

BEFORE THE SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
IN THE CONSIDERATION OF THE NEW PURPA STANDARDS

Docket No. EL08-028

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF KARA SEMMLER ON BEHALF OF COMMISSION STAFF

Section 1307 PURPA 111(d) (17) Smart Grid Information

Introduction

The additions to Section 1307 111(d) includes an addition to Standard 17, Smart Grid Information. This section intends to require electricity purchasers be provided with specific types of information through the use of a smart grid system.

While commission staff supports all efforts to educate and inform consumers, it is premature to mandate smart grid information. Staff recommends a deferral of mandatory smart grid information until:

- Smart grid technology is more developed
- Smart grid costs are better developed allowing for better decisions
- the IEEE smart grid technology standard is developed
- The results of the Black Hills Power and Xcel Energy pilot projects are available

Standard 17 lists information, that if adopted by this Commission, requires utilities provide to its consumers. The list includes:

- (i) Prices: purchasers and other interested persons shall be provided with information on time based electricity prices in wholesale electricity market and time based electricity retail prices or rates that are available to the purchases
- (ii) Usage: purchasers shall be provided with the number of electricity units, expressed in kwh, purchased by them

- (iii) Intervals and Projections: Updates of information on prices and usage shall be offered on not less than a daily basis, shall include hourly price and use information, where available and shall include a day ahead projection of such price information to the extent available
- (iv) Sources: Purchasers and other interested persons shall be provided annually with written information on the sources of the power provided by the utility, to the extent it can be determined, by type of generation, including greenhouse gas emissions associated with each type of generation, for intervals during which such information is available on a cost-effective basis
- (v) Access: Purchasers shall be able to access their own information at any time through the Internet and on other means of communication elected by the utility for Smart Grid applications. Other interested persons shall be able to access information not specific to any purchaser through the Internet. Information specific to any purchaser shall be provided solely to that purchaser.

In other testimony, commission staff provides rationale and explanation why it does not, at this time, recommend mandated use of smart grid technology. Without the necessary equipment and modified tariffs it is impossible for utilities to provide the information in the manner required in this Section 17 addition. As previously stated, staff recommends a deferral of mandated smart grid information.