

Letter to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Re: Docket EL26-014 – Request for Supplemental Public Meeting and Extension of Intervenor Deadline

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission 500 E Capitol Ave Pierre, SD 57501

To the Commissioners:

We respectfully request that the Public Utilities Commission hold a **supplemental public meeting** regarding the proposed Battery Energy Storage System under **Docket EL26-014**, and that the **intervenor deadline of July 13 be extended by two weeks**. Our request is based on several significant issues that prevented full and fair public participation at the July 1 meeting.

Reasons a Supplemental Public Meeting Is Necessary

1. **The meeting was held in the middle of a major holiday week.** Many residents take time off during the July 4th holiday period because they are already given a day off. Scheduling the meeting during this week resulted in reduced attendance and prevented numerous affected landowners and community members from being present.
2. **The venue's HVAC noise made it extremely difficult to hear speakers.** The constant loud HVAC system made it nearly impossible to clearly hear presentations, public comments, or Commission instructions. This discouraged people from speaking, asking questions, or fully understanding the information being presented. Several key points—including instructions about intervenor status—were not audible to many attendees.
3. **Intervenor information was not accessible at the meeting.** Although it was stated that intervenor forms were available at the door, **no forms were provided**. When we submitted our completed intervenor paperwork, the staff member receiving it stated she did not know anything about the forms but would “hand it in,” which she evidently did. This confusion, combined with the inability to hear instructions due to the venue noise, created a barrier to proper public participation.
4. **Community members were not given a fair opportunity to engage.** Between the holiday timing, the acoustics, and the lack of intervenor materials, many residents left without understanding how to participate, how to ask questions, or how to formally register their concerns.

Request for Deadline Extension

Because of these issues, we respectfully request that the **intervenor deadline of July 13 be extended by two weeks**. The public was not provided clear, audible, or accessible information about intervenor status at the July 1 meeting, nor were the required forms made available as stated. An extension is necessary to ensure that all affected residents have a fair chance to participate in the process.

Conclusion

For these reasons, we ask the Commission to:

- Schedule a **supplemental public meeting** in the Waverly/South Shore area, and/or
- Extend the **intervenor deadline** by two weeks to correct the barriers created at the July 1 meeting.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and your commitment to ensuring transparency, accessibility, and meaningful public involvement.

Sincerely,

Tim and Linda Lindgren

[REDACTED]

South Shore, SD 57263

Tim's Cell [REDACTED]

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