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MAY 14 1 43 PM '99

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MAY 14 1999

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IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPETITION IN)
THE PROVISION OF ELECTRIC SERVICES)
THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF ARIZONA)
_____)

DOCKET NO. RE
00000C-0165

RE-00000C-940165

COMMENTS OF THE ARIZONA SOLAR ENERGY INDUSTRIES
ASSOCIATION REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULES GOVERNING
ELECTRIC INDUSTRY COMPETITION.

Pursuant to the Commissions Procedural order dated April 21, 1999, the Arizona Solar Energy Industries Association hereby submit their comments in the above captioned matter.

The Arizona Solar Energy Industries Association has worked closely with the Commission and other stake holders to insure that the Rules for Electric Industry Competition were developed in a manner that would be equitable for all parties involved, including Arizona's ratepayers. We feel that the Solar Portfolio Standard (SPS) and other benefits for solar energy should have been retained in the Rules.

While, the benefits for solar energy under the SPS did not come out exactly as we would have liked, we were satisfied that the process was fair to everyone involved. A workable program had been developed with input from all parties in the Solar Portfolio Standard Subcommittee.

The economic development and environmental benefits of solar energy to the state of Arizona can only be realized if the technology is used and developed. This development has been prevented from happening in the marketplace by barriers at all levels. Deregulation provides an opportunity to promote the orderly development of solar technologies in a state where the sun is our greatest natural resource.

We support the existence of benefits for solar and renewable energy under the Rules for Electric Industry Competition. We applaud the Commission's vote to keep the concept alive under the new Environmental Portfolio Standard. Benefits for solar and renewables under a portfolio standard approach will help create a sustainable solar and renewable energy industry. Good public policy such as this will provide significant economic development opportunities, cleaner air and a brighter future for Arizona.