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Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 9:56 AM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Cc: PUC-CONSUMER INFO <PUCConsumerInfo@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] EL21-011 - Inaccuracies of comparing a car to a utility.

I would like to address Mr. Keil's example as an utility as a car. The following are reasons why his comparison is inaccurate.

1. "Let's say I **own** a car" – First, we are customer of BHE and do not own it. In Mr. Keil's example, BHE is not the car, but the only gas station in town.
2. Owning a car means there are no car payments, so first bullet point can go away.
3. Electricity is a need like food and water. We do not need to drive to live, but we need a house and power. So again, his car comparison fails.
4. There are a lot of alternatives to owning a car. Airplanes, taxi, biking, walking, or the bus. None of that is true with energy. We are forced to only use BHE.
5. I can buy a \$100,000 vehicle or a \$2000. I can buy a pickup with 10mpg or a small car with 50mpg. BHE wants us to only have one choice. They want us to be stuck with the old poor gas mileage vehicle and not be able to upgrade.
6. I can park my car on the street. Bullet points 3 should be removed because a house and car do not share costs.
7. If I drive my car less, then I need a lot less maintenance, not just a little. If I drive my car ½ as many miles, then I save ½ the maintenance costs (tires, shocks, oil changes, spark plugs, and pretty much everything) the resale value of my car goes up with less miles. Shop for a car with 50k miles vs 100k and you will see a huge saving. So Bullet points 4 should go away.

What do we have left?

1. Do you still need car insurance? In this example the month fees from BHE would represent insurance and license plate cost. They are already in place.
2. Do you still need to maintain my car? Yes, but at much less rates (see #7). In this example the cost adjustment summery is controlling these costs. They are already in place. BHE even charges us more if our neighbors car breaks down (surcharges for winter storm costs)
3. Do you still need to buy gas? The current system is working this way. A person with a big house and energy use pays more than a small house that conserves energy.

All three of these issues are addressed under the current billing system from BHE and another reason why EL 121-011 should be rejected.

Thanks,

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