

From: Kate Shreves [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 7:58 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Docket #EL 26-003

I am writing in regard to the rate increase requested by Black Hills Energy. The residents in this area have no choice in electric providers which makes BH Energy a monopoly. That is where the importance of a Public Utilities Commission comes in.

This rate hike is far too much all at once. Citizens are struggling to keep up with bills with the cost of living increasing greatly, health insurance being cancelled for many low income residents and now a threat to medicare, medicaid and social security. People can simply not afford such a huge increase.

The electric company needs to, and we am sure, can find ways to reassess what needs to be done and trim their budget. The letter sent to their customers about the increase in rates did not mention one thing that they need the money for. Please do not allow this request to go forward.

Thank you for your time on this matter.

Kate and Doug Shreves
[REDACTED]
Rapid City, SD
[REDACTED]