

Brett,

Thanks for your email. It's important that we hear suggestions like yours as we move through this process. We are in the process of digging deep into the request, and I'll keep your comments in mind.

I'll make sure your comments are added to the record so they can be considered by the other commissioners, as well.

Dusty

Dustin "Dusty" Johnson  
Public Utilities Commission  
(605) 773-3201

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**From:** Burditt, Brett  
**To:** Johnson, Dustin (PUC)  
**Sent:** Wed Dec 02 16:17:08 2009  
**Subject:** BHP rate increase

Greetings Mr. Johnson:

My name is Brett Burditt and I am the Business Manager for the Meade School District 46-1. I am contacting you in regards to the proposed rate increase by Black Hills Corporation. The Superintendent and myself met with a representative from BHP to discuss the reasoning behind the proposed rate increase and what it will hope to accomplish financially and as a provider for future power to our region.

We also discussed the financial impact it would have not only on the Meade School District, but on the tax payers as well. If the entire amount of the requested rate hike is awarded, it will cost the district approximately an additional \$75,000 a year. We do not have the latitude of passing the cost of doing business onto anyone else other than the taxpayer.

I was employed in the Wood Products Industry with Pope & Talbot, Inc. for 20 years and we successfully negotiated a reduced rate with BHP for the large commercial consumers in our industry. This was accomplished due to the fact that BHP is and would be brokering a large portion of the additional power generated by the new co-gen facility. I also disagree with the method they choose to finance the construction of the new plant. Why should the consumer fund such a large portion of the capital project with the proceeds of a rate hike.

In conclusion Mr. Johnson I believe we should be given consideration by the Public Utility Commission as well as Black Hill Corporation for implementing a separate utility rate for public schools.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Brett Burditt  
Business Manager  
Meade 46-1