
From: Patricia Hoffman [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:29 AM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] BH Energy Solar Proposal

Dear Commission,

We would like to take this opportunity to voice our concern regarding the recently proposed changes to how BHE intends to interact with small solar arrays in the near future. As we understand the proposal, based on a recent RC Journal article, it is BHE's intent to require all energy produced by small scale solar producers to be directed to the grid with a credit of approximately 2.4 cents per KW and sold back to the small producer at a cost of 12 cents or higher if demand requires curtailment. Add an additional monthly charge for metering.

Please understand we have been long time customers of BHE and BH Power and Light before the realignment. We have purchased both electric and natural gas energy from the firm while living in Nebraska and South Dakota. The business model for electrical generation embraced by BHE has been both successful and ingenious. Construction of the Wyodak plant on the Powder River coal seam has been beneficial for the corporation and for consumers. What I think is missing today is the forward thinking shown by BHE that embraced coal 40 years ago, but appears to be ignoring the potential benefits of marrying the existing grid with multiple forms of renewable energy, including small scale solar producers today.

We built our Custer home 8 years ago with the thought that BHE would at some time in the future provide solar alternatives to its customer base, no partnership was ever offered. We invested in their demand limiting device with little to no benefit. We took the initiative to install solar to help offset peak demand on sunny days and to provide what we thought was a benefit to both the utility and to ourselves. Yes, we would like to minimize our utility costs as we move into retirement, but we would also like provide a little help by diversifying power source and offsetting CO2 levels.

We are disappointed by the BHE proposal to limit solar for their customer base in a punitive manner that appears to be a direct attack on small business operators who are trying to make a simple living by providing energy alternatives. If those alternatives were to be embraced by the utility the action could serve to enhance their production and improve grid reliability by moving from a single source of generation to distributed generation sources.

We do not believe anyone is trying to short change BHE on their grid investment, and should note that even with our solar array we are sending the utility approximately \$1,200 per year in cash payments for their service. The solar really allows us to keep the house a little warmer, but is not intended to disadvantage the utility. Rather it would appear that the proposal is intended to disadvantage small business, consumers and the environment.

Please list our household as being strongly against the BHE solar proposal and we would just as strongly suggest that it would be in the best interest of the state of South Dakota to encourage BHE to seek better partnerships with small producers in an effort to reduce reliance on the Wyodak plant.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Ed and Pat Hoffman

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Custer, SD