

2205-098
1500 E. 56th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

July 19, 2006

Mr. Bob Sahr
Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
500 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Dear Commissioner Sahr:

First, I would like to applaud your efforts in pushing for the wind farms in Brookings County and near Java. This is just the sort of achievement we must make in light of the increasing amounts of information revealing that human-caused global warming is now a key issue in our world.

However, also due to this new information that is being brought to light, I am asking you to reconsider your decision to endorse the Big Stone II coal-fired power plant near Milbank. While measures will undoubtedly be taken to reduce the carbon dioxide emissions from that plant, it will still dramatically increase the emissions produced in our state and this is a step in the wrong direction.

In your research of wind power, I am sure you have learned that it produces no emissions. Not only this, but our open state has significant wind and room to make use of this resource. Ultimately, wind power has the potential to create many more jobs in our state than the Big Stone II plant. Also, wind power will be more economical since it has fewer maintenance costs and does not involve ongoing fuel expenses.

I understand your concern about the ability of wind turbines to generate a constant source of power. However, there is new research being done on wind generators that are tethered to the ground, with the turbines themselves much higher than conventional wind generators. This allows them to tap into the winds that flow uninterrupted at slightly higher levels of our atmosphere. I ask you to consider investing in turbines of this sort or any sort of wind generators for that matter instead of another coal-fired plant. Through this move, you can help make South Dakota one of the most environmentally friendly states in the country and, by selling wind-generated power, help other states move away from fossil fuel power plants as well.

Please discuss this matter with your fellow commission members. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Erik Hanson

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