



NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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PUC TO TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT ON BLACK HILLS' PROPOSED ELECTRIC RATE CASE SETTLEMENT

DENVER – The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will hold a hearing in Pueblo on Tuesday, June 8, to receive public comment on a proposed settlement in the Black Hills/Colorado Electric Utility Company rate case. The public hearing will be at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 1 City Hall Place, in Pueblo.

The settlement, proposed by the company, PUC staff and the Office of Consumer Counsel, would grant Black Hills a \$17.9 million increase in annual revenues. The company originally had sought a \$23 million increase.

Under the proposed settlement, the average residential customer would see an increase of approximately \$7.90 per month, or 9.65 percent; and an average small business customer would see an increase of approximately \$26.38 per month. The settling parties have requested that the new rates go into effect on July 1.

Black Hills serves more than 90,000 customers in 21 Colorado communities, including Pueblo, Canon City, Florence and Rocky Ford.

The proposed new rates do not include additional generation being built or acquired by Black Hills to replace a purchased power agreement with Xcel Energy that expires at the end of 2011.

A formal evidentiary hearing on the proposed settlement will be held at the PUC in Denver on June 10.

DORA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. Consumer protection is our mission.

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