

SD Public Utilities Commission

Hearing on Black Hills Energy rate hikes

To Whom It May Concern

It is my experience that the request by BH Energy is not in the best interests of current customers. As a former off grid resident I reluctantly joined the public power grid once BH Energy established a connection near my property.

When I purchased my property in the 1990's I was led to believe I was to have power to my lots. When I asked for power I was presented with an estimate exceeding \$30,000 just to bring power to my lot past more than a dozen unimproved lots. I was verbally informed that should any of those properties connect to power I would get no rebate as to expense I had paid. I would have a similar high dollar expense to continue power to my home building site. As a result I was forced (monetarily) to install off grid power options.


After several years other lots were developed and eventually power lines were extended to the property next to my home. Prior to being able to tie in to the grid (at no small expense) I had to insure no power restoration back feed would occur that might create issues for Black Hills Power. My in home equipment was shown to be adequate to fulfill their requirements and I was allowed to connect to the power grid.

I know that many small independent power units like mine are paid for excess production fed back to the grid. That rate is much greater in other states than the 25% compensation here in South Dakota.

I feel those small grid tied systems already use less energy than other customers. Black Hills energy accepted these systems with restrictions and equipment modifications at the time of connection. If the future regulations change, the existing systems should be exempt from additional charges and grandfathered into the system.

If Black Hills Energy wants assistance from wind and solar power perhaps their own wind farm or solar arrays would be a better method. This is suggested since South Dakota potential for both options is higher than many of the states BH Energy serves.

Thank you for your consideration


Jack Ziemer


Rapid City SD 57702

RECEIVED

JUL 28 2021

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION