

Sheila Stoeller



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Subject:

FW: Solar

----- Original Message -----

From: Joe Holcombe <jholcombe@vsit.org>  
To: Kristin Mayes; Kristin Mayes  
Sent: Mon Jul 06 14:29:08 2009  
Subject: Solar

Ms. Mayes, I hope you are doing well. You, Representative Tom Boone, Tim O'Brien, and I met a couple of years ago and discussed several topics as it related to school districts and utilities. I'm sure you have had hundreds of meeting since then and do not remember me, but I enjoyed meeting you and thought the meeting was helpful. Deer Valley School District is currently ready to install a 1 mega watt solar system on the roof at Deer Valley High School. This will be one of, if not the largest, roof top solar system on a K 12 facility in the country. Deer Valley School District also has 5 additional mega watts approved by APS and simply needs to finalize funding in order to proceed with these projects. The Deer Valley High School project is currently in the plan review/permitting process with the City of Glendale; it is literally "shovel ready".

If the Arizona Corporation Commission decides that public entities cannot purchase power from roof top systems owned by private entities because those private entities would then have to be regulated as a utility, that decision would stifle the solar industry for school districts and other government entities. I understand there are multiple aspects to this issue. However, if in the interim school districts and government entities are allowed to participate in systems that don't result in "net metering" perhaps we could move forward without impeding the progress made. Few districts have the means to purchase solar systems outright. A mega watt of roof top solar system will cost approximately \$6.5 million. Without the ability to capture incentives through the private sector these projects just don't pencil out and will not go forward.

Thanks for your time and if you have time to let me know where the commission is at this point in their discussions I would be grateful. Thanks again.

Joe Holcombe

Director of School Services

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