

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 8:23 AM
To: PUC <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: [EXT] EL21-011

David P. Johnston, Lt Col, USAF, NC (Ret)
[REDACTED]
Rapid City, SD 57702
[REDACTED]

Good day,

I am a private individual who moved to Rapid City in 2014. A few years after moving here I investigated solar power. Much to my surprise I found that South Dakota is not very encouraging of renewable energy. Unlike most states, South Dakota does not mandate net metering and allows power companies to pay minimal payment for any power that gets put into their system. This was a big disincentive. After looking at what I was getting in interest on my money in the bank and the federal government rebate, I decided to go ahead with it anyway.

I installed a 10 KW system. It has been saving me about \$100 a month on power, far less than what I would have saved in other states but still, a savings.

Now Black Hills Energy is proposing for new systems and for my system in the future, no savings at all. What I generate from my system, put in with my money, will be pure profit for them. Their proposal is only good for Black Hills Energy. It is not good for companies or private individuals and it definitely is not good for the future of renewable energy.

If this gets approved I see two things happening.

First, a company or individual will not install any kind of renewable energy at their own expense as they will not see any financial benefit to it. It will save them no money at all on power bills and will simply be throwing money away.

Or Second, they will install their own system and including power storage and perhaps a back up generator and go entirely off grid. They will be in total control of their own power and any savings will be entirely theirs.

If South Dakota is serious about renewable energy the move should be in the other direction. South Dakota needs to do like other states, increase the amount of money that companies and individuals get for power they put into the grid as that will encourage small power generation, not act as a further disincentive for it.

EL21-011 is bad for the state and bad for the environment. Please do not approve it.

Thank You.

David P. Johnston, Lt Col, USAF, NC (Ret)