

28 April 2021

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

RE: Request to Intervene in Docket EL21-011

Steve and Lynn Hammond wish to intervene in Docket EL21-011 brought by Black Hills Power, Inc (BHE) to Amend its Cogeneration and Small Power Production Service Tariff. The Hammond's, while grandfathered in for 20 years, would be severely impacted by this change. We officially request intervener status, even though the official period has closed as we were not notified of the proposed change.

My husband is a 100% disabled Vietnam Era veteran. His disability is called Peripheral Autonomic Neuropathy, Erythromelgia, also known as the "Burning Man Syndrome". This means that the "thermostat" in his body is broken and he requires a very low ambient air temperature in our home to maintain his body temperature.

In 2013, we purchased solar panels. Our purpose was two fold: 1) we wanted to do the "right" thing by helping conserve energy for future generations, and 2) reduce the cost of the air conditioning we need to have for my husband's disability.

I am greatly concerned with Black Hills Energy filing for a new tariff on solar customers. I believe that a new tariff on solar or wind would mean that solar and wind customers would be paying MORE for electricity than a normal customer. Solar and wind put energy back onto the grid. That is energy which BHE does not have to generate any additional power, I provide that power directly to my neighbor. BHE doesn't need to do anything to provide that power, except to charge my neighbor 14 cents for the electricity I produced. BHE gives me 2 1/2 cents for the power I produce and then BHE charges my neighbor .14 cents for my excess power. BHE is stealing my power.

Thirty nine other states compensate energy providers by paying those providers "net metering". If thirty nine other state utility companies have found a way to properly compensate energy providers, why is BHE trying to charge more to their energy providers? Furthermore, BHE is the same company that has customers in WY and they have net metering and their electricity is about 30% cheaper than what BHE charges for the electricity in SD. That is proof that net metering saves for ALL customers.

I want my utility company to be healthy. But I also want it to be sustainable. There is not an indefinite supply of coal or natural gas. One BHE executive has personally told me that solar customers are beneficial to BHE, but there were not enough solar providers. With the tariff BHE is seeking, there will NEVER be enough alternative

sources in our state. BHE is trying to maintain a monopoly on utilities in western South Dakota. BHE wants to be the only provider of electricity to its customers. Monopolies are never beneficial to the public. The Public Utilities Commission, I believe it is your responsibility to stand up for the citizens of South Dakota and debunk this myth that solar and wind cost the average consumer additional monies.

Also, burning coal to produce electricity is only about 30% efficient. Meaning that 2/3 of the energy to produce the electricity goes up the chimney in waste. Solar produces 100% power and no waste.

If BHE is allowed to collect this tariff, every utility in South Dakota will come before this commission to seek the same tariff. No company will ever invest in the state of South Dakota again for solar or wind. There are numerous communities in this state who have benefited from solar and or wind generation. There will be no more development in this state.

Remember the cold snap in February? That cost \$600 million that BHE will pass off to their customers. The sun was shining during most of those days and therefore I used very little grid energy and I put 100's of kWh's back on the grid. ALL electrical customers benefited from my solar. This is a perfect example of how other small producers save other BHE customers money.

I am looking for the Public Utilities Commission to actually stand up to BHE. How can 39 other states be so wrong? Utility companies need to include ALL sources of generation to be viable into the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Hammond

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