

From: PUC
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 4:22 PM
To: 'Tara Tennis' [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [EXT] docket EL26-003

Ms. Tennis:

The PUC is in receipt of your petition filed pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-12.

On March 10, 2026, the Commission suspended the imposition of the new rate for 180 days. See the [order](#) posted in the docket. A public hearing and/or public meeting will be held prior to concluding this rate case.

You'll find the full docket, which was opened on February 19, 2026, on the PUC website: [EL26-003](#) - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy for Authority to Increase Rates For its Utility Service in South Dakota.

To help you better understand how the PUC evaluates rate increase requests, I encourage you to review the [Electric Rate Increase Request Info Guide](#) available on the PUC website. This guide outlines the steps and considerations involved in our review.

Commission staff analysts and legal counsel are currently conducting a comprehensive review of the company's financial data, operational needs, and the potential impact on customers. This includes multiple rounds of discovery, where staff and expert witnesses request and analyze detailed information from the utility.

Once this comprehensive review is complete, the Commission will publicly discuss the case, ask further questions, and deliberate based on the evidence presented. Each commissioner will then vote to approve, deny, or modify the requested rate increase. It's important to note that the Commission is legally obligated to base its decision on the facts and applicable law and cannot deny a rate increase request without fully vetting the record. We are required to arrive at a reasonable and legally enforceable decision.

Your comments and petition and this response will be posted in the "Comments and Responses" section of the docket. We appreciate your engagement and encourage you to follow the docket as it progresses.

*Chris Nelson, Chairman
Public Utilities Commission
Puc.sd.gov*