

**From:** HighplainsRancher [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 30, 2026 3:18 PM  
**To:** PUC-PUC <[PUC@state.sd.us](mailto:PUC@state.sd.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] EL25-208

Commissioners,

The proposed Toronto Power Plant is a bad deal for our area for several reasons. As a volunteer firefighter in Toronto I have a lot of concerns regarding our department's ability to handle the construction of another large industrial project. From the looks of it we could end up with close to 2000 total construction workers working on three different projects all at the same time. Not only are we not set up for any type of mass casualty event, we don't have the manpower to cover the large increase of calls that comes with these types of projects. These companies all come in and throw money at us like that's all we need. No we need people and you can't buy that. We have just enough to keep up with what we have now. If you add yet another big construction project, you're going to burn our guys out, along with our ambulance services and our law enforcement. Small town departments are not setup to handle these things and we feel like everyone is overlooking this issue. There have been several questionable things that have come out now about how the Local Review Committee process was done, and it appears that we didn't even have a single representative that lives near Toronto involved in it. I would very much disagree that there will be no significant effects on our community as it states, because it will affect our department in a big way. Unfortunately we weren't included and no one bothered to ask anyone on our department about it. It seems the only people included on the committee were people representing groups that would make money from the project. That seems unethical at best and it doesn't even begin to give the full picture of how a community is impacted. As first responders we will continue to do our jobs and do them to the highest possible level, but please be aware of what you're asking of a volunteer department. You're asking for a lot.

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