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Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 12:38 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] EL21-19

To the PUC Commissioners:

August 12, 2021

I appreciate your response to my first comment, and look forward to your input in reaction to my second message, regarding the Commission's latitude in interpreting just and reasonable rates specifically pertaining to the reimbursement of QF's . I believe that providing this means of public comment is a commendable indication of the Commission's willingness to accept and consider feedback from the public they represent.

The Commission is no doubt aware of this week's release of a 6th Climate Assessment Report by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. I hope we can agree that this body represents a consensus of those scientists of the world who have devoted their careers and a generation of research to the factors affecting climate. I hope we can also agree that detractors and spreaders of disinformation on this topic have been unsuccessful in obscuring the enormous import of the conclusions and recommendations in this sobering report.

Electricity generation is among those areas requiring immediate and drastic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. It is not reasonable to hope that existing market forces or corporate beneficence will ensure the necessary changes in time to avert very destructive consequences. We must facilitate all means of reducing the atmospheric impact of electricity production, including encouragement of distributed generation from renewable energy sources.

Increasing incentives for distributed generation would have little impact on investor-owned utilities at the present time. As distributed energy becomes more widespread, the corporate generation sector will hopefully be motivated to move much more rapidly toward renewable energy sourcing, with benefits for all of us. Placing further impediments in the path of those private entities hoping to reduce atmospheric degradation through investment in solar panels would be inappropriate. Rather, the Commission should now preferably be disposed to approve tariffs increasing payback to those distributed sources, prompting a more rapid transition away from fossil fuels than would otherwise occur.

Thanks for your consideration of these points.