Black Hills Energy History in Pueblo
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2008 Black Hills Energy (BHE) buys Aquila.

2009 Social service agencies notice an increase in low-income community needing financial assistance to pay their electric bill.

2010 August BHE signs a 20 year exclusive franchise agreement with the city of Pueblo.

2011 The Social Services Organization, Continuum of Care, sent a letter to city and county commissioners stating the corporate policies of BHE are creating a hardship for poor families, disabled individuals, the elderly, and the social service networks that serve them.
2013  BHE implements a change in “demand charge” for business class, resulting in huge increases in utility bills.

*Demand charge for business sector all but kills distributed solar incentives and cripples local installers livelihood*

2014  Pueblo’s Energy Future (PEF), a grassroots movement is formed to advocate for a clean affordable, sustainable and just energy future for Pueblo.

2015  PEF begins a listening and educational campaign to hear stories and inform the public about BHE’s utility bills policies and practices.

2016  BHE seeks a $8.5 million Phase I increase in revenue to pay for the construction of the $65 million “peaker” plant, operating as intended only a few hours per year. (PUC approved construction)
2016 August  About 600 people attended a PUC hearing in Pueblo and over 50 testified that BHE should not be granted a revenue increase because electric bills were up 27% since BHE bought Aquila in 2008.

One of the most compelling testimonies came from Sister Nancy Crafton. She stated that her non-profit had paid $455,991 in utility payment support for low-income from 2008 to 2016, compared to $128,385 in previous 6 years with Aquila.

2016 December  PUC denies BHE the $8.5 million Phase I increase in revenue but did grant a $1 million Phase I increase. Big win for Pueblo.

2017  BHE files Phase II rate scheme asking for an increase in customer charge...especially for residential solar owners (up 49%). Local solar owners organize to advocate for fair and just policies regarding solar and renewable energy issues creating REOCA.
**January 23, 2017** City Council passes a resolution to become a 100% renewable energy city by 2035, which was a Sierra Club Ready for 100 initiative.

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**2017 Fall** Pueblo residents testify before an Administrative Law Judge in a hearing regarding the injustice of BHE Phase II rate schedule.

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**2017 Fall** City Council voted 7-0 declaring its intention to execute a 2020 off-ramp provision, from the exclusive franchise agreement as allowed in state statute if a professional feasibility study confirms the benefits of doing so.
2017 December  PUC Phase II ruling reduces the customer charge and increased the business demand charge threshold from 10kw to 50kw. Another win for Pueblo!

**PUC denies BHE phase II rate scheme and demands they reduce their customer charge in all classes**

2018 January  City appoints Electric Utility Commission to advise City Council regarding a feasibility study. The Phase I feasibility study completed, and Phase II feasibility study in process.

2018 Spring  BHE makes minor changes in reconnection fee and reduces deposit requirements from 3 months to 1 month.