requested rate hike or significantly reduce it to protect South Dakota consumers.

No.	Printed Name	Service Address	Phone/Email	Signature
1	Tara Tennis	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]
2	Diana D. Page	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]
3	Tracy Larson	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]
4	Dana Suster	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]
5	Julia Grise Larson	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]
6	David Krcelic	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]
7	Debra Krcelic	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]
8	Rick Tilford	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]

No.	Printed Name	Service Address	Phone/Email	Signature
9	Chance Tinant SA	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Chance Tinant
10	Dallas Vallery	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Dallas Vallery
11	Doug Eichler	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Doug Eichler
12	Tim Callahan	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Tim Callahan
13	Gilbert & Wood	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Gilbert Wood
14	Wendy Stone	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Wendy Stone
15	Billie Beaver	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Billie Beaver
16	Josh Mackoba	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Josh Mackoba
17	Guy Wopinski	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Guy Wopinski
18	Wanda Schuelke	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Wanda Schuelke
19	Eric Weber	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Eric Weber
20	Tom Martin	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Tom Martin
21	Linda Martin	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Linda Martin
22	Marty Jump	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Marty Jump
23	Karrol Herman	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Karrol Herman
24	Bryant Herman	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Bryant Herman
25	scoti schankuth	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	scoti schankuth
26	Debra Kopitsky	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Debra Kopitsky
27	Dustina Chord	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Dustina Chord
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