

# E.01461A.09.0450



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ORIGINAL

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMIS

UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Guadalupe Ortiz

Phone: ( ) , 3

Fax: ( )

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2012 - 103333

Date: 4/20/2012

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed  
N/A Not Applicable

First:

Last:

Complaint By: Hugh H.

Gates

Account Name: Hugh H. Gates

Home:

Street:

Work:

City: Green Valley

CBR:

State: AZ Zip:

is:

Utility Company: Trico Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Division: Electric

Contact Name:

Contact Phone:

Nature of Complaint:

\*\*\*\*\*OPINION OPPOSED - ALSO REFER TO ACC INQUIRY NO. 103288\*\*\*\*\*

REFERRED FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE - CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

RE: Docket No. E-01461A-09-0450

Hugh H. Gates

Green Valley, AZ 85614

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Ernest G. Johnson, Executive Director  
1200 West Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona Corporation Commission

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ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROL

2012 APR 24 P 4:06

RECEIVED

Re: TRICO Electric Cooperative Inc., Net Metering Tariff/Docket  
No. E-01461A-09-0450/ Your Decision No 71462

Dear Sirs,

I am hereby requesting a review of, and consideration for modification of, the TRICO Net Metering Tariff as it relates to my (and potentially many others) plans/wishes to install a smart renewable energy (solar) project upon the roof of our property in Green Valley. There are two aspects of that TRICO Net Metering Tariff that I believe are not justifiable or fair in the scale/size of a small/ home solar power project like I envision.

The first issue is the \$3.38 / month Administration Charge for "Net Metering". From the docket/order I gather that this charge is meant to recover costs associated with the additional data to be collected by TRICO each month from my installation. I find it difficult to believe that TRICO will "collect, store, check and reduce 30-minute

**ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION**  
**UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM**

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interval data to monthly total values for transfer to their billing software". Is TRICO really that concerned about the accuracy of their installed bi-directional meter? It is simply not a justifiable charge for a small size (home) net metering project. Such a fee/charge is regressive for the development of small renewable energy projects, which I think is one of your (ACC) goals.

The second issue which I have - The annual "True-Up" date, is very clear and simple. It must be addressed by your Commission in fairness to all of us "Snow Birds" who would be willing to invest in renewable energy. An October "True Up" date is economically not fair to any "Snow Bird", or other customer, who has a winter-peak load versus the more traditional (air conditioner) summer-peak load. Why should I be obligated to sell my summer surplus electricity at 4.2¢/kwh in October and soon thereafter be expected to pay 12 +¢/kwh for my winter (heat pump) power? I estimate that this would be the case in about 30% of the properties in my area/Home owners Association (HOA), and subsequently to the entire Greene Valley /retirement/"Snow Birds" community.

It is interesting to read the verbage about the "True-Up" date, several TRICO customers filed comments, and your staff's recommendation within your Docket! With today's computer billing (and meter reading) technology, I can see no reason why it is not feasible for Net-Metering (small renewable energy projects) customers to be coded for either a spring (April), or fall (October) "True-Up". This would provide fairness to both summer and winter load customers. I have made my Solar/renewable-energy project intentions know to my 351 member HOA. I have received many inquires about my project from other homeowners who are interested in, and supportive of it. I look forward to reporting to them that these two regulatory (financial) hurdles for the project have been resolved favorably.

Sincerely  
Hugh H Gates  
\*End of Complaint\*

**Utilities' Response:**

**Investigator's Comments and Disposition:**

4/18/2012: Called customer in response to his correspondence regarding Trico.

Customer expressed his concern regarding Trico only having one Annual True-Up date and suggests that the Commission consider implementing two Annual True-Up dates which could be beneficial for not only full time residents but part time residents as well.

I advised the customer that an opinion would be filed on his behalf to be made part of the record. CLOSED  
\*End of Comments\*

**Date Completed: 4/20/2012**

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