

PUCO Case No. 12-2050-EL-ORD Nov. 8, 2017 Proposed Rules Related to Compensation for Net Metered Customers

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO),

Dear Chairman Haque and Commissioners,

As an individual/business invested in a net metered, distributed generation system, I write to ask you to reconsider the November 8, 2017 decision on new, proposed net metering rules. The decision on these rules made progress in several respects, but set a bad precedent on what is considered in net metering credits which are earned by the self-generating customer when their system is producing more electricity than what they are using. Specifically, the PUCO ordered that the net metering credit be calculated for its energy value only, and prohibited the capacity value from being included in the credit.

My system and others across the state provide a capacity resource for the grid, therefore providing a benefit to the distribution utility. While it may be true that distribution utilities, nor the PUCO, have established a standardized monetary value for the capacity that distributed energy resources provide, it is well-established that these systems provide some capacity value.

As an Ohio consumer and net metered utility customer, I appreciate the attention the Commission has recently paid to modernizing our grid and recognizing the important role that distributed generation systems are playing in our state. The number of distributed generation systems, and therefore the number of net metered customers, is projected to continue to increase in Ohio, and I ask you to please consider the importance of properly compensating owners of distributed generation systems for the whole value our systems provide to the grid--both for the raw electrons sent back to the grid, and the capacity value that our systems provide.

I don't think it's fair that the monopoly electric providers can now renege on offers made to conserve energy. Why should I or anyone else be penalized for installing solar cells and conserving power so big monopoly electric companies can spend millions of dollars to have stadiums named after them and then file bankruptcy (First Energy Stadium in Cleveland)? The PUCO which in my opinion is in the pockets of the utilities is now turning against the people of Ohio and their efforts to conserve at the suggestion of the energy companies that cannot manage their money. This is despicable and shameful behavior and frankly, I'm fed up with it. Don't let them get away with this thievery. Instead, tell their CEOs and top management to take at least 30% pay cuts and pay for their benefits instead of trying to lean on people who have made investments that actually go back to their generating stations. They never thought the good times would end. Well, they did but they just can't admit it. Stop rewarding them for their mistakes and mismanagement.

Philip Rozzi
26654 Osborne Road
Columbia Station, OH 44028

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Mathew Roberts
43 East First Street
The Plains, OH 45780

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Michele Sommerfelt
6722 Franklin Blvd.
Cleveland, OH 44102

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

Consumer Service Division

Memorandum

CASE ID: 00210853

COMPANY:

CUSTOMER: James Nees

ADDRESS: , , refused

SERVICE ADDRESS: , ,

AIQ:

NIQ:

DOCKETING CASE #:12-2050-EL-ORD

SUBJECT: Net-Metering

Please docket the attached in the case number above.

Recent discussions and changes concerning net metering seem to favor the utility over the consumer. As a homeowner with solar panels and a battery storage system, I find it odd that I get only about 1/2 the value of any electricity production beyond my monthly use in the few months during the year that it occurs. That power pretty much goes directly to my neighbors who are paying their provider 100% of the value. Seems like a penalty to me and a high profit opportunity for the provider. Coupling this with the move to increase the base level customer charge means the cost to have a connection to the utility is growing while the ability to earn back that cost is decreasing. As the cost of a utility connection increases, the cost of my energy storage is decreasing. Consider what will happen when it becomes cost advantageous for small producers like me to disconnect from the grid. At that point the utilities will experience a decreasing density of customers and the associated increase in per household distribution costs. I like the idea of a utility system as my backup, but there will come a point where the falling value of feeding power back to the grid coupled with the increasing cost of a connection will make it cheaper for small producers like me to add a few more panels and disconnect than to remain online.

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Case No(s). 12-2050-EL-ORD

Summary: Public Comment electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing.