

**From:** Chad Kurtenbach [<mailto:chad.kurtenbach@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, December 21, 2015 9:30 PM

**To:** Nelson, Chris

**Cc:** Gregg, Deb; Sarah Kurtenbach

**Subject:** Re: Dispute Resolution with MidAmerican

Chris,

Thank you for your email. We sincerely appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to hearing about the upcoming meeting.

We were denied the rebate for the following reason: “MidAmerican provides gas for customer only, Geothermal is electric.” I have enclosed the rebate application and denial for your review. This was a predictable response from MidAmerican. If you look at the service map on their website

([https://www.midamericanchoice.com/market\\_areas.aspx](https://www.midamericanchoice.com/market_areas.aspx)), you will notice that these energy efficiency rebates will only be applicable for small areas in Illinois and Michigan (where they supply both electric and gas). They have created a loophole for their rebate system that completely excludes customers in South Dakota, Iowa, etc. If we focus our attention on the Sioux Falls area, MidAmerican has the monopoly for natural gas, but electricity is provided by other companies. Electricity is provided by Xcel Energy, Sioux Valley Energy and Southeastern Electric Cooperative (<http://www.siuoxfallsdevelopment.com/utilities.cfm>). As the current program is constructed, consumers who choose Geothermal as a renewable energy source are charged a tariff of nearly \$900 and have no way of qualifying for the rebate program. The decision by a family to choose Geo or another renewable energy option should be applauded by MidAmerican for the betterment of our environment without consideration of what it may temporarily do to their bottom line.

MidAmerican appears to be undervaluing Geothermal units and the impact they have on our communities. In the MidAmerican 2015 Energy Efficiency Plan Update (<http://puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/gaselectric/2015/ge15-001/2015planupdate.pdf>), they ask for an "annual budget of \$32,000 for 2015 - 2017 for the residential equipment ground source heat pump program. This figure is based on expected annual participation of 16 for 2015 - 2017 and an average rebate per customer of \$2,000. The total proposed savings target for residential ground source heat pumps is 177,456 kWh per plan year.” Does that seem like a reasonable estimation of the use of Geothermal units? 16 units/year from 2015-2017? There have been numerous Geo units installed in our community alone in the last 12 months. This seems to be a huge underestimation of this renewable energy option and Geothermal units do not appear to be a priority for this company.

I may have misunderstood the funding. MidAmerican may not have received direct funding, but received a budget increase in their Energy Efficiency Plan. In 2014, this budget exceeded \$1.3 million. Additionally, there

are Federal programs that exist and a significant amount of money is being allocated to States to assist with energy efficiency programs (<http://energy.gov/eere/wipo/state-energy-program-competitive-financial-assistance-program>).

We are hoping that this information provides additional information about our frustration and the disconnect that seems to exist with MidAmerican. It seems disingenuous to be touting energy efficiency on your website and in public domains, but penalizing consumers who choose renewable energy (Ex: \$900 fee for line installation for Geo unit) and creating loopholes to limit those that qualify for budgeted rebate programs. Consumers should be encouraged to choose green energy options for the benefit of our environment. Energy efficiency is a global issue that will continue to be on the forefront of political, business, and environmental discussions.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We appreciate your time.

Chad A. Kurtenbach  
