

**From:** Andrew Smith <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 14, 2019 7:25 PM  
**To:** PUC <PUCPF@state.sd.us>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXT] EL19-022 & Net Metering

Hello Mr. Hanson,

Thank you for your response and perspectives. I am aware of how net metering works, and I fully expect that a utility should be able to balance their costs with what they return to customers. It is reasonable to assume then, that the local utility is merely doing that? I called several local folks including a former Mayor of Rapid City, and he stated strongly that we do lag the rest of the country pretty significantly. I can refer you to this research:

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/energy/net-metering-policy-overview-and-state-legislative-updates.aspx>

South Dakota stands out pretty prominently, but not in a strong way. Is there an easy way to justify the layout of that map? Perhaps I am misreading it.

I am not expecting the utility in any way to suffer harm from customers who generate some or all of their own electricity, but I do expect a fair and balanced approach to compensation. For instance, while the local utility claims a rate of 0.08/kWh, the actual cost is nearly double that when it reaches our doors. If they amount they compensate is simply 0.02/kWh, can you state that they are incurring a loss if the rate isn't higher than this?

I will follow this docket and your opinions on it closely. I earned a PhD in Mechanical Engineering, designed and built my own house, and worked for the Department of Energy before becoming a teacher in South Dakota. This docket speaks my language, and I can easily understand it and look forward to pursuing any partial decisions fully. All I ask is that you balance the interests of the citizens of South Dakota with those of utilities honestly, nothing more.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Andrew Smith