

From: dale curran <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 2:54 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Cc: Nelson, Chris; Fiegen, Kristie; Hanson, Gary (PUC)
Subject: [EXT] EL21-011

To whom it may concern.

I am currently and have been a BHE customer and residence of the Black Hills area for 25 years. I recently learned of the proposed amendment to the Cogeneration and Small Power Production Service Tariff and would like an opportunity to express my concern regarding the proposed regulatory change.

I wanted to start off by saying that the power generation and distribution provided by the power utility companies of this great nation are and have been for my life time a reliable staple of our economy and modern way of life, and I thank them for that. Having said that unlike any other resource I can purchase in my economy electrical power is not one from which I can choose who I get it from. With such monopolizing power being given to one Co. "BHE" also comes the civic responsibility to not take advantage of monopoly driven opportunities such as the one proposed.

I am in full favor on non-net neutral returns on generation being produced by cogeneration and small power production back onto the grid. It should not be the power utilities responsibility to work as a storage and delivery system to the grip on behalf of private individuals.

But I do take issue when a monopolist utility company states it will now charge private cogeneration for the power they produce and consume all with-in the confines of there own service. This practice simply has no merit or standing in any other economic model in our economy and meets my definition of theft.

When one asks them self who will profit in every way possible from this kind of regulation? The answer is BHE a a large conglomerate with deep lobbying pockets, modest returns on investor share prices and enough money in there coffers to continually consume municipal utilities through the Midwest.

When one ask who will loose out? The minority common consumer who would have enjoyed the opportunity to cogenerate and reap the benefits of renewable energy. This person will now look at that opportunity to produce power in there own way for there own reason and see there is absolutely to benefit in it for them. Which is precisely what BHE wants.

My assumption is cogeneration is not as profitable for BHE so any road block that can be placed in front of cogeneration is a win for there share holders, coffers, and endeavors to continue to consume.

I understand that BHE is an important part of the SD economy and what hurts them hurts us. But at the same time perhaps it is time for them to look within their organization and business model and except that change will either be a part of their future or of their failure. It is time to adapt not regulate to prolong the status quo. Regulatory laws such as like this will only hinder the ability to attract business and financially sound home owners to South Dakota who would other wise look at cogeneration as an opportunity.

In closing I am writing to you my South Dakota **appointed** PUBIC Utilities Commission to defend the rights of the public consumer and not yield to the opportunistic, unmoral request from BHE.

Thank you for you time and consideration.

Dale Curran
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]