**From:** Jeph Love [redacted]
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 11, 2026 10:55 AM
**To:** PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
**Subject:** [EXT] Public Comment on Docket EL26-008 (Black Hills Energy / CSRE Properties)

Dear Commissioners Nelson, Hanson, and Fiegen,
I am writing as a Black Hills Energy customer and South Dakota resident to submit my public comment on Docket EL26-008, regarding the Blockchain Interruptible Electric Service Agreement between Black Hills Energy and CSRE Properties South Dakota LLC.
I respectfully urge the Commission to deny the request to keep this contract permanently confidential and to ensure local families and businesses are not subsidizing large-scale cryptocurrency mining.
My main concerns are:
• Transparency: Regulated utilities serve the public interest. Ratepayers deserve to see the basic terms, rates, and megawatt load of a deal this large rather than having it blacked out indefinitely.
• Rising Electric Bills: Everyday customers were just hit with a $27 million rate increase approved on November 4, adding roughly $15–$16 a month to a typical household bill. It is unfair to raise rates on local residents while keeping the rate paid by a massive data center a permanent secret.
• Grid & Infrastructure Costs: We need public verification that this facility pays 100% of its own way for grid demand and new power generation, rather than passing those costs onto residential customers.
Before ruling on Docket EL26-008, please require greater public disclosure of this contract and guarantee that existing South Dakota ratepayers will not bear the financial burden of this facility. Thank you for entering my comment into the official record.
Sincerely,
Jill Hughes
[redacted], Rapid City, SD 57701
[redacted]
[redacted]