

From: Robert Kjerstad [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 3:07 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: RE: [EXT] EL21-011

RE: EL21-011

Hello I am a residential solar owner in Rapid City and a customer of BHE. I called the PUC this AM and Jason informed me that I need to send my opinion in writing. I am a normal SD resident. I cannot afford a lawyer or lobbyist, nor am I an expert in the field of solar panels. I have taken time out of my busy day to write this email.

I am opposed to the changes by BHE in EL21-011. This would eliminate all residential solar in SD. I found out about the proposal from my solar company, GenPro on April 23rd at 4:00 PM.

1. In 2020, my 5 kWh system produced 7131 kWh. At \$0.0248 that is \$176.84 per year. With the extra \$10 meter fee, my system would average less than \$57 per year. It would take over 400 kWh per month to cover the \$10 metering fee. December, January, and February I produce less than 300 kWh, so I would be paying BHE. Maintenance on a solar system is higher than \$57 per year and I would be forced to shut down my system and produce zero energy for anyone.
2. I bought my solar panels to produce energy to reduce natural gas and automobile fuel. I save natural gas heating (MDU) by running space heaters when the sun is shining. I charge my hybrid car on sunny days. Neither of these are energy that would be supplied by BHP. What is next, is BHP going to put tariffs of Propane grills, because folks should be using electric for their cooking. Can they put a tariff on a cord of wood because having a log fireplace is costing the power company money? Can they charge me a metering fee if I buy high efficiency washer and dryer, freezer or fridge? Can they charge me extra for energy because I use my close line and not electric dryer?
3. BHC and BHE make over 20 mil a year profit and pass that money to shareholders. BHC pays a large dividend and raises that every year. Does the PCU of SD support more money going from hard working South Dakotans to rich wall street? BHC and BHE can afford to treat South Dakota better.
4. In other states, BHE pays market rate with net metering, which is about 5x what they pay SD. If anything, the PCU should raise the price that BHE pays to be closer to CO. BHE is still profitable in CO while paying higher solar prices. If it works in CO, why not here?
5. I own the solar panel and BHE should not profit from my investment. It would be very un-American to allow this to happen. Allowing a corporation to take a private citizen's goods and sell the same exact goods for a profit is extortion and something from a mob movie. My system produces electricity without any help from BHE. What I produce and use in my own house is mine. What I sell and buy from BHE is negotiable. They should attempt to change the prices outside of my home and not steal my energy.
6. The current rating structure encourages energy use when the sun is shining. We consume most of our energy on sunny days. This is beneficial to the grid. It is more convenient for me to do laundry and dishwasher during the morning wake up and again at night. If this change takes place, then energy use during peak time will increase. This will cause additional cost to all BHE customers because BHE will want to raise rates because of the increased demand during peak times.
7. Electric vehicles are getting more popular and BHE will need additional energy supplied by solar to charge cars when people are at work. It would be very shortsighted for the PUC to eliminate residential solar in SD.

I would be happy to share my solar data with you or answer any questions from a citizens point of view. You are elected to represent the citizens and not big corporations with a monopoly, lawyers, and lobbyists.

Please vote no on EL21-011 to show that South Dakota still respects Freedom!

Thanks,

Robert Kjerstad

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