

From: "Steele, David" <David.Steele@k12.sd.us>

Date: July 26, 2025 at 12:53:54 AM EDT

To:

Subject: Excel Energy Rate Increase

Mr. Hanson,

Please note the time stamp of this email, it's relevant and will be crux of my distain and argument for what follows. Excel Energy is a horrible energy provider in Sanborn County. Forestburg is once again without power (this happens all the time) and I am currently manning a generator to make sure the residents of Forestburg have water and the well pump is functional. We lose power so often here, I was "nominated" to run the water well house generator since I teach at Sanborn Central which is right across the road and in the summers, my summer job is "close" and I can come start the well generator relatively quickly. There are a million things I'd rather be doing this time of night than manning a generator and making sure residents have water because Excel energy is so horrid at providing reliable service in Sanborn County.

It's insane how often and for how long we lose power in Forestburg. Most people use a generator once every ten years... over the last 15 years I graduated from a small 3500 running Watt generator to man my sub pump to two 7500 running watt generators and a transfer switch in the house. That's how terrible EXCEL energy is in our neck of the woods. Further, I use these generators so often, I have to change the oil yearly compared to the manual's recommendation of every 100 running hours.

I emailed the commission the last time Excel Energy requested an egregious rate increase. The PUC negotiated with Excel and the rate was lower, but prices increased. Power outages haven't decreased since that time they even last longer in duration now compared to then in Sanborn County. Here we are again. Excel energy wants to increase rates a huge amount for terrible reliability and terrible service at least in Sanborn County.

II WOULD LOVE TO TESTIFY in person before the PUC as to why Excel energy should not be allowed their requested rate hike. Almost 19% is INSANE.

Regards,

David Steele
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Sanborn Central School District Athletic Director
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