



Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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I am Vic Simmons, CEO/General Manager of Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative. Rushmore serves eight distribution cooperatives in western SD. About 16% of our resources come from the Western Area Power Administration.

Most of the public power electric providers in this region have supplemental power suppliers that have become the primary suppliers. Because WAPA is not the major supplier, any changes to rates will affect only a small piece of the overall power supply. And furthermore, most of the things that are being proposed for discussion are already being accomplished without any "incentives".

Our cooperatives have marketing programs in place to provide for efficiencies. It seems odd to me, that we are the only business in the world to encourage people not to use our product. That is not good business, nor is it good for our customers. We like to teach wise use.

Demand response has been around for a long time. It is not new. Utilities have been providing things like dual heat, generator control, and water heater control for managing peak loads, only to have the federal government try to eliminate these programs by requiring pollution control equipment on a backup emergency diesel generator or requiring all 100 gallon water heaters to be 200% efficient.

The cooperatives in this region have integrated over 700 MW of wind generation at the power supply level and have integrated locally owned renewable resources with rates above what is required. The Rushmore members have connected over 45 small renewable generating units to their distribution systems.

Electric vehicles may work in the big city, but out here I have yet to see an electric vehicle that you can hook on to the stock trailer and haul a load of steers 100 miles to market. They are just not there yet. And where is the electricity going to come from to recharge all these electric vehicles?

I feel we are here today trying to fix something that is not broken. On top of that, we are spending money and resources on something that is not needed, while the transmission lines keep getting older and very little money is appropriated for system improvements. We can be very thankful that those who came before us built a system that was sound and had growth potential built in, or we would be seeing many more outages than we do now.

Thank You!