

RURAL

July 7, 2026

SD Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: EL 25-028 MRES Motion to Extend

SD Public Utilities Commissioners:

Missouri River Energy Services motion to extend concerns Residents United for Rural and Ag Land. We want to make it clear to the PUC that MRES doesn't have a viable site in Deuel County. We call upon the PUC to deny the motion to extend.

In point 13 of the motion, MRES says, "If a new site is found, the Applicants will either move to withdraw the current application and file a new application, or seek leave to amend the current application. If a new satisfactory site is not found, the Applicants may decide to proceed with the Deuel County site if it is determined to be the best alternative."

This point implies the Deuel County site is an alternative. It is not. First, as stated in point 5 of the motion, "Under SDCL § 7-18A-24, a question contained in a referred ordinance may not be voted on again for one year from the date of the election." Secondly, and more importantly, the ordinance failed 2-1 in the county wide election and led to the largest county voter turnout in a primary election in 20 years.

RURAL was the local organization that coordinated this election we can attest, there is no appetite in the county for this proposal at this site and a healthy amount of skepticism for projects like this countywide. We don't see this changing in 12 months.

While the motion contains no factual errors it fails to clearly explain the situation in Deuel County.

The MRES motion to extend seems like a scatter shot looking for more time in order to find an option. It also appears the options are pretty thin. As the Deuel County site isn't an option, it would make more sense to file a new application when they find a new site. The work done in this application will be out of date by the time they find a new option.

If the PUC grants the motion to extend, new intervenors need to be allowed to join the process. MRES has used the lack of intervenors to indicate local support for the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank James". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "F" and "J".

Frank James
RURAL
Toronto, SD