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Form Submission: Customer Comments

1 message

BOEYINK via Iowa Utilities Board <iub@iowa.gov>

Fri, Aug 20, 2021 at 2:29 PM

Reply-To: BOEYINK <JBOEYINK@ls2group.com>

To: customer@iowa.gov

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Submitted values are:

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List of IUB Dockets: Other (please describe in field below)

Other Docket Not in List: INU-2021-0001

Comments:

DOCKET NO. INU-2021-0001

Comments on behalf of SOO Green HVDC Link

The proposed SOO Green HVDC Link is a first-of-its-kind electric power infrastructure project to transport renewable energy via an underground high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line along an existing railroad. The 350-mile project will emanate from a MISO grid point near Mason City, Iowa and terminate near Chicago at a PJM grid point.

One of the fundamental benefits of the project is the ability to transport and export surplus renewable generation in Iowa—at times when renewable generation exceeds customer demand—and sell it for a premium in a PJM market that is starving for renewable energy sources.

An excerpt from the Board's order reads as follows: "However, generation in Iowa now exceeds the amount needed for Iowans. Iowa has become a net exporter of electrical energy and the rewards of renewable energy have not led to lower energy costs."

This excerpt (and other parts of the order) is being interpreted by some as suggesting the IUB has staked out a position in opposition to the further exportation of Iowa renewable energy.

As the SOO Green HVDC Link project is dependent on the export of renewable energy in Iowa (either from existing utilities or independent power producers) and is designed to encourage the development of more than 4,000 MW of additional Iowa-based renewables, we are asking the Board to specifically clarify its position on the exportation of surplus renewable energy to other markets.

We believe the exportation of Iowa renewables can be a direct benefit to ratepayers in the form of lower energy costs and to all Iowans who benefit from the economic development that results from new renewable generation

development projects.

We believe Iowa law clearly anticipates, intends, and encourages the exportation of Iowa renewable energy generation. But, lacking a clear statement from the Board that such exportation is both viewed favorably and encouraged by its members, much of the benefits of new renewable energy in Iowa could be in jeopardy.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://iub.iowa.gov/node/105/submission/7272>