

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission,
Attn: Secretary,
P.O. Box 3265,
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265
5/27/2015

RECEIVED
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PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

To Whom It May Concern, regarding (*Doc. No. L-2014-2404361*)

Paradise Energy Solutions is a residential and commercial solar installer headquartered in Gap, PA. We were founded in PA in 2009, and we also have offices in other states. Over the past 12 months on record (ending March 31st, 2015), based on data from PJM GATS, our company has installed approximately 25% of the commercial solar PV (system sized between 15 kW and 1 MW) in PA during this time period. We are representing many of our clients, homeowners and business owners who reside and operate within PA, with these comments. Please consider our comments, as specified below:

1. We appreciate the clarification, but we believe the definition for “utility” §75.1 continues to be overly broad and needs further clarification. While it does clarify that Alternative Energy System Owners and Operators are exempt, it does not address situations like Electric Car charging stations. This threatens the traditional net metering model. **For instance, if a business installs electric car chargers on their property, and sells electricity to their employees, are they then defined as a utility, and therefore not able to net meter based on their ownership of an Alternative Energy System?** Under the proposed rulemaking, it seems that this could be the case. We feel that the definition of utility needs to be amended to protect customer generators who may be selling some power to employees, other tenants, etc...

2. We continue to oppose the changes in §75.13(k) that would give the Commission authority to allow utilities to charge a new special monthly fee to customers with solar. This should be clarified to specifically reference the potential Virtual Meter Aggregation fees, rather than allowing fees to be assessed “by order of the Commission”.

3. While we appreciate the improved clarity, we continue to feel that there is a lack of clarification in regards to the proposed “200% rule” in §75.13(a)(3), and several things must be clarified. We are requesting that the follow clarifications be considered:

A. Add clarifying language to state that there can be no punitive action taken against customer generators who have a change in their’ load profile, leaving no option for utilities to remove the net metering agreement which has been executed with these clients. While the proposed rulemaking implies this, it is

not explicit in stating that customer generators cannot be removed from the net metering agreement after it is executed.

B. There needs to be clarification regarding if building improvements and efficiency, etc, cause the distributed generation to produce more than 200% of the annual load in a given year. There should be no option for a utility to remove a customer generator from net metering, given this scenario. While this seems to be implied, the proposed rulemaking is not explicit on this. There should be simple “once net metered, always net metered” rule for any new distributed generation. Our company has experience with a utility (outside the Commonwealth) that has abused a similar rulemaking by threatening to remove clients from net metering if their production exceeds their load in any 12 month window. We know that this has been a problem in another state with similar design requirements.

C. There should be clarity regarding what is acceptable documentation for expected additional electrical load of a building, as in the case of new construction, or a building expansion. While we appreciate this being mentioned in 75.13(a)(3)(II), we recommend additional clarity regarding the standard measurement for calculating the annual building consumption.

D. Under 75.13(a)(3)(III), can we consider stating that the 200% rule applies “**ONLY**” to interconnection applications submitted after the date which will be listed in the rulemaking?

We thank the Commission for consideration of these views as they relate to the proposed changes to net metering.

Tim Beiler
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