
From: Janet Rose-Perrenoud [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, May 15, 2021 11:20 AM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Black Hills Energy EL21-011

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May 15, 2021

Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RE: Concern about Docket EL21-011 from the April 29th PUC meeting

Dear Commissioners,

We ask that you do not approve Black Hills Energy's amendment to the service tariff. We are customers of Black Hills Energy and were dismayed to learn about Black Hills Energy's application to amend its cogeneration and small power production service tariff. We have contracted with GenPro Energy Solutions to install a solar energy system on the home we are building west of Custer, South Dakota.

We have always been energy conscious people and strive to consume less, recycle more, and generally contribute to the environmental health of the community we live in. When we made the decision to build a new home for our retirement years, we made a commitment to build as energy efficient home as possible. In making that decision we also made the financial commitment to invest in solar power. Solar power is the right thing to do, and we are not motivated by paying less to BHE. Black Hills Energy's application for a new tariff feels like the big corporation that already operates as a monopoly in the Black Hills area bullying customers who are committed to protecting the environment by taking away any kind of incentive, financial or environmental, to invest in solar

power. Black Hills Energy wants to penalize “behind the meter customers” with extra meter charges and take complete control over electricity created by customers through the new “buy all sell all” tariff. Having to sell electricity at a reduced rate and buy back at retail prices is unfair. This is electricity we generate on equipment we purchased and maintain and this tariff feels like a hostile takeover of our personal property. BHE taking possession of energy the consumer produces is theft.

Another concern is Black Hills Energy’s lack of communication with its customers and the public, of their attempt to penalize and discourage any interest in behind the meter generation of energy to be used by private individuals. The fees and rates Black Hills Energy is proposing is far in excess of what they need to maintain the solar power customers parts of the grid.

We ask that the PUC also support personal solar power as an alternative to burning fossil fuels and deny this application to amend the cogeneration and small power production service tariff.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Respectfully,

Janet Rose-Perrenoud and Mark Perrenoud