**Deuel County**

**Letter: Renewable Energy Is The Answer**

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<https://www.yankton.net/opinion/letters/article_605a647c-d6a7-11ee-882c-279fead2185b.html>

This is in response to Ed VanGerpen’s letter about electric costs and generation (Press & Dakotan, Feb. 14).

Fossil fuel and nuclear produced electricity is expensive and getting more so. The numbers I am giving come from the DOE and SPP websites (Dept of Energy and Southwest Power Pool, which includes South Dakota and 13 other states). Nationwide coal plants operate at 47.5% capacity. In South Dakota wind farms vary a little year to year but generally produce at 40-45% capacity. Cost averages of electricity produced nationwide for 2023: Coal $36/Megawatt hr, Nuclear $31, Wind and Solar $24. In addition Coal and Nuclear costs continue to climb, while renewables keep decreasing. Is Nuclear the answer? Maybe Mr VanGerpen would like a nuclear plant on his land? If you think trying to site a wind or solar farm is difficult just mention a nuclear plant. NOBODY wants one of those anywhere close. The NIMBY people would go crazy. Not to mention unbelievably expensive to build and insure. Furthermore, if you need something to keep you up at night, do a little research into the current radioactive waste debacle in this country. Clean nuclear energy is a myth. Mr. VanGerpen believes renewables are unreliable and causing blackouts. In reality the main cause of blackouts is due to bottlenecks in our antiquated transmission system.