

ORIGINAL RE-00000A-07-0608

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM



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October 15, 2008

Mike Gleason, Chairman
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Arizona Corporation Commission
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ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
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RE: Net Metering

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Dear Chairman Gleason:

In early January 2008, I invested in a wind and solar energy system for my home as I wanted to do my part in protecting the environment, meeting the Governor's and Commission's goal of using alternative energy sources (solar and wind, in which the residential customer is part of the overall plan), helping us free ourselves from foreign energy entities, and lowering my electrical energy costs. I saw it coming. The consumer was going to get hit at the electrical meter just like we got hit at the gas pump, and it did happen. My electrical energy costs rose 42 percent due to a "pass through charge", with the charge being directly related to the rise in coal and oil prices.

During the installation of my wind and solar energy system, I was told by my local electrical provider, Mohave Electric Cooperative (MEC), that the State of Arizona (Corporation Commission) was working on a state-wide net metering program that was to be in place by January 2008. When that didn't happen, I was told it should be in place by May 2008, then July 2008, then November 2008. November is almost here, and according to MEC the process is still in the discussion stage.

In a recent conversation with MEC, I was told that MEC is waiting on the Corporation Commission to adopt a state-wide net metering program. MEC informed me that to establish their own net metering program they would have to request a tariff change and put up millions of dollars. Because of this expense they have chosen to wait for the Corporation Commission to enact a state-wide program after which they would then establish a net metering policy according to the state rule.

Would you please answer the following questions?

1. Based on my research, it seems that the state has been trying to establish a net metering program since 2006. If this is so, when will it be put into effect?
2. An adjacent utility, Unisource, has a net metering policy in place already, and I understand that APS is experimenting with net metering policies and has been for sometime. Is there really any reason why Mohave Electric Cooperative should not initiate a net metering policy under their current regulations? Do they have to ask for a tariff change and put up millions of dollars before they can offer net metering in our area?
3. If a customer requests net metering, is MEC required to provide the service?
4. When my system was installed and prior to inspection approval, my standard meter had the ability to spin backwards (net metering). However, this meter was quickly replaced after the final inspection with a digital meter that separates and keeps track of the positive and negative sides of the KW hours generated and used. (The positive side indicates the amount of electricity I use and the negative side indicates what my system sends to the grid.) Since the digital meter was installed, my system has generated and sent 2050 KW hours worth of energy to MEC's grid. If and when I do get net metering, will MEC be required to credit my account or reimburse me for the energy it has received from my system since January 2008?

Net metering is important to all of us and a state-wide policy needs to be put in place as soon as possible. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

Keith DeLorenzo

cc: Governor's Office, All Corporation Commissioners