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**Jean Jewell**

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**From:** Ed Howell  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 01, 2005 12:40 PM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark  
**Subject:** Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Thursday, September 01, 2005  
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Comment\_description: There is no question that what we are dealing with here is a monopoly that needs to be regulated. What other business gets to pass changes in supply factors directly on to customers. The problem with the whole process of passing abnormal costs on to customers, is that it assumes a static environment. You would have to have a static environment to define anything as abnormal. What the real world system is is chaos, and by this I mean in its scientific definition, not the common definition of a complete lack of order. The ability to adapt to changing conditions is the hallmark of a sustainable society and has been over the ages.

The whole process by which it is assumed that there is a stable base of generation or conditions and that anything that varies from this stable base is "abnormal" is incorrect. We need systems that push innovation and creativity. I know it is a problem that the industry is a monopoly which goes against the primary driver of innovation in an industry, that is domestic and geographically-proximate rivalry. Still, it seems to be a mistake to assume a stable base. What is important to sustainability is not our initial stock of factors, but our ability to upgrade them. Also, what is important in sustainability are the drivers for innovation, not the initial stock of factors. North Korea is a great example of a country with a huge initial stock of the factors needed for industrial productivity and now not producing hardly anything.

It seems that the process by which utilities somehow define a base as if it is stable, then ask for, and get approval to pass through costs which they define as "abnormal" is a great roadblock to what is needed for sustainability, namely innovation and adaptability.

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