0000133961

BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

GARY PIERCE
Chairman
BOB STUMP
Commissioner
SANDRA D. KENNEDY
Commissioner
PAUL NEWMAN
Commissioner
BRENDA BURNS
Commissioner

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED
JAN 18 2012
DOCKETED BY nR

IN THE MATTER OF UNS ELECTRIC, INC. APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF ITS 2012 RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD AND TARIFF IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

DOCKET NO. E-04204A-11-0267

DECISION NO. 72738

ORDER

Open Meeting
December 13 and 14 2011
Phoenix, Arizona

BY THE COMMISSION:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. UNS Electric, Inc. ("UNS" or "Company") is engaged in providing electric service within portions of Arizona, pursuant to authority granted by the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission").

2. On July 1, 2011, UNS filed for Commission approval of its 2012 Renewable Energy Standard and Tariff ("REST") Implementation Plan. On July 15, 2011, UNS filed a REST plan summary and a set of Powerpoint slides summarizing its REST plan. On July 29, 2011, UNS filed a Notice of Errata, updating its REST plan and related exhibits.

3. The following parties filed for intervention in this docket: SolarCity Corporation ("SolarCity") on August 9, 2011 and the Residential Utility Consumer Office ("RUCO") on August 31, 2011. All of these parties have subsequently been granted intervention in this docket. Comments have been filed in this proceeding by SolarCity on August 12, 2011. Questions from Commissioners Offices were filed on August 30 and September 7, 2011 from Commissioner Newman's office, and September 2, 2011 from Commissioner Burns' office. UNS filed answers

to Commissioner Burns' questions on October 3, 2011 and to Commissioner Newman's questions on October 11, 2011.

4. UNS' initial filing requests approval of various REST plan components, including a budget, incentive levels, an incentive trigger mechanism, customer class caps, various program details, continuation of the Bright Arizona Solar Buildout Plan, introduction of a School Vocational Program, and approval of research and development funding for 2011.

UNS REST Experience Under 2011 REST Plan

5. The Commission-approved implementation plan for 2011 contemplated a budget of $8.1 million. UNS projects spending its entire REST budget in 2011. Regarding installations and reservations, the table below summarizes installations and reservations for future installations through September 30, 2011 for UNS.

Residential	Photovoltaics			Solar Hot Water	
	Number of Systems	kW	kWh	Number of Systems	kWh
2011 Installations	95	531	902,700	15	41,250
Reservations	120	915	1,555,500	23	63,250

Commercial	Photovoltaics			Solar Hot Water	
	Number of Systems	kW	kWh	Number of Systems	kWh
2011 Installations	23	511	868,700	0	0
Reservations	21	1,820	3,094,000	1	5,091

6. The table below shows UNS' annual required MWh under the REST rules and its installed-annualized and installed-annualized/reserved numbers. Installed annualized numbers reflect systems that are installed and their production is annualized to reflect a full year's production. Installed-annualized/reserved counts both the installed annualized systems, and the systems that are reserved, but have not yet been installed.

. . .

. . .

. . .

	Required (MWH)	Produced/Banked (MWH)
Residential DG	7,169	5,822 (installed – annualized) 7,423 (installed – annualized/reserved)
Commercial DG	7,169	5,510 (installed – annualized) 8,695 (installed – annualized/reserved)
Non-DG	43,016	22,136

School Vocational Program

7. In 2010, UNS proposed a new School Vocational Program ("SVP") that would have involved the deployment of photovoltaic systems at high schools within UNS' service territory in 2011. Due to concerns with the size of UNS' 2011 REST plan budget, the Commission did not approve UNS' proposed SVP program, but indicated UNS could request the program the following year if a similar program implemented by Tucson Electric Power Company ("TEP") in 2011 was successful. UNS and TEP believe TEP's SVP program was successful in 2011 and are thus requesting approval of a schools program in 2012. The SVP program would also provide assistance to schools in creating vocational training programs at the schools. UNS' proposed program budget for 2012 is $350,000. In discussions with UNS, the Company indicated that its budget is based upon installation of systems from 5 kW to 10 kW. The Company has indicated to Staff that all systems installed in 2012 could be installed at a 5 kW size, thus saving some system costs. Staff recommends that the size of systems installed in 2012 be set at 5 kW. UNS' budget includes $50,000 in training costs. Staff believes the program is beneficial and recommends approval of the SVP program at a reduced budget of $227,500, including $190,000 for systems and $37,500 for training costs.

Bright Arizona Solar Buildout Plan

8. In UNS' proposal for its 2011 REST plan, UNS requested approval of a four year build-out plan for the Bright Arizona Community Solar program for 1.25 MW each year of utility scale and utility-owned generation costs at a total cost of $20 million or $5 million per year.

9. The Bright Arizona program was approved by the Commission in Decision No. 72034 (December 10, 2010). The program allows UNS customers to purchase blocks of

renewable energy via an optional tariff rider. Customers would buy one or more 1 kW pieces of renewable energy, each representing 150 kWh per month, at a $0.02 per kWh premium over the regular tariff rate. Such customers would then have that solar capacity component of their bill fixed for 20 years.

10. The Commission, in Decision No. 72034, also declined to approve the proposed four-year buildout program as proposed by UNS, but rather approved it for one year, stating that UNS may seek approval of additional years for the buildout plan as part of Commission consideration of future REST plans. As proposed by UNS in its 2011 and 2012 REST plans, UNS would recover carrying costs, depreciation, operations and maintenance, and property tax costs through the REST surcharge until such time as UNS files its next rate case, when these costs would be considered for inclusion in UNS' rate base. UNS projects annual recovery through the REST surcharge in upcoming years as shown on Table 3 on page 5 of the Company's application. This involves collection of $665,169 in 2012 and $323,341 in 2013, with these assets then projected to enter UNS' rate base as part of a 2013 rate proceeding. UNS then projects the buildout plan resulting in new recoveries of $665,169 in 2014 and $1,293,362 in 2015 through the REST charge as a result of on-going buildout plan costs until such costs would be addressed in the following UNS general rate case. For the 2012 REST plan, the buildout plan costs of $665,169 that UNS is proposing to recover include the line items shown in the following table.

Line Item	**2011 Buildout Plan Costs**
Carrying Costs	$365,169
Book Depreciation	$250,000
Operations and Maintenance	$50,000
Total	$665,169

11. Upon further review of the Bright Arizona buildout plan, Staff recognizes that in approving UNS' 2011 REST plan, the Commission approved collection of various 2011 Bright Arizona buildout costs by UNS through the REST surcharge until such time as UNS' next rate case when they can be considered for collection through base rates. Therefore, Staff recommends increasing the UNS Owned budget line item from $332,585 to $665,169. Staff further recognizes that in Decision No. 71914 (September 10, 2010), the Commission provided for recovery of

buildout costs through the REST surcharge. Staff further recommends that the Commission approve the buildout program for 2012 as part of UNS' 2012 REST plan. Staff further recommends that UNS' 2012 buildout costs be recovered through the REST surcharge until such time as they are considered for recovery in a future UNS rate proceeding. Consistent with the Commission's approval of UNS' 2011 REST plan, Staff further recommends that reasonableness and prudency of buildout plan costs be examined in UNS' next rate case and that any costs determined to be not reasonable and prudent be refunded by the Company.

12. In discussions with UNS, the Company has indicated that some portion of this buildout program is not necessary to serve the Bright Arizona Community Solar program, but that the Company believes that the buildout program should continue at its projected scale to provide some diversity in its renewable portfolio between utility-owned and third party owned renewable generation. Staff believes that this is a reasonable proposal but that it is confusing to title the program the Bright Arizona Solar Buildout program when all these assets are not necessarily related to providing resources for the Bright Arizona Community Solar program. It should be recognized that this buildout program is fundamentally a program to fund utility-scale generation while recognizing that some portion of the assets built will provide resources for the Bright Arizona Community Solar program.

Marketing Costs

13. UNS has typically included a marketing budget in its annual REST plan filings. The approved 2011 REST plan included a budget of $118,000. For the proposed 2012 REST plan budget, UNS has proposed $100,000 in funding for marketing. The table below shows a breakout of various forms of marketing and advertising for the proposed 2012 REST plan submitted by UNS.

Line Item	**UNS Proposed Funding in 2012 REST Plan**
Television Advertisement	$36,000
Billboard Advertisement	$21,000
Radio Advertisement	$21,000
Sponsorships	$11,000
Educational	$7,000
Promotional	$4,000
Total	$100,000

14. Staff believes that with the significant growth in the renewable energy industry in Arizona in recent years, there are now many venues for publicizing renewable energy technologies and programs, and that the renewable energy industry should bear the primary responsibility for marketing renewable energy in Arizona. Therefore, the need for continued funding of marketing by UNS' ratepayers has declined significantly. Thus, Staff is recommending approval of a marketing budget of $10,000 as part of its 2012 REST plan proposal. Staff further recommends that in future REST plans, the burden of proof will be borne by UNS to justify the use of ratepayer funds to pay for marketing if UNS proposes use of ratepayer funds for marketing in future REST plans.

Labor Costs

15. UNS has a number of employees whose sole function is to work on REST related matters, and the cost of such employees is normally funded as part of the annual REST budget. UNS' labor budget in the approved 2011 REST plan and its proposed 2012 REST plan are shown in the table below.

Line Item	**Approved 2011 REST Budget**	**UNS Proposed 2012 REST Budget**
Internal Labor	$232,750	$$270,529
External Labor	$15,000	$5,000
Materials and Supplies	$15,000	$15,000
Total	$262,750	$290,529

16. It is difficult in a Staff review of a REST plan to assess in a detailed manner the necessary level of labor costs for a utility such as UNS to achieve its requirements under the REST rules. Staff believes that there are likely reasons why additional labor costs could be incurred, such as continued growth in the REST requirements, but also reasons why labor costs may be reduced, such as the small number of commercial DG systems contemplated in UNS' proposed plan. Staff believes that on balance, it would be reasonable to provide the same labor cost to UNS as was provided in the 2011 REST plan, with external labor reduced $10,000 for 2012 as proposed in UNS' budget, or a total of $252,750.

. . .

. . .

Research and Development

17. UNS is requesting approval of funding for research and development ("R&D") project work, in coordination with funding provided by TEP. Specifically, UNS would provide continued funding to the AZRise Global Institute at the University of Arizona ("AZRise"). The approved 2011 REST plan included $20,000 for funding work with AZRise. UNS' proposed 2012 REST plan budget includes an increase in this funding to $50,000 for 2012. While Staff believes there is value to the work AZRise does, Staff does not agree that the budget for such work should be significantly increased at this time. Therefore Staff recommends approval of funding for UNS to work with AZRise at a continued level of $20,000, consistent with the 2011 REST plan.

Information Technology Costs

18. UNS' proposed 2012 REST plan budget for information technology ("IT") includes a request for $100,000, up from $50,000 that was approved in the 2011 REST plan budget. Staff believes that continued funding at the $50,000 level, consistent with 2011 funding is reasonable and should be approved for UNS' 2012 REST plan.

Maximum Percentage of System Cost Paid Through Utility Rebates

19. In recent years, UNS' REST plans have included a provision that the maximum percentage of system cost for a customer that could be paid through utility rebates would be 60 percent. The Commission approved a reduction of this percentage in UNS' 2011 REST plan to the 50 percent level. Staff believes that this should be given further consideration. To the extent the maximum percentage can be reduced without significantly impacting the marketplace, such a reduction could result in the most subsidized projects receiving a moderately lower subsidy. This could result in a net increase in the number of projects completed for the same level of total spending. The Company has indicated it did not anticipate that a reduction in the percentage to 40 percent would impact the amount of incentives paid and that UNS does not oppose such a change. Staff believes that a reduction of this level to 40 percent would represent a further modest change, but would be a step toward more efficiently spending REST funds. Staff recommends reducing the maximum percentage of system cost that could be paid through utility rebates to 40 percent for both residential and commercial projects.

Metering Costs

20. UNS has traditionally included funding in its REST plan budget to pay for UNS-owned meters to monitor actual production from renewable installations under its REST program. For 2012, UNS is proposing a budget of $76,060 to pay for these meters. Arizona Public Service ("APS") does not use such meters and does not have a similar budget line item for these meters. Staff believes that while such meters are beneficial in knowing with more specificity what production is actually taking place from renewable energy installations, these meters are not required for UNS to meet its REST requirements and Staff recommends not providing funding for these meters in the 2012 REST plan budget.

Recovery of 2010 Undercollection

21. UNS' budget includes a proposal to recover a $242,841 under-recovery it experienced in 2010. UNS has indicated to Staff that it spent roughly the amount budgeted for 2010, but that recoveries through the REST surcharge were lower than projected, resulting in the under-recovery. Staff is cognizant of UNS' desire to recover this additional amount of money through its 2012 REST budget. UNS similarly requested recovery of $363,356 in underrecovered funds from 2009 in its 2011 REST plan budget, a request the Commission denied last year. Therefore Staff has removed this line item from UNS' budget under the Staff proposal, recognizing that UNS can recover these funds through spending less than the budgeted amount in 2012 or another future year.

2012 REST Budget Proposals and DG Incentive Levels

UNS Proposed Budget

22. UNS' July 1, 2011 filing contained one budget proposal, including a request to collect a 2011 undercollection of $242,841. Thus, UNS is proposing spending of $9,233,874 and total costs to be recovered of $9,476,715 in 2012.

Staff Proposed Budgets

23. As discussed above regarding various budget line items, Staff is proposing to reduce the 2012 REST plan budget requested by UNS. To provide the Commission with a range of possible approaches to UNS' proposed 2012 REST plan budget, Staff will present two possible

options in this Staff Report. The two options and their differing characteristics are described below.

Staff Option 1	Staff Option 2
Commercial DG UFI Funding of $691,614	Commercial DG UFI Funding of $286,803
Commercial DG PBI Funding of $1,837,072	Commercial DG PBI Funding of $1,709,178
Proposed Budget of $7,315,078	Proposed Budget of $6,782,373

Note: The approved 2011 budget is $8,069,914.

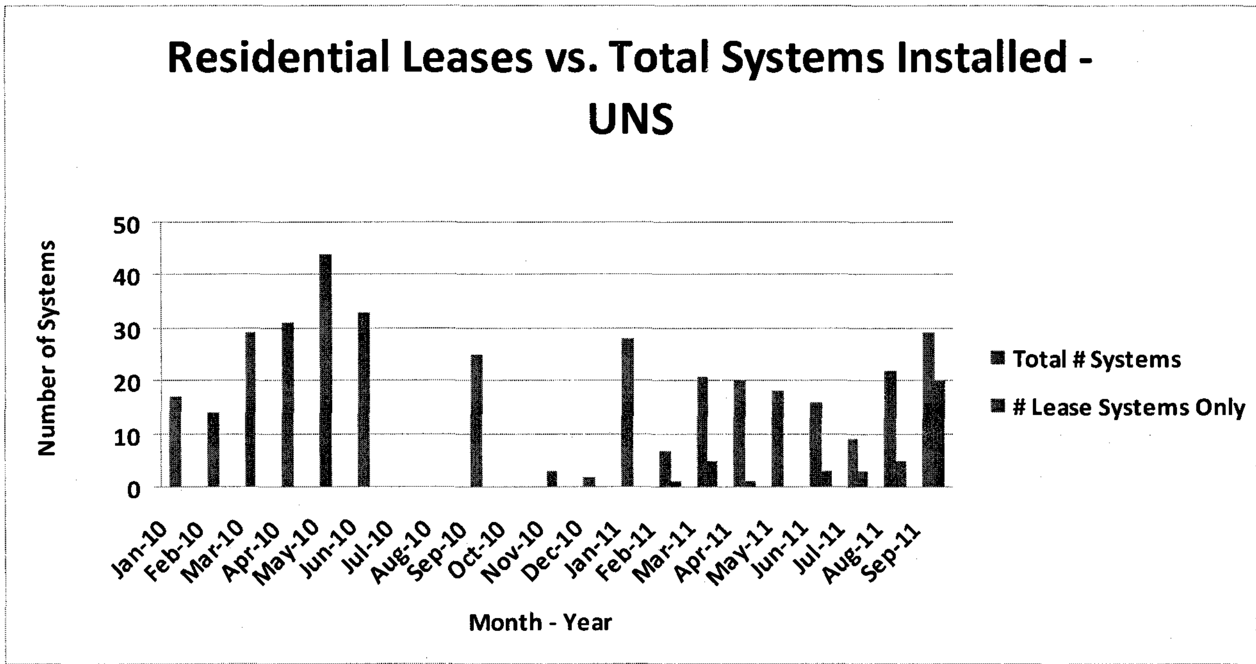
24. The Table below summarizes all of Staff's adjustments to UNS' proposed budgets.

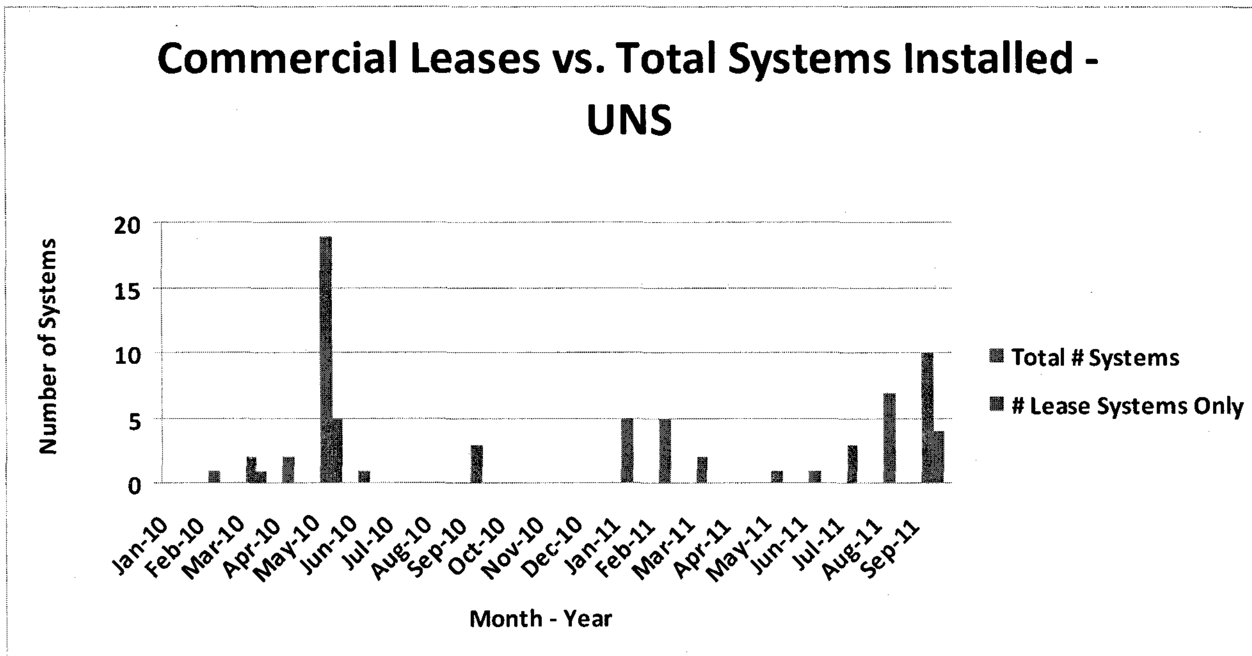
Budget Line Item	UNS 2012 Proposed Budget	Staff 2012 Proposed Budget
UNS Owned Generation	$665,169	$332,585
Residential UFI	$2,644,741	$1,752,337
Commercial UFI	$971,584	$691,614 (Option 1) $286,803 (Option 2)
Commercial PBI	$$1,837,072	$1,837,072 (Option 1) $1,709,178 (Option 2)
Marketing	$100,000	$10,000
Schools Program	$300,000	$190,000
UNS Training Costs	$50,000	$37,500
Metering	$76,060	$0
Total Labor Costs	$291,529	$252,750
Research and Development	$50,000	$20,000
Dues and Fees	$15,000	$7,500
Recovery of 2011 Undercollection	$242,841	$0

Proposed to Differentiate the Residential DG UFI for Leased and Non-Leased Systems

25. UNS is proposing in its 2012 REST plan to differentiate its residential DG UFI between leased and non-leased systems. In past years, all residential DG systems were eligible for the same level of UFI. UNS' proposal is to provide a UFI to non-leased residential DG systems of $1.60 per watt and a UFI of $1.00 per watt for leased systems. UNS has indicated to Staff that it believes that this differentiation is necessary due to various tax and accounting advantages leased systems have that non-leased systems do not have. Absent the proposed differentiation, UNS believes that non-leased systems will not be competitive in the residential DG market. UNS also has noted to Staff that its proposed $1.00 per watt incentive level for leased systems matches the current $1.00 per watt incentive provided by APS under its rapid reservation program, with leased systems making up a high percentage of systems under the APS program.

26. Leased systems had not typically been a significant part of UNS' market until very recently. The graphs below show the number of total and leased systems by month for UNS in 2010 and 2011 for the residential and commercial sectors. Both graphs demonstrate the very recent increase of leased systems in UNS' market, particularly in the residential market.





27. The graphs above demonstrate that leased systems have in very short order become a major factor in the UNS market. In various venues related to this filing, UNS, leasing companies, and other interested parties have made very different representations as to the cost, accounting treatment, and tax benefits of leased systems versus non-leased systems. In the time available to Staff to review UNS' application, Staff has been unable to reconcile the differing representations made by UNS and other parties regarding leased versus non-leased systems.

28. For purposes of Staff's recommendations, Staff is not proposing to differentiate incentives for residential DG between leased and non-leased systems. The REST rules do not address the treatment of leased versus non-leased systems. Fundamentally, if leased systems can be pursued with a significantly lower incentive level, as UNS' proposed REST plan and other documents indicate, then UNS can do more residential DG systems for less money if a uniform, lower incentive is applied to both leased and non-leased systems. This could result in a lower overall REST budget and lower REST surcharges for UNS' customers.

29. It is also worth noting that long term, if incentive levels continue to drop, they may at some point in the future disappear altogether, at which time there would inherently be no differentiation between incentives for leased and non-leased systems. Thus, if a differential is established, it is possible it will only be effective for some limited period of time into the future until incentives disappear.

Commercial DG Compliance

30. A consideration regarding whether UNS has met compliance or is overcompliant for commercial DG is Section R14-2-1805.E of the REST rules, which states:

> "An Affected Utility may satisfy no more than 10 percent of its annual Distributed Renewable Energy Requirement from Renewable Energy Credits derived from distributed Renewable Energy Resources that are non-utility owned generators that sell electricity at wholesale to Affected Utilities. This Wholesale Distributed Generation Component shall qualify for the non-residential portion of the Distributed Renewable Energy Requirement."

31. Thus, 10 percent of the total annual DG requirement, equivalent to 20 percent of the total commercial DG requirement, could be met by such wholesale purchases. To date UNS has not claimed most of its wholesale distributed generation purchases under this provision, even

though it has wholesale purchase contracts that would qualify under this provision. UNS has indicated to Staff that it has 10 MW of wind and 6 MW of solar wholesale purchases that generate roughly 41,000 MWH annually that are eligible to be counted as commercial DG. If these wholesale purchases were counted toward UNS' commercial DG requirements, it would result in UNS needing significantly less other commercial DG. Staff thus recommends that UNS report the allowable amount of wholesale DG as commercial DG for purposes of compliance with the REST rules. To the extent the Commission wishes to fund additional commercial DG projects in light of the size of the wholesale DG component eligible to be counted as commercial DG, such commercial DG projects can be given funding.

32. Industry representatives have expressed concern that with the structure of the REST rules, there may be a significant drop in the amount of DG required in upcoming years. This is fundamentally a result of the design of the REST rules, where the percentage of DG required grows through 2012, increasing from 5 percent in 2007 to 30 percent in 2012 and years thereafter. The solar industry has, in effect, become reliant on the annual 5 percent per year increase in the DG portion of the REST requirements built into the REST rules through 2012, providing a relatively steady opportunity for more DG projects each year.

33. In comparison, the overall REST requirements increased by 0.25 percent per year through 2009, by 0.5 percent per year from 2010 to 2015, and by 1.0 percent per year from 2016 through 2025. The solar industry's big concern is that the DG component's percentage of overall requirements stops growing before the overall REST component starts growing at the 1.0 percent rate, resulting in a smaller increment of DG requirements from 2013 to 2015. The table below shows the overall REST requirements by year and the DG requirements by year.

. . .

. . .

. . .

. . .

. . .

. . .

Year	Overall REST Requirement	DG Requirement
2006	1.25%	0
2007	1.50%	5.0%
2008	1.75%	10%
2009	2.0%	15%
2010	2.5%	20%
2011	3.0%	25%
2012	3.5%	30%
2013	4.0%	30%
2014	4.5%	30%
2015	5.0%	30%
2016	6.0%	30%
2017	7.0%	30%
2018	8.0%	30%
2019	9.0%	30%
2020	10.0%	30%
2021	11.0%	30%
2022	12.0%	30%
2023	13.0%	30%
2024	14.0%	30%
After 2024	15.0%	30%

34. The September 13, 2011 comments from the Southern Arizona Solar Standards Board ("SASSB") in Docket No. E-01933A-11-0269, regarding TEP's 2012 REST plan, contains a graph on the front page which illustrates the dip in commercial DG requirements under the REST rules for the 2013 to 2015 period. The next page of the SASSB comments shows a second graph, reflecting a proposal by SASSB to shift some portion of DG requirements further in the future into the 2013-2015 period to at least partially fill in the dip shown for that period. Concerns with not taking action to fill in the 2013-2015 dip include possibly significant declines in installations and industry activity during that period. Staff would note that this issue has existed since the time the REST rules were created and nobody in past years has proposed scaling back the amount of DG in prior years to save some portion of those DG requirements to fill in the 2013-2015 dip. Importantly, this is not an issue that impacts the 2012 REST plans, as 2012 sees another 5 percent step up in the DG portion of the full REST requirements. While Staff believes that this is an issue of importance to the solar industry, it is not an issue that needs to be addressed in the Commission's consideration of the 2012 REST plans. Staff thus recommends that UNS, when it

files its proposed 2013 REST plan in mid-2012, include a discussion of this issue in its filing and make a proposal as to whether UNS believes the Commission should take action beyond what is required in the REST rules to address the 2013-2015 dip.

Staff Proposed 2012 UFI Incentive Levels

35. UNS' filing proposed a residential DG UFI of $1.60 for non-leased systems and $1.00 for leased systems. UNS is further proposing a commercial UFI of $1.30 for commercial DG systems. Staff would note that, as discussed earlier in the Staff report, Staff is not proposing separate residential UFI levels for leased and non-leased systems. Information from UNS indicates that leased system applications are now occurring in both the residential and commercial DG sectors. As noted above, APS' Rapid Reservation Program has been having significant participation through 2011 at the $1.00 per watt UFI level. UNS' application in this proceeding contemplates an incentive level of $1.00 per watt for leased residential DG UFI projects. Thus, Staff believes that there are multiple indications that a $1.00 per watt incentive level may result in significant participation in UNS' market in 2012. Thus, Staff is proposing a residential DG UFI level of $1.00 per watt in 2012. Staff is proposing the same $1.00 per watt UFI level for commercial DG projects in UNS' market in 2012. A side benefit of lowering UNS' proposed $1.50 per watt commercial DG UFI to the $1.00 per watt level proposed by Staff is that any funds allocated toward the commercial DG UFI will stretch further, resulting in more commercial DG installations in 2012.

36. UNS' July 1, 2011 filing contains trigger proposals for the residential and commercial DG UFI incentive levels if participation exceeds 60 percent compliance on or before June 30, 2012, as UNS' 2011 triggers operated. In UNS' initial filing, the residential incentive trigger would result in a reduction to $1.35 per watt if the trigger were reached. The commercial incentive trigger would result in a reduction to $1.05 per watt if the trigger is reached. UNS' 2011 REST plan is the first REST plan to contain such triggers, but neither trigger was reached in 2011. Staff believes that the trigger concept merits continuation, albeit at adjusted levels to reflect Staff's proposed lower UFI levels and with an additional trigger date. Staff believes that the trigger mechanism needs to be more aggressive, given that funds tend to run out later in the year and there

may be further reductions in the cost of renewable resources as the year progresses. Staff is proposing three separate triggers.

37. Thus, under Staff's proposal for residential DG, the UFI would be reduced to $0.85 per watt if 45 percent compliance is reached on or before June 30, 2012. In like manner, for commercial DG, the UFI would be reduced to $0.85 per watt if 45 percent compliance is reached on or before June 30, 2012. The second triggers for both residential and commercial DG would, if the June 30, 2012 trigger had been reached, reduce the incentive to $0.70 per watt if 70 percent or more of the incentive funding is reserved prior to September 30, 2012. If the June 30, 2012 trigger has not been reached, then the second trigger would reduce the incentive to $0.85 per watt. The third trigger would involve a step-down in the incentive level if 90 percent compliance is reached on or before November 30, 2011. The incentive would then be reduced to $0.50 per watt if both previous triggers were reached, $0.70 per watt if one previous trigger was reached, and $0.85 per watt if no previous triggers were reached in 2012. The chart below lays out how the overall trigger mechanism would work.

Date of Trigger	**Compliance Level to Activate Trigger**	**Incentive Level If Trigger Activated**
June 30, 2011	45%	$0.85 per watt
September 30, 2011	70%	$0.85 per watt if June 30 trigger was not activated. $0.70 per watt if June 30 trigger was activated.
November 30, 2011	90%	$0.85 per watt if no previous 2012 triggers activated. $0.70 if one previous 2012 trigger activated. $0.50 per watt if both previous 2012 triggers activated.

38. On the day that any trigger is activated, UNS will notify the solar industry by e-mail and UNS will provide a similar notice on its website. The mechanics of the residential and commercial triggers would include timely notification to the Commission and installers if the trigger is reached. As well, Staff recommends that UNS post information on its own website, and on the Arizonagoessolar.org website at least every two weeks, regarding its progress toward reaching the triggers.

39. At the Commission's October 11, 2011 Staff Meeting, there was discussion regarding TEP's commitment to providing additional funding at current incentive levels to 75 customers even after the approved budget for residential DG was fully depleted. Staff is concerned that such events could occur for UNS. Thus, Staff recommends that UNS not commit to or expend any further ratepayers funds for UFI or PBI incentives once a given year's approved level of funds is depleted, absent approval from the Commission for such action.

Performance-Based Incentive Levels

40. Upon further review, Staff believes that the caps on the commercial performance-based incentive levels should be reduced to reflect the lower incentive costs necessary at this time and to avoid a large differential between UNS' and Staff's proposed APS' PBI levels. Staff now recommends setting the PBI caps at a slightly higher level than is recommended by Staff for APS in 2012, or $0.092 per kWh for 70-200 kW systems, $0.088 per kWh for 200-400 kW systems, and $0.084 per kWh for 401 kW and higher systems for UNS. This results in a reduction to the PBI budget line item in Staff Option One from $1,837,072 to $1,786,546 and in Staff Option Two from $1,709,178 to $1,692,416. This represents a reduction in the budget of $50,526 under Staff Option One and $16,762 under Staff Option Two.

2012 REST Plan Overall Budget Options

41. The table below shows proposed spending levels by area for UNS' proposed 2012 REST budget options and Staff's proposed 2012 REST budget options.

Budget Components	**2012 UNS Proposal**	**2012 Staff Option 1**	**2012 Staff Option 2**
Purchased Renewable Energy			
Above market cost of conventional generation	$2,126,470	$2,126,470	$2,126,470
UNS Owned	$665,169	$332,585	$332,585
Subtotal	*$2,791,639*	*$2,459,055*	*$2,459,055*
Customer Sited Distributed Renewable Energy			
Up-front incentive – residential	$2,644,741	$1,752,337	$1,752,337
Up-front incentive – commercial	$971,584	$691,614	$286,803

Annual Performance-Based Incentive (PBI)	$1,837,072	$1,837,072	$1,709,178
Meter Reading	$6,250	$6,250	$6,250
Marketing	$100,000	$10,000	$10,000
Subtotal	*$5,559,647*	*$4,297,273*	*$3,764,568*
Technical Training			
Schools Program	$300,000	$190,000	$190,000
Internal and Contractor Training	$50,000	$37,500	$37,500
Subtotal	*$350,000*	*$227,500*	*$227,500*
Information Systems			
Subtotal	*$100,000*	*$50,000*	*$50,000*
Metering			
Subtotal	*$76,060*	*$0*	*$0*
Labor and Administration			
Labor, Materials, Supplies	*$290,529*	*$252,750*	*$252,750*
AZ Solar Website	*$1,000*	*$1,000*	*$1,000*
Subtotal		*$253,750*	*$253,750*
Research and Development			
AZRISE	$50,000	$20,000	$20,000
Dues and Fees	$15,000	$7,500	$7,500
Subtotal	*$65,000*	*$27,500*	*$27,500*
Total Spending	*$9,233,874*	*$7,315,078*	*$6,782,373*
UnderRecovered 2010 Funds	*$242,841*	*$0*	*$0*
Total Amount for Recovery	*$9,476,715*	*$7,315,078*	*$6,782,373*

Recovery of Funds Through 2012 REST Charge

42. UNS' proposed caps and per kWh charge are designed to recover UNS' proposed recovery amount of $9.5 million. Staff's proposed caps and per kWh charge are designed to recover Staff's proposed budget of $7.3 million and $6.8 million for the two options provided by Staff.

43. The table below shows the proposed surcharge per kWh for each UNS and Staff option as well as the proposed caps under each option, in comparison to what is currently in effect for 2011.

	2011 Approved	2012 UNS Proposal	2012 Staff Option 1	2012 Staff Option 2
REST Charge (per kWh)	$0.008315	$0.010259	$0.007795	$0.007597
Class Caps				
Residential	$5.00	$6.00	$4.50	$4.00
Commercial	$160.00	$192.00	$150.00	$140.00
Industrial and Mining	$5,000.00	$6,000.00	$5,500.00	$5,000.00
Lighting	$140.00	$192.00	$135.00	$130.00

44. The cost recovery by customer class for the approved 2011 REST plan and estimates for the UNS and Staff options for the 2012 REST plan are shown in the table below.

	2011 REST Plan	2012 UNS Proposal	2012 Staff Option 1	2012 Staff Option 2
Residential	$4,178,457 (51.8%)	$4,670,642 (49.2%)	$3,505,153 (47.9%)	$3,153,976 (46.5%)
Commercial	$2,858,280 (35.4%)	$3,517,501 (37.1%)	$2,694,023 (36.8%)	$2,589,336 (38.2%)
Industrial and Mining	$1,021,285 (12.7%)	$1,289,076 (13.6%)	$1,111,080 (15.2%)	$1,034,273 (15.3%)
Lighting	$6,115 (0.1%)	$7,304 (0.1%)	$5,094 (0.1%)	$4,964 (0.1%)
Total	$8,064,137	$9,484,523	$7,315,350	$6,782,550

45. For comparison purposes, the table below shows the projected MWH sales by customer class for 2012.

Customer Class	2012 Projected Sales (MWH)
Residential	856,778 (44.0%)
Commercial	621,767 (31.9%)
Industrial and Mining	467,519 (24.0%)
Lighting	3,127 (0.2%)
Total	1,949,192

46. The table below shows the contribution, per kWh consumed, for each customer class (projected class cost recovery divided by projected class kWh sales). The table thus provides a comparison of the relative contribution to REST funding by each customer class on a per kWh basis. Staff's proposal for class caps and the per kWh charge is intended to gradually move the

customer classes closer to one another in terms of their contribution per kWh consumed in each customer class.

Contribution by Customer Class (per kWh)	2011 REST Plan (per kWh)	2012 UNS Proposal (per kWh)	2012 Staff Option 1 (per kWh)	2012 Staff Option 2 (per kWh)
Residential	$0.0051	$0.0055	$0.0041	$0.0037
Commercial	$0.0046	$0.0057	$0.0043	$0.0042
Industrial/ Mining	$0.0022	$0.0028	$0.0024	$0.0022
Lighting	$0.0072	$0.0023	$0.0016	$0.0016

47. The table below shows the average REST charge by customer class as well as the percentage of customers at the cap for each customer class.

	2012 UNS Proposal	2012 Staff Option 1	2012 Staff Option 2
Residential - Average Bill	$4.84	$3.64	$3.28
Commercial - Average Bill	$30.18	$22.76	$21.88
Industrial and Mining - Average Bill	$4,475.96	$3,857.92	$3,591.23
Lighting - Average Bill	$2.28	$2.23	$2.17
Residential – Percent at Cap	70.6%	70.6%	70.6%
Commercial – Percent at Cap	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
Industrial and Mining – Percent at Cap	50.4%	46.2%	47.9%
Lighting – Percent at Cap	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%

. . .

. . .

. . .

. . .

. . .

. . .

. . .

48. Estimated customer bill impacts for various monthly consumptions are shown in the table below.

Customer Types	kWh / mo.	2011 REST Plan	2012 UNS Proposal	2012 Staff Option 1	2012 Staff Option 2
Residence Consuming 400 kWh	400	$3.33	$4.10	$3.13	$3.05
Residence Consuming 890 kWh	890	$5.00	$4.84	$4.50	$4.00
Residence Consuming 2,000 kWh	2,000	$5.00	$6.00	$4.50	$4.00
Dentist Office	2,000	$16.63	$20.52	$15.64	$15.24
Hairstylist	3,900	$32.43	$40.01	$30.50	$29.73
Department Store	170,000	$160.00	$192.00	$150.00	$140.00
Mall	1,627,100	$160.00	$192.00	$150.00	$140.00
Retail Video Store	14,400	$119.74	$147.73	$112.62	$109.76
Large Hotel	1,067,100	$160.00	$192.00	$150.00	$140.00
Large Building Supply	346,500	$160.00	$192.00	$150.00	$140.00
Hotel/Motel	27,960	$160.00	$192.00	$150.00	$140.00
Fast Food	60,160	$160.00	$192.00	$150.00	$140.00
Large High Rise Office Bldg	1,476,100	$160.00	$192.00	$150.00	$140.00
Hospital (< 3 MW)	1,509,600	$5,000.00	$6,000.00	$5,500.00	$5,000.00
Supermarket	233,600	$160.00	$192.00	$150.00	$140.00
Convenience Store	20,160	$160.00	$192.00	$150.00	$140.00
Hospital (> 3 MW)	2,700,000	$5,000.00	$6,000.00	$5,500.00	$5,000.00
Copper Mine	72,000,000	$5,000.00	$6,000.00	$5,500.00	$5,000.00

49. Staff recommends approval of the proposed Staff Option 1. Staff believes that this recommendation provides adequate funding to more efficiently achieve UNS' 2012 REST goals and even exceed its commercial DG requirement. Staff Option 1 also provides a reduction in the budget both from the 2011 approved REST plan budget and UNS' proposals for the 2012 REST plan budget. Staff recognizes that the Commission could select Staff Option 2 and still expect to meet the commercial DG requirement for 2012, but Staff believes there is value to providing a more significant level of funding for commercial DG projects, recognizing that during next year's

consideration of UNS' 2013 REST plan, there is likely to be further consideration of the dip in new incremental DG required in 2013-2015 as well as potential commercial DG overcompliance.

Staff's Concerns About REST Plan Formats

50. The Staff is concerned that the REST Implementation Plans and REST Compliance Reports are so diverse in format and content that it is difficult, if not impossible, for Staff and the Commissioners to compare the programs and results from one utility to another. Staff believes that, by developing a standardized template format for both the Implementation Plans and Compliance Reports, the Staff, Commissioners, industry stakeholders and the general public will better be able to consider and compare the plans and performance of all Arizona utilities subject to the REST Rules.

51. In order for the public and the Commission to better understand the Utility Plans and Compliance Reports, Staff believes that the utilities should work cooperatively to develop a template for detailed spreadsheets that viewers can download and work with to explore alternative scenarios. The detailed spreadsheets shall be in native format, including the assumptions used by the utilities and the data to support the utility calculations. Care must be taken to protect competitively confidential information, so that information would be blacked out in the public version.

52. Staff recommends that the Commission order UNS to work with Arizona Public Service Company and Tucson Electric Power Company in an effort to establish a REST Format Working Group that would meet periodically with all other utility representatives to develop standardized template formats for both REST Implementation Plans and REST Compliance Reports. Staff recognizes that each utility is unique in a number of ways, so Staff suggests that templates have two parts: mandatory information and optional/other information. The first part would be detailed and identical in format. The second part would be an optional portion with a flexible format that would vary by utility. The Working Group would solicit input, suggestions, and detailed recommendations for stakeholders and the general public. In addition to developing the templates of Implementation Plans and Compliance Reports, the Working Group would

develop templates for detailed spreadsheets that would be made available to the public on both the utility website and the ArizonaGoesSolar.org website.

53. The Working Group should submit to the Commission a report with its recommendations no later than September 1, 2012, for Staff approval. The effective date for usage of the templates would be April 1, 2013, for the 2012 Compliance Reports and July 1, 2013, for the 2014 REST Implementation Plans.

54. We believe the Working Group should also include renewable energy industry and stakeholder representatives.

Staff Recommendations

55. Staff has recommended that the Commission approve the Staff proposed Option 1 for the 2012 REST plan, reflecting a REST charge of $0.008660 per kWh, and related caps reflected in the Staff proposal. This includes total spending and a total budget of $7,597,136.

56. Staff has further recommended that the residential PV Up-Front Incentive be set at $1.00 per watt on January 1, 2012.

57. Staff has further recommended that the non-residential Up-Front Incentive be set at $1.00 per watt.

58. Staff has further recommended setting the PBI caps at $0.092 per kWh for 70-200 kW systems, $0.088 per kWh for 200-400 kW systems, and $0.084 per kWh for 401 kW and higher systems for UNS. This results in a reduction to the PBI budget line item in Staff Option One from $1,837,072 to $1,786,546."

59. Staff has further recommended approval of the trigger mechanisms for reducing DG incentives as proposed by Staff, with trigger dates of June 30, 2012 (45 percent), September 30, 2012 (70 percent) and November 30, 2012 (90 percent). Incentive levels would then be set at $0.85 per watt after the first trigger occurs, $0.70 per watt after the second trigger occurs, and $0.50 per watt after the third trigger occurs.

60. Staff has further recommended increasing the UNS Owned budget line item in Staff Options One and Two from $332,585 to $665,169. Staff further recommends that the Commission approve the buildout program for 2012 as part of UNS' 2012 REST Plan. Staff

further recommends that UNS' 2012 buildout costs be recovered through the REST surcharge until such time until such time as they are considered for recovery in a future UNS rate proceeding. This results in an increase of $332,584 in the budget for Staff Options One and Two.

61. Staff has further recommended that UNS' Buildout Program for 2012 be approved, but that approval should not be granted for future years. Rather, UNS should seek approval for further years of the buildout plan as part of the Company's seeking of Commission approval for future annual REST plans.

62. Staff has further recommended that reasonableness and prudency of buildout plan costs be examined in UNS' next rate case and that any costs determined not to be reasonable and prudent be refunded by the Company.

63. Staff has further recommended that in future REST plans, the burden of proof will be borne by UNS to justify the use of ratepayer funds to pay for marketing if UNS proposes to use ratepayer funds for marketing in future REST plans.

64. Staff has further recommended approval of UNS' proposed research and development projects and funding as modified by Staff herein.

65. Staff has further recommended reducing the maximum percentage of a project that can be paid for with utility incentives to 40 percent.

66. We disagree, however, and will keep in place the current limit that allows UFI incentives to cover up to 50 percent of total system costs.

67. Staff has further recommended that the Commission not differentiate between leased and non-leased systems in setting DG UFIs for UNS' 2012 REST plan.

68. Staff has further recommended that UNS report the total allowable amount of wholesale DG as commercial DG for purposes of compliance with the REST rules.

69. Staff has further recommended s that UNS post information on its own website, and on the Arizonagoessolar.org website at least every two weeks, regarding its progress toward reaching the triggers.

70. Staff has further recommended approval of the School Vocational Program, as discussed herein.

71. Staff has further recommended that UNS not commit to or expend any further ratepayer funds for UFI or PBI incentives once a given year's approved level of funds is depleted, absent approval from the Commission for such action.

72. Staff has further recommended approval of the formation of the REST Format Working Group as discussed herein. UNS and other utilities would submit the Working Group's report and recommendations by September 1, 2012, for Staff approval.

73. We believe that customers who benefit, from the effective date of this decision, by receiving incentives under the REST rules should provide an equitable contribution to future REST benefits for other customers. We will therefore require that residential, small commercial, large commercial, and industrial customers who receive incentives under the REST rules will pay a monthly REST charge equal to the amount they would have paid without the renewable installation. This payment shall begin when UNS reprograms its billing system to accomplish this, or with the October 2012 billing, whichever is sooner. This shall only apply to renewable systems installed after January 1, 2012.

74. Staff has further recommended that UNS file the REST-TS1, consistent with the Decision in this case, within 15 days of the effective date of the Decision.

75. On November 2, 2011, UNS filed Exceptions to Staff's proposed order and certain Staff recommendations therein. UNS' Exceptions requested that the Commission amend the Staff recommendations regarding the recovery of certain metering costs through the REST surcharge.

76. We believe that UNS' Exception regarding the recovery of $76,070 in metering costs through the REST surcharge is well taken. We therefore include $76,070 in metering cost in the UNS budget.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. UNS is an Arizona public service corporation within the meaning of Article XV, Section 2, of the Arizona Constitution.

2. The Commission has jurisdiction over UNS and over the subject matter of the application.

. . .

3. The Commission, having reviewed the application and Staff's Memorandum dated October 25, 2011, concludes that it is in the public interest to approve the UNS 2012 Renewable Energy Standard and Tariff Implementation Plan as discussed herein.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Staff Option 1 for the UNS Electric, Inc. 2012 REST Implementation Plan, reflecting a REST charge of $0.008887 per kWh, and related caps reflected in the Staff proposal be and hereby is approved. This includes total spending and a total budget of $7,673,222.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the residential PV Up-Front Incentive be set at $1.00 per watt on January 1, 2012.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the non-residential Up-Front Incentive be set at $1.00 per watt.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that UNS Electric shall set the commercial performance-based incentive levels for 2012 at $0.092 per kWh for 70-200 kWh systems, $0.088 per kWh for 200-400 kW systems, and $0.084 per kWh for 401 kW and higher systems. This results in a reduction to the budget in Staff Option One of $50,526.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that for residential DG, the UFI shall be reduced from $1.00 per watt to $0.85 per watt if 45 percent of the incentive funding is reserved on or before June 30, 2012. In like manner, for commercial DG, the UFI shall be reduced to $0.85 per watt if 45 percent of the incentive funding is reserved on or before June 30, 2012. The second triggers for both residential and commercial DG shall, if the June 30, 2012 trigger is reached, reduce the incentive to $0.70 per watt if 70 percent or more of the incentive funding is reserved prior to September 30, 2012. If the June 30, 2012 trigger is not reached, then the second trigger shall reduce the incentive to $0.85 per watt. The third trigger shall reduce the incentive level if 90 percent of the incentive funding is reserved on or before November 30, 2012. The incentive shall then be reduced to $0.50 per watt if both previous triggers are reached, $0.70 per watt if one previous trigger is reached, and $0.85 per watt if no previous triggers are reached in 2012.

. . .

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that UNS Electric, Inc. shall post information on its own website, and on the Arizonagoessolar.org website at least every two weeks, regarding its progress toward reaching the triggers.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that UNS Electric be allowed to recover $665,169 for 2011 Bright Arizona buildout plan costs through the REST surcharge in 2012 and that the 2012 buildout costs be recovered through the REST surcharge until such time as they are considered for recovery in a future UNS Electric rate proceeding. This results in an increase of $332,584 in the budget for Staff Options One and Two.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that UNS Electric's 2012 buildout program be and hereby is approved as part of UNS' 2012 REST plan.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that reasonableness and prudency of buildout plan costs be examined in UNS Electric, Inc.'s next rate case and that any costs determined not to be reasonable and prudent be refunded by UNS Electric, Inc.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in future REST plans, the burden of proof will be borne by UNS Electric, Inc. to justify the use of ratepayer funds to pay for marketing if UNS Electric, Inc. proposes to use ratepayer funds for marketing in future REST plans.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that UNS Electric, Inc. is allowed to recover $76,070 in metering costs through the 2012 REST surcharge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that UNS Electric, Inc.'s proposed research and development projects and funding be and hereby is approved as discussed herein.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the maximum percentage of a project that can be paid for with utility incentives be 50 percent.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that there shall not be a differentiation between leased and non-leased systems in setting DG UFIs for UNS Electric, Inc.'s 2012 REST plan.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that UNS Electric, Inc. report the total allowable amount of wholesale DG as commercial DG for purposes of compliance with the REST rules.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the School Vocational Program be and hereby is approved as discussed herein.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that UNS Electric, Inc. not commit to or expend any further ratepayer funds for UFI or PBI incentives once a given year's approved level of funds is depleted, absent approval from the Commission for such action.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the formation of the REST Format Working Group be and hereby is approved as discussed herein. UNS Electric, Inc. shall submit the Working Group's report and recommendations by September 1, 2012, for Staff approval.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that residential, small commercial, large commercial, and industrial customers who receive incentives, from the effective date of this decision, under the REST rules will pay a monthly REST charge equal to the amount they would have paid without the renewable installation. This payment shall begin when UNS reprograms its billing system to accomplish this, or with the October 2012 billing, whichever is sooner. This shall only apply to renewable systems installed after January 1, 2012.

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that UNS Electric, Inc. file the REST-TS1, consistent with the Decision in this case, within 15 days of the effective date of the Decision.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Decision become effective immediately.

BY THE ORDER OF THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

CHAIRMAN COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, ERNEST G. JOHNSON, Executive Director of the Arizona Corporation Commission, have hereunto, set my hand and caused the official seal of this Commission to be affixed at the Capitol, in the City of Phoenix, this 13th day of January, 2012

ERNEST G. JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DISSENT:

DISSENT:

SMO:RGG:lhm\RM

SERVICE LIST FOR: UNS Electric, Inc.
DOCKET NO. E-04204A-11-0267

Mr. Daniel Pozefsky
1110 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Mr. Court Rich
6613 North Scottsdale Road, Suite 200
Scottsdale, Arizona 85250

Mr. Philip Dion
Unisource Energy Corporation
One South Church Avenue, Suite 200
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Mr. Michael Patten
Roshka, DeWulf & Patten, PLC
One Arizona Center
400 East Van Buren Street, Suite 800
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Mr. Steven M. Olea
Director, Utilities Division
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Ms. Janice M. Alward
Chief Counsel, Legal Division
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007