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F-01933A-15-0100

**Teresa Tenbrink**

Arizona Corporation Commission

**From:** DOCKETED Chet Chambers <chet907@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 1:11 PM  
**To:** APR 29 2015 Little-Web; BitterSmith-Web; Forese-Web; Stump-Web; RBurns-Web  
**Cc:** Izetta Chambers; Chad Waits; louis@netzerosolar.com; Trace Nuttall L  
**Subject:** DOCKETED BY [PC] Re: No on Docket 15-0100

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Dear Arizona Corporation Commission,

I am writing out of concern regarding Docket #15-0100, Tucson Electric Power Company's proposal regarding a new net-metering tariff. I strongly oppose this proposal mainly because of the severe, negative impact it will have on the local solar industry.

I'm currently employed as a solar installer for Net Zero Solar in Tucson. However, this week will be my last. Due to sudden uncertainty in the local solar market primarily caused by the threat of Docket #15-0100, half of the company's full-time installers, including myself, have just been laid off. More lay offs and pay cuts may follow. Many of us have mortgages to pay and families to support.

I have invested money and countless hours towards learning this trade and I'm in the process of earning Solar PV Installation Professional Certification. I live in America's sunniest city and the fact that my job prospects could wither and become non-existent if TEP's proposal is passed is a travesty and an embarrassment.

Please consider the job killing consequences of Docket #15-0100 before deciding the fate of solar in Arizona.

Sincerely, Chet Chambers

On Mon, Apr 20, 2015 at 1:41 PM, Izetta Chambers <izetta.chambers@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Arizona Corporation Commissions Forese, Little, Bittersmith Stump, and Burns:

I am writing out of concern regarding Docket #15-0100, Tucson Electric Power's request to add a monthly fee to new rooftop solar residences after June 2015.

I am vehemently opposed to this request, and feel that it is not in the best interest of the State of Arizona, Pima County, or TEP users. Additionally, this is a job-killing move that I don't feel that TEP has thoroughly considered in terms of implications for existing solar jobs in Arizona.

My husband is a solar installer, and his job is on the line if this measure passes in the Corporations Commission. We have friends and co-workers who would be negatively impacted if this request by TEP is successful.

Our household only uses about \$53 per month on average in electrical power. We have a modest-sized home, with good natural lighting and are conservative in our electric power use. Tacking on a \$22 per month fee would bring out pay-back period on a future installed solar power system out of the range of feasibility.

Arizona should be the leader in solar power production in the United States. This fee is a job-killer, and is bad for all businesses. Unemployed people contribute very little to the economy, and having thousands of unemployed workers in the state does nothing to drive future economic development.

Thank you for your consideration, and I encourage you to consider my family, and other families with currently employed solar workers before deciding the fate of solar in Arizona.

Respectfully,

Izetta Chambers, J.D.  
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**Teresa Tenbrink**

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**From:** Cathy Della Penta <c.della@cox.net>  
**ent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2015 7:54 PM  
**To:** BitterSmith-Web  
**Subject:** Docket #15-0100 Solar Tariff

Dear Chairman Bitter Smith,

Ladies, Gentlemen and Commissioners:

It does not make sense for each utility to separately request to levy charges on solar customers. This is outside of established procedures. Why should utilities get special treatment in this manner?

All of the Commissioners, as well as APS, have stated that the proper venue to discuss the solar rates should be done in a rate case, and that would involve all 4 utilities being considered at one time. The rate case is a far more efficient use of your time. Please stand by your word.

I thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Della Penta

## Teresa Tenbrink

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**From:** Stephen Albert <stevealbert@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2015 9:15 AM  
**To:** BitterSmith-Web  
**Subject:** TEP proposed rate change

April 28, 2015

RE: Docket No. E-01933A-15-0100

Dear Mrs. Susan Bitter-Smith,

I'm writing you to express my concern about TEPs proposed changes to net metering. I am a homeowner seriously considering having a local company, NetZero, install a solar system for my wife and my home in Tucson. I am a believer in solar as I have install a solar system on my sailboat and lived with it for 7 years of cruising. NetZero alerted me to TEPs requested change to net metering for homeowners so I went to their web-site to see what they had to say. Below are their comments stating their reasoning. I take issue with much of what they have written and have inserted my comments in italics.

"Tucson Electric Power has proposed a new net metering plan to ensure that customers who install new rooftop solar power systems pay a more equitable price for their electric service while still enjoying significant bill savings.

Users of rooftop solar power systems rely just as heavily on TEP's electrical system as other customers — more heavily, even, since TEP must manage their systems' intermittent output. *Not necessarily true as new customers with solar; 1) will not burden the grid at the same rate as new construction without solar. 2) since home solar supplies electricity during the day, when demand is higher, this lessen the overall peak demands on the grid.* But they pay far less for TEP service under current rates, due in part to net metering rules that allow them to exchange excess solar energy for free on-demand utility power, *Not true as the homeowner has also made an investment in electrical delivery that benefits TEP, other customers and the society in general! The homeowner who installs a solar system can expect to recapture their initial investment only after 7-10 years, and this will be longer with TEPs proposed net metering rate reduction.*

TEP is proposing instead to purchase excess solar output from new rooftop systems at the same price it pays for energy from large local solar arrays. *Large solar arrays have a benefit of scale not available to homeowners yet large arrays still burden the grid due to distribution distances. To use the cost of solar from a large array to determine fair rates for a homeowner is an apples and oranges comparison.* The resulting bill credits would allow customers to reduce their electric bills by going solar, even as they pay the same price as other customers for energy provided by TEP. *For homeowners to seriously consider solar they are taking on a financial risk, the initial investment along with potential under performance of their solar system as it ages, possibly higher home insurance, the company they purchased the system from going out of business and now, with TEPs request, the unknown ar likelihood of a much longer recapture of their investment. This may well deter many homeowners from going solar.*

The new net metering plan, which would apply only to newly installed systems, will allow the continued expansion of southern Arizona's solar energy resources while preserving safe, reliable and affordable electric service at more equitable prices for all TEP customers.

*The current evidence is overwhelming in favor of reducing fossil fuels and replacing it with environmentally friendly (renewable) energy sources. Solar has enjoyed robust growth under the current rate plan and should continue to do so, but only if it makes economic sense to the homeowner! Solar installations provide local jobs, makes a positive statement about the community, increases property value, and gives the individual a chance to make a difference in reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. Don't underestimate this last item and don't make a change to solar's current economic model."*

In addition Chad at NetZero has provided me the information below for my consideration.

1. It would appear in TEP's recent net metering proposal that solar customers, as a rate class, are being singled out unfairly. This could be construed as single issue ratemaking, and unconstitutional in Arizona. If this issue is to be fairly resolved, the merits of the utilities assumptions of a cost shift must be heard in a rate case where it can be weighed alongside all other cost shifts inherent in the utility (SSVEC) business model. Only then can evidence and testimony from both sides be presented and discussed in the context of ratemaking, and not a unilateral attack on one rate class.
2. The "grandfather date" (June 1st) presented by TEP will put a freeze on the solar (free) market and has already hurt AZ solar installers. I would ask that this "grandfather date" be lifted from the proposal and that solar installations can continue under **the current** net metering rules, as there has been no decision one way or the other on the issue. Lengthy court proceedings only stand to exacerbate the problem moving forward. It is imperative, as a person who owns a solar electric system that the solar contractor that installed my system stay in business to service any maintenance or warranty issues that may come up. This proposal is making that seem very unlikely as it will stop all new installations until a decision has been made (which may not occur until December).

I hope that you will consider the above when making a decision on TEPs net meter rate change request.

Best Regards,

Stephen Albert

6651 N. Paseo de los Alto, Tucson AZ 85704 541 761-6281

**Teresa Tenbrink**

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**From:** ethelkc@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 11:24 AM  
**To:** BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web; Stump-Web; Forese-Web; Little-Web  
**Subject:** Docket No. E-01933A-15-0100  
**Attachments:** Solar Proposal by TEP.docx

Please see the attached letter regarding the change in solar rate structure proposed by TEP.

Thank you,  
Ethel K Coffey

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am in opposition to the recent rate change proposal by TEP involving solar energy.

· Cost shifts should be considered in a rate case at the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC). This process allows a careful weighing of the best policy options for TEP's ratepayers, along with introduction of evidence, expert testimony, and significant ratepayer input.

### **TEP Proposal Unilaterally Reduces Customer Choice, May Kill Small Solar Companies**

- In their March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 filing, TEP has proposed this rule as effective for applications submitted after June 1st, 2015. They have requested that the proposal be approved by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015.
- This means that TEP has essentially unilaterally put a freeze on the solar market in their territory for at least seven months, with no due process or discussion, as potential solar customers await the outcome of this proposal at the ACC.
- For small solar installation companies, this instant drop in installations will certainly result in job losses, or may even put companies out of business. This may leave existing solar customers without an installer to service their system, and will greatly reduce the pool of professional installers in TEP's service territory.
- This proposal has already reduced the energy choices of TEP's customers without solar, making solar a less-viable option after June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.
- This proposal also reduces the value of existing solar systems. TEP has proposed grandfathering existing systems. However, unless clarifying information is provided, it appears that the proposal will apply to only to the current owner of a solar electric system. Therefore, if a customer decides to sell their home, the value of the existing solar electric system would be greatly reduced. If this proposal is approved, TEP will have effectively administratively taken money from thousands of solar customers.

Arizona should be doing everything possible to encourage and support the solar industry. Please do not allow greed and short sighted thinking to limit what could be a valuable resource to our state.

Sincerely,

*Ethel K Coffey*

## Teresa Tenbrink

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**From:** MEL MASHMAN <melmashman@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 25, 2015 2:05 PM  
**To:** Stump-Web; BitterSmith-Web; Forese-Web; Little-Web; RBurns-Web  
**Subject:** Solar Energy is The Future - Docket No. E-01933A-15-0100

Members of the Arizona Corporate Commission,

I am a concerned citizen who has done the right thing by installing solar panels on my Tucson Home. I live in a community called Civano and I am here because of my energy consciousness.

TEP has recently proposed a revision to the current net metering rules. This proposal will reduce the value of excess generation for new customers, and eventually current customers. This is obviously a bad thing for solar and non solar customers

I wanted to emphasize that I want the freedom to obtain my energy from the sun AND from a utility company. **Your actions will eventually lead me to move off the grid to a battery solution.** Is that your intension?

When I moved to Arizona I could not understand why new homes are not required to have solar energy. Now the commission is in a position to take away a key incentive to purchase it. Please consider the future of Arizona and not just the TEP short term gain on a balance sheet. Backward thinking is not progress.

We are ALL in this together. Lets not make mistakes in policy that will cause our grandchildren to be at risk. It is up to each of YOU to prevent further reliance on fossil fuels. Don't disappoint me and other concerned citizens that care about our environment.

Do the RIGHT THING! Make us PROUD!

Kind Regards,  
Mel Mashman  
[mel@mashman.com](mailto:mel@mashman.com)

## Teresa Tenbrink

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**From:** WBBull <Bill@ActiveTectonics.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 25, 2015 1:35 PM  
**To:** BitterSmith-Web  
**Subject:** Revision of Net Metering Rules

Ignoring obvious danger, a speeding car careens off the Highway. A passengers last words were “why didn’t we take action sooner”. Climate change is like the speeding car.

The Arizona Corporation Commission can take action now by acknowledging that we all contribute to atmospheric global warming, which being slow and invisible is easy to ignore. Please do not postpone until we are ‘off the Highway’.

Arizona’s action should be to promote residential solar power, and to improve the grid infrastructure to receive excess generated power.

Tucson Electric Power uses Docket Number E-01933A-15-0100 to diminish generation of residential solar electricity. Solar companies are key to our better future. The Arizona Corporation Commission should seek ways to favor them.

Speaking for my great-grandchildren — please raise my taxes to modernize the electricity grid and promote greater use of domestic solar-power generation. It is much cheaper to take action now, than to pay the costs of inaction later.

William B. Bull  
6550 N. Camino Katrina  
Tucson, AZ, 85718-2022  
Email address is [bill@activetectonics.com](mailto:bill@activetectonics.com)  
Emeritus Professor  
University of Arizona  
Geosciences Department

*WBBull*

Teresa Tenbrink

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**From:** James Hilbert <jimfhillbert@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 24, 2015 11:28 AM  
**To:** BitterSmith-Web  
**Subject:** Net metering

Ms Bitter Smith,

I would like to voice my disapproval of the proposed net metering changes as proposed by TEP.

I believe that the cost of building and maintaining the grid should be paid equally by all customers. Setting a minimum cost for connection makes sense. With a graduated scale when higher power requirements are needed for a specific site (example a supermarket).

Changing the net metering rules will adversely impact the future use of solar TEPs goals of achieving a greater percentage of renewable energy.

Most small solar systems attempt to produce only what the household uses, but many medium size systems (churches etc) often produce more then the customer uses and this will adversely impact their financial models.

So again may I suggest that you do not approve the TEP net metering changes.

Thank you

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*Ride On*

Jim Hilbert  
Oro Valley