

From: Tom Loomis [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 4:17 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Attn

From:
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Regarding docket # EL21-011
Black Hills Energy

I was sorry to read the negative letter from Black Hills Energy regarding the efforts by individuals to obtain power from the sun and wind. Obviously the person who wrote it didn't have enough to do and had to stir the pot of discontent!

Many years ago I worked with governments, both local and national and served in the US Senate as The Consultant To the Senate for Indian Affairs. I represented South Dakota under Gov. Dick Kneip and Harvey Wollman. Senators Jim Abourezk and Jim Abdnor were my sponsors, who pushed me into service. I had the opportunity to watch thousands of people do nothing and after a time realized the wasted time and money of our Federal Government. It seems Black Hills Energy is following in big government's footsteps with this ill conceived request to the PUC to double meter and charge back renewable energy customers for power THEY create.

The National Electric Grid is stretched to its limit NOW and imagine what it will be like when EV's become more popular. The National Grid is also a prime target of cyber warfare. We all know it but are afraid to admit it!

Large generation projects with wind turbines and or solar farms are NOT the answer. They are a power loser NOT a power generator if one is HONEST with the real costs involved! The amount of energy and cost of obtaining the raw materials to manufacture and build these massive wind and solar systems, as well as the cost and consumption of energy for transportation is 3 to 1 in return, and maintenance and repairs makes the total effort even more of a negative energy producer. Subsidies are NOT the answer

However, single unit systems paid for by single family or private business users is a blessing in disguise. In many small ways these systems relieve energy companies of having to provide power and can assist energy companies with small contributions of power back into the power companies grid for direction to areas where substantial power needs are required. Why would Black Hills Energy want to penalize the "off gridder", when in fact he is helping the situation?

I would like to propose the PUC consider the following;

To consider supporting and making in to law the following:

- 1) Whereby individuals or companies that choose to generate their own power via sun, wind or water be allowed to do so without power company interference, and-
- 2) Whereby the power company within said area of independent power production, be allowed (at their discretion) to buy back the power generated by individuals or companies,
- 3) Whereby the power company provides the individual or company a meter at a flat rate fee of \$5.00 per month to record said power generated.
- 4) Whereby the kilowatt rate to be 25% less than that of the area kilowatt charged by the power company, allowing a fair and just amount for both parties involved in the power generation.

I offer the above in an effort to have the PUC consider a fair and just solution to a relatively simple problem, only complicated by a power company that is looking at the situation as a negative rather than a positive, which small local power generation truly is.

Thank you for any considerations,

Thomas H. Loomis

Martin, South Dakota