

E-01345A-13-0248

ORIGINAL



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ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Richard Martinez

Phone: 2013 JUL 25 P 2:31

Fax:

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

Opinion No. 2013 - 111844

Date: 7/25/2013

Complaint Description: 19Y Other - Elec Dereg - Renewable Resource Portfolio
08A Rate Case Items - Opposed

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

First:

Last:

Complaint By: Diane

Guillaume

JUL 25 2013

Account Name: Diane Guillaume

Home: (000) 000-0000

Street:

Work:

DOCKETED BY

City: Phoenix

CBR:

nr

State: AZ Zip: 85022

is: E-Mail

Utility Company: Arizona Public Service Company

Division: Electric

Contact Name: For assignment

Contact Phone:

Nature of Complaint:

Docket No. E-01345A-13-0248

This morning I heard a news report that at least one of the electric utilities companies is asking for a significant surcharge to apply to customers who have purchased or leased solar panels and are selling any surplus electricity back to the utility company. (I believe a figure of something like \$50 a month was mentioned in the news report.)

I would like to register the fact that I am adamantly opposed to the idea.

I am a senior (67 years old), who gets by on social security and a little part time, \$11/hour job, 10-20 hours a week.

Just this past May, I entered a 20 year lease for solar panels which generate 485 kwh per month. My home is very small, 704 sq ft., so for at least six months a year, I will be banking or selling at least half that amount back to the utility.

My lease is with Solar City and it required me to put zero down and make monthly payments of about \$30 a month. Any excess electricity generated between say, January and April is "banked" and I can use to it apply to my summer electricity usage. Any excess electricity generated after the summer heat is over and until my December bill is paid to me by check, however, I will only receive about 8-cents per kwh -- anything paid above that by the utility is kept by SolarCity.

The rate structure as it is now set up makes for a good deal for me, which allows my \$30 lease payment to cover my electric costs in full for about half the year (I have gas heating and no clothes dryer nor dishwasher), And during the summer, I am generating about half of my electrical usage, so my bill is significantly lower that it was last summer.

I'm going to take a "wild guess" here and speculate that the electric companies will calculate in the numbers

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they use to justify socking the customers such as me who have opted to generate electricity on our garage roofs -- with things like capital improvements and maintenance

Which would be moot because if they got behind home-solar generation operations like SolarCity which has devised a plan that greatly benefits both the customer and itself, in addition to generating electricity for use in Arizona ... the utilities would not have to spend many, many millions and hundreds of millions of dollars building and maintaining new plants that use old technology.

If the utilities got behind home-solar generation instead of trying to derail the system by taxing or surcharging the benefits out of going solar:

Their expenses, and potential financial exposure, would be greatly reduced

because if they had 20,000 (or even 100,000) customers generating 500-2,000 kwh per month from their homes and selling the excess to the utility,

in cases of emergency interruption of electricity generation services (be it by fire at a generation facility or a wildfire or storm downed inter-state power lines across the desert or mountains, vandalism, etc.)

the utility would still have the flow of electricity from the home solar generators and, even if it was in the middle of a July heat wave, at a minimum, the need / the draw on their power supply would be a small percentage of what it would be without the home solar generators.

Encouraging home solar generation is "money in the bank" for the utility companies, they are just too entrenched in their old way of doing business to recognize it.

Or maybe it is because they see a new potential "point of revenue" just to increase their profits and figure they can do a soft shoe / song and dance / slight of hand and nobody will notice that, in fact, encouraging home solar-generation benefits:

the companies (1) it costs them NOTHING in capital investment for new generating facilities or maintaining / upgrading old, polluting facilities (SolarCity purchased all my equipment and paid to have it installed), (2) it insulates the utility companies from service interruptions due to fire / weather / vandalism, or if California has a disaster and swoops in and wants to buy up electricity on the open market

the solar companies (it creates jobs in Arizona and it also creates profits for investors)

the utility customers (we get a break in our bills and also have the satisfaction of helping the environment).

PLEASE DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY WITH IT.

Diane Guillaume

Phoenix. AZ 85022

End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

7/25

Emailed to the Phoenix ACC office for docketing.

FILE CLOSED.

End of Comments

Date Completed: 7/25/2013