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From: Kirkton007@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2015 1:13 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: The truth about solar energy

ORIGINAL

Susan,

As a concerned Arizona citizen, I recently did some research involving the much talked about solar energy costs and returns to both the consumer and the utilities.

To my surprise, I have found that the utilities are pushing an agenda that is contrary to the truth. They claim that DG solar is costing them vast sums of money and that solar energy system owners should pay "Their fair share" of the cost of electricity.

Their stance is, DG pushes the cost of electricity to non-DG consumers. The reality is, when a homeowner or other entity installs a DG solar system, the electric utilities actually SAVE money, a lot of money. I have come to this conclusion by calculating the true cost of base load generation compared to gas-peaking generation.

The fact is that DG will produce the most power during the highest peak demand (long Summer days with high air conditioning use), therefore reducing the need to fire up the number and duration of high cost gas-peaking generators. Additionally, even without the Summer high demand, DG nearly always produces peak time of use power (daytime hours when homes and businesses consume the most power, solar is producing the most power).

This leads to the conclusion that electric utilities should not only stop penalizing DG producers but reward them with a bonus payment for the reduction in firing up the gas-peaking generation. A fair payment could be something in a percentage saved by not having to start the gas-peaking generation.

In another issue I came across; I researched the utility incentives that were available to assist consumers to have a solar energy system installed have diminished to zero.

Having investigated the dockets from the ACC, I focused on the TEP records of accounting for the Renewable Energy Standard Tariff (REST). I have found that their accounting and math principles are exceedingly flawed.

They are claiming things that simply do not exist or are a complete falsehood. For the past few years they have insisted that there are no available funds for incentives when in fact there are literally millions of dollars that are being misdirected, incorrectly allocated and miscalculated. It is obvious after studying their dockets that a thorough investigation into the accounting practices needs to be conducted.

While claiming there is no money available for DG, they have misdirected the REST funds to build utility scale solar fields for the purpose of generating power to sell to the very consumers that paid for the utility scale installations. If they want to build utility scale solar power plants, they should be told to use the money from the vast profits they make by selling electricity, not the money they collected to promote solar to homeowners.

Suddenly after years of claiming there are no funds available for DG, while collecting over \$40,000,000.00 a year in REST fees to consumers, they found the money to start a "new" solar incentive program. They are now saying they are going to spend the same 40 Mil. to install solar systems on residential homes, they will own the system, receive & own ALL of the electricity generated and trap consumers into a locked in rate for 20 years. WOW, this is such an incredibly obvious con, scam, ruse, whatever you want to call it.

This message only portrays the tip of the iceberg of the atrocious practices I have found all of the utilities to be doing. It would take a very long email to express the many dirty secrets I discovered with just a bit of research. Imagine what I will find with further investigation.

Do the job you were voted in and hired for, stop taking bribes and get the utilities back in line.

As consumers, we demand that the obstacles created to cause the demise of proper adoption of solar energy be corrected. We demand that the utilities either pay back the funds collected under the disguise of REST while being used for their personal purposes -or- insist that they correctly restart the solar incentive program. It is so very clear that not one cent of the funding from REST should be allowed to be used for any other purpose than incentives back to the people they collected it from.

I will be sending my findings to all of the media and news reporting agencies. I expect you to begin now to fix this problem so that when it is known to all what is really happening, you will not be made a fool in the public's eye. Voter perspective is

the only thing that gets elections won. I will wait until it is three or four months before the next election to engage a media blast. He who has done the right thing will be re-elected; he who has continued the path of destruction will be pushed out.

Last, final and only notice,
Jim