

L-2014-2404361

Submitted electronically and by mail

Kurt Limbach  
350 Creek Road  
Bolivar, PA 15923

September 3, 2014

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2014 SEP -5 AM 11:11  
PA P.U.C.  
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary  
PA Public Utility Commission  
Post Office Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Re: Implementation of the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard Act of 2004, Docket No. L-2014 2404361

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

I am writing to you in order to object to the changes proposed by the PUC for net metering of alternative energy systems.

In 2014 I invested \$100,000 in a 28 kw solar system for my farm in Bolivar Pa. In addition, I had to pay West Penn Power \$2,184.64 for installation of my net meter. My system produces twice the electric energy than I currently use. At the time of installation, PUC rules allowed me to sell to the grid all excess power my system generated at "the price to compare". Under the proposed rules for the net metering, I would only be able to sell 10% of excess power generated from my system. Section 10 of the respective PUC document states "all stake holders will benefit from the rule change." This is wholly untrue, as major stakeholders would be negatively affected.

In light of the new rules, would the PUC expect me to shut off a large portion of my solar system or give West Penn Power free energy? Neither option makes sense.

Energy companies that employ fossil fuels would also be negatively impacted by these changes. Under the current regulations, traditional energy companies are able to utilize power produced from renewables such as wind or solar in order to meet air quality guidelines set by the government. Utilities are mandated by the state to have an increasing amount of renewables. These rule changes would depress the SREC market by discouraging the creation of more SRECS, which would drive up costs for both utilities and consumers.

In addition the general public, the largest and most important stakeholder, would be negatively affected by the rule changes. Creating additional energy inputs through net metering allows utility companies to expand capacity without any capital expenditure or cost to the energy consuming public. This results in lower energy costs for consumers. The new PUC rules, in limiting available energy supply, would prevent these savings from being passed on to the citizens of Pennsylvania. Importantly energy produced with no emissions is far better for public

health than energy derived from fossil fuels, and increased output from renewables would help shelter Pennsylvania from issues in world energy markets.

The PUC makes the claim that paying retail prices to renewable energy suppliers makes energy more expensive for all. This ignores the fact that most solar energy is supplied on long summer days when demand is greatest and utilities who are short capacity in their own grid sometimes have to pay above retail prices to meet demand. If paying retail is the real issue with renewables then reduce the rate of compensation instead of limiting the amount of power to be supplied to the grid. Limiting alternative energy suppliers to just those who consume electric again does a disservice to the consumer by limiting inputs to the grid which again negatively impacts the electric consumer. Limiting the amount government entities can feed into the grid from developing alternative energy systems also does the consuming public a disservice.

Finally limiting production to nameplate capacity makes little sense. My 28.3 KW system produced 31KW in its first full year of operation. Can we predict if one year will be sunnier then the next? If your automobile outperformed its stated mileage rating or horsepower would that be an issue?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kurt Limbach". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kurt Limbach

Cc: PA State Senator Don White  
PA State Senator Kim Ward  
PA State Senator Matt Smith  
PA State House Representative Dan Miller  
PA State House Representative Mike Reese

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