

## Douglas, Tina (PUC)

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**From:** PUC Docket Filings  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 28, 2006 4:42 PM  
**To:** Kolbo, Delaine; Zebroski, Carol; Douglas, Tina (PUC); Forney, Heather; Van Gerpen, Patty  
**Subject:** FW: Hearing on Big Stone II



mercury (3 KB)

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From: lannys9[SMTP:LANNYS9@VENTURECOMM.NET]  
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2006 4:41:46 PM  
To: PUC Docket Filings  
Subject: Hearing on Big Stone II  
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Dear PUC Comissioners,

Let me start my email letter by stating that I am saddened by the fact that I have read that Mr Sahr is resigning from the PUC at the end of his term and will not seek reelection. I met both Mr Sahr and Mr Johnson at the wind and cell phone meeting here in Sisseton a year ago last winter. I was very impressed with both of you and I have been very impressed with Mr Sahr's efforts to try to bring wind energy into the mix. While Mr Hanson was not at the meeting here in Sisseton, I lived in Sioux Falls when he was in the legislature, city commissioner and Mayor of Sioux Falls and was always very impressed with the way that he conducted business for the City and the way that he comported himself. Since that meeting in Sisseton, I have stayed in touch by email mostly but I believe also one phone call with Mr Johnson and I have been very impressed with his responsiveness to my questions and concerns.

Having said that I have attached a copy of my testimony to WAPA in Big Stone City on June 13th. I had hoped to be in Pierre tomorrow evening June 29th to testify at the public hearing but am not able to make it. I would like to encourage you all three to read it. I know that it sounds partisan because of my criticism of the Republican state legislature and of the Executive branch of our Federal government, but Big Stone II is not a partisan issue. It is a civic issue and I hope that you will take into consideration the long term effects of the momentous decision before you. This decision is not just about the immediate and future jobs that would come about if the plant is approved. The effects on our air and water for the near and long term future are at stake. More jobs could be created by investment in harnessing the wind power which we have available in abundant supply. I hope that in making your decision, you will not just take into consideration the party line on this issue but what is best for all South Dakotans, your own families included.

Sincerely,

Lanny Stricherz  
Sisseton, SD  
605-698-3856

mercury.txt

As I told Dustin Johnson of the SD PUC, Bitter Lake which is directly west of Big Stone Power and sits on the south end of the town of Waubay is the most highly mercury polluted body of water in our state. I have been fishing up here for 40 years and moved up to Sisseton when I retired two years ago. I have had several Native Americans tell me of the mercury pollution in most of the lakes in the region.

I had an interesting conversation with a fisherman from the town of Clear Lake who drives up here several times a month to fish various lakes in the Northeast region of the state. He told me a couple of weeks ago that he shares his fish with his cat. When he fishes Enemy Swim or Clear Lake (the one between Sisseton and Britton on Hiway 10) his cat does not get sick. If he gives the cat fish from Buffalo or any of the other lakes up here the cat gets sick. He suspects that it is mercury. Also he gave some fish to his mother to fix for his sister and her daughter. His sister got sick. She was being treated with medication and when she talked to her doctor about it he suspected also that it was mercury in the fish that had made her sick. I give most of my fish away and have had no experience of getting sick myself or of anyone else getting sick but none of the folks may have had an intolerance level to the mercury.

With the more than 2 billion dollar loan given to the DM&E railroad by the federal government and the fact that we know that the Bigstone one is getting less than 40 percent of the coal it needs to run on a full run basis, it seems like this project is throwing money to the wind rather than to harnessing the wind for clean renewable non fossil energy. That loan could have gone to put in transmission lines for the wind power which we so desperately need to create jobs, and to keep our environment clean and safe for ourselves and future generations. When you add in the fact that the City of Rochester MN and Mayo Clinic are fighting to keep the DM&E from going right through the city, this whole situation makes less and less sense all the time. Granted the DM&E hauls and will haul more than coal, but that is their major product at the present.

The state of South Dakota appears to be taking it's marching orders from the Bush administration. Divorcing ourselves from fossil fuel was a huge part of Jimmy Carter's administration. The Reagan and Bush Senior's administration got us right back into the fossil fuel business. And while the Clinton administration looked to have stricter environmental controls on the use of fossil fuels, it did not go back to The Carter administration's use of renewables other than the pushing of ethanol. The current Bush administration, with the President, Vice President, Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State all having ties to the oil industry and the power industry, are again pushing the use of fossil fuels and nuclear. The state of South Dakota seems to be following along with the administrations suggestions simply because both are Republicans and not using the common sense that young and forward looking folks should be using to bring our energy consumption into the 21st century not taking us back to the 19th century.

Sincerely,

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