
From: Martin Hunt [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 7:07 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Black Hills Energy renewable energy rate proposal

4/28/2021
To South Dakota PUC;

In reference to the Black Hills Energy Co. (BHE) proposal to require any Solar (or other renewable energy production) to be sold to them at \$.025/ KWH then force their customers to purchase their required power at \$.12/ KWH appears to be for one purpose; Not to allow renewable energy to compete with them. As an Engineer and retired President/VP of a major industrial corporation I totally understand BHE has fixed costs in infrastructure and back up energy generation for peak demand. It is my understanding BHE has a fairly low minimum charge for residential customers with around 75% of their fixed cost covered in their KWH price. Wouldn't it be more fair to increase their minimum charge to cover more of their fixed cost from all customers, and lower their price per KWH to reflect this increase? Customers with renewable energy production of any kind then would still be paying their fair share of the fixed costs through the minimum charge. BHE should be required to purchase any excess power generated by a customer's renewable energy source at a fair price to the company and customer. In no way should a customer that has invested in a Solar energy system (or any renewable energy system) be required to sell all the power the system produces to BHE and then turn around and have to purchase their power requirements at a much higher rate.

As advances in renewable energy and battery technology increases systems are going to become more affordable in both the commercial and residential markets. People in South Dakota and across the US will demand a fair solution in energy cost reductions, that is also fair to the power companies, for their investment in a renewable energy system. Black Hills Energy Co.'s proposal is far from fair to their customers. I would hope the PUC would reject the present proposal Black Hills Energy Co. is bringing forward.

Thank you.
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