

From: Jonathan Harms [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 4:40 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Please Reject EL21-011

Commissioners Nelson, Fiegen and Hanson,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit input regarding the PUC issue with docket number EL21-011.

As a South Dakotan and hopeful private solar energy producer/user, I am asking you to reject the Black Hills Energy application to amend its cogeneration and small power production service tariff on produced solar energy.

Simply put, Black Hills Energy through this application, could enslave the supply of solar energy in its South Dakota service area, and then as a price maker, set the price at which it buys and sells this solar energy back to its own energy users.

It is likely that Black Hills Energy could profit at the expense of South Dakotans searching for a cleaner and more reliable source of energy for their households. In short, Black Hills Energy gets more revenue and control at the cost of South Dakota solar energy producers getting less.

To me, this doesn't sound equitable or accountable, and I don't believe it protects utility users. Based on an approval of this application, a South Dakotan's incentive to invest in a solar energy system for her home and family is virtually extinguished. At a sale rate of \$0.025 per kWh, it would take 500,000 kWh to pay for the solar energy system. At an average use of 850 kWh per month, it would take 49 years to recoup the cost of investing in solar energy production for one's family, and renewable energy is worth the investment!

With Respect,

Jonathan Harms
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