

February 9, 2017

Gary Hanson
SD - PUC
500 E Capitol Ave 1st floor
Pierre SD 57501

Steve & Lynn Hammond

Rapid City SD 57701

RECEIVED

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**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

RE: Docket No EL16-042

Dear Mr Hanson,

In reference to Docket EL16-042, we are requesting that you and the PUC **DENY** the decrease in the Generation Credit Rate (GCR) that Black Hills Energy (BHE) has requested to reduce the rate from \$0.0332 to kWh to \$0.0270 kWh, effective on March 1, 2017.

I am particularly interested in why a proposed decrease in the GCR is sought when electric rates in recent years have gone up about 50%. Therefore, the Generation Credit Rate **should keep going up not down**. Also, I am concerned in the rush for this decrease and why we, the provider/consumer, have such little time to contest this rate decrease. Therefore, we are requesting a 90 day extension on this matter so that we have a reasonable time period to gather and investigate the information.

BHE Generation Credit Rate is already one of the lowest in the country, and contrary to popular belief, the energy rate that BHE South Dakota residential customers pay is one of the highest in the country because they hide costs in there billing, such as the Cost Adjustment Summary, for a total of \$.14 cents per kWh, not the \$.09989 cents per kWh which they claim is their electric rate.

If power companies would embrace residential wind and solar energy, everybody's electric rate would go down. Power plants are so terribly inefficient at producing electricity that for every 3 train loads of coal that is dumped into the power plants furnace to produce electricity, 2 train loads go up the smoke stack as wasted energy. The same waste is true for natural gas. But solar and wind have no waste and are pollution free. Not in our lifetime, but certainly in our grandchildren's lifetime, scientist say that at our present rate of wasting fossil fuels, scientist predict their electric bill will be over \$1,000 per month. I don't want my actions and decisions to be responsible for this burden on our grandchildren, and I hope you don't either.

Please encourage more wind and solar alternative energy to help save fossil fuels for future generations. Yes, we will run low and at some point, completely run out of fossil fuels. Our children and grandchildren will have to pay the exorbitant cost because current generations are wasting fossil fuels at an alarming rate.

Until now, it made sense for a power company to be a monopoly. However, with the newest technology of residential wind and solar power, the reliability and security of the grid is enhanced now more than ever. The PUC and the power companies have the responsibility to not only include, but enhance the usage and viability of wind and solar to the grid.

To act irresponsibly on this issue will cause someone in the future to go cold and hungry.

Sincerely,


Steve & Lynn Hammond
