

Hanson, Gary (PUC)

From: PUC
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2005 6:25 PM
To: Sahr, Bob; Bonrud, Pam; Forney, Heather; Johnson, Dustin (PUC); Hanson, Gary (PUC)
Subject: FW: Groton Comments for Record

From: Becky Smith[SMTP:BSMITH@CLEANWATER.ORG]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2005 6:27:31 PM
To: puc@state.sd.us
Subject: Groton Comments for Record
Auto forwarded by a Rule

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a South Dakota resident interested in the economic and public health benefits of wind power in our state, and also the Program Coordinator for South Dakota's Clean Water Action, with over 10,000 members in South Dakota. I would like to submit comment for the record in regards to Basin Electric's proposed new 100 MW natural gas-fired turbine near Groton.

As an organization that supports greater development of our vast wind power resources, we most frequently run up against problems with transmission of said electric power. With Basin's current proposed plan for additional power generation, it is clear that there is transmission capacity for moving the newly generated power to its consumers. The proposed site for the new gas-fired turbine is in an area rich in wind power potential.

These facts point to our responsibility, as advocates for a healthier environment AND economy, to suggest an amendment to the current proposition to include the use of wind resources. The price of natural gas is volatile, and as it is not FREE, is already immensely more costly to Basin and Basin's customers than the price of wind, just for its initial acquisition.

Wind power is intermittent; a combination of wind and gas-fired power is ideal. When the wind isn't blowing, then the more predictable natural gas power can be used. It saves money, saves pollution, fulfills an obligation to use secure, domestic resources whenever possible, and provides an opportunity to lead in an industry that will advance South Dakota's economy in a nation of ever-growing energy demands.

Thank you,
Becky Smith

Becky Smith
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Clean Water Action is a national citizens' organization working for clean, safe and affordable water, prevention of health-threatening pollution, creation of environmentally-safe jobs and businesses, and empowerment of people to make democracy work. <http://www.cleanwateraction.org>

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