

Teresa Tenbrink

E-01575A-15-0312

From: Richard Davis <sobaco@sanfili.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 11:49 AM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: SVEC Proposed Action



Categories: DOCKETED

I find SSVEC's intended rate increase and surcharge to solar users certainly the breaking of an implied contract. I wish I had retained all of the positive publicity SSVEC circulated to encourage investment in solar. Also, their "grandfathering" proposal is a feeble attempt at amelioration and the eradication of an important resale valuation consideration in our decision to invest in solar. I believe entities given monopolistic power should use their authority with equity and judiciousness.

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

OCT 2 2015

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| DOCKETED BY | <i>HD</i> |
|-------------|-----------|

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

2015 OCT -2 P 4:39

RECEIVED

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Ron Wilson <ronald.w.wilson@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 10:34 AM
To: BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web; Stump-Web; Little-Web; Forese-Web
Subject: SSVEC Proposed Rate Increase

Categories: DOCKETED

Dear Commissioners,

Vote NO on SSVEC's recent proposed rate increase! It is blatantly unfair in that it singles out solar customers who are trying to save our environment. Twice the rate increase of non-solar customers is just wrong. I believe we need to pay for the grid but we should pay at the same rate as the non solar members of the co-op.

Thanks,

Ron Wilson | mobile: (520) 227-9696

Teresa Tenbrink

From: libravo@q.com
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 10:40 AM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: Sulphur Springs Valley Electric re: solar

Categories: DOCKETED

Dear Commissioner Smith

I am a solar power (or Replace with non-solar power) member of the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, which is the utility involved in this case. I am against the approval of this case since SSVEC stated that there is a cost-shift, with solar customers not paying their fair share of grid costs. A cost shift is not unfair by default-SSVEC's rates already include a number of cost-shifts due to rate design, where customers pay less or more than their fair share of grid costs. Some examples are customers who leave town for much of the year, customers with very low or very high-energy use, and urban versus rural customers. Cost-shifts should be considered in a rate case at the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC). This process would allow a careful weighing of the best policy options for SSVEC's ratepayers, along with introduction of evidence, expert testimony, and significant ratepayer input. This would be a win - win for everyone.

In addition, I request that the ACC make it clear to SSVEC that notices to the public that contain unilateral cut-off dates (in this case 14 April 2015) are completely unacceptable and must be discontinued now and into the future. Historically, the AAC does not grant back dated decisions to utilities and hopefully the ACC will continue that tradition in this case. The effect of SSVEC including a cut-off date of close-of-business 14 April 2015 for installed PV systems or a signed "request for interconnection and reservation agreement" was to immediately curtail the installation of new solar power systems paid for or leased by individual members; even though, in all likelihood, the ACC would not back date its decision which would be made months into the future. SSVEC members were misled into thinking they could no longer install individual solar power systems, which was not true.

Sincerely,
David Cook
2461 Candlewood Dr
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Tim & Roz Mahon <trsierravista@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2015 8:08 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web; Burns-Web; Stump-Web; Little-Web; Forese-Web
Cc: Tom Kennedy
Subject: Recent SSVEC Rate Proposal, Docket #: E-01575A-15-0312

Categories: DOCKETED

In December 2011, we contracted with Net Zero Solar LLC, to install a rooftop solar system. To date we have been very satisfied with the installation and performance of the system.

We purchased our solar system due to both SSVEC, state and federal government encouragement and incentives. However, we were still required to spend a considerable amount of our savings to pay for the system.

We accepted this with the understanding that over a seven to ten year period with the rate plan given to us by SSVEC we would reach a break-even point on our investment and increase the value of our home.

We were both stunned and offended in the way SSVEC has proposed and explained the need for a rate increase. They have broken their promises to us and portrayed the pioneers of the rooftop solar systems as the problem.

We urge you, please reject this recent SSVEC rate increase proposal.

Sincerely,

Tim and Rosalind Mahon
Sierra Vista, AZ
(520) 803-9320

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Nancy Ament <dnament@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2015 1:39 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: RE: SSVEC REQUEST FOR RATE INCREASES

Thank you for your response. I just noticed that I misstated the rebate SSVEC provided. It was 50% not 59% . Thanks again.

Richard Ament

From: Teresa Tenbrink [mailto:ttenbrink@azcc.gov] **On Behalf Of** BitterSmith-Web
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2015 1:01 PM
To: 'Nancy Ament' <dnament@earthlink.net>
Subject: RE: SSVEC REQUEST FOR RATE INCREASES

Thank you for sharing your concerns with Commissioner Bitter Smith. She asked me to email you and let you know that your email will be made a part of the public comment record. Thanks for the time taken and your interest in this issue.

Thanks again,

Teresa Tenbrink
Executive Aide to Chairman Susan Bitter Smith
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 542-3625

From: Nancy Ament [mailto:dnament@earthlink.net]
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2015 2:00 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web; Forese-Web; Little-Web; Stump-Web; RBurns-Web
Cc: 'Tom Kennedy'
Subject: SSVEC REQUEST FOR RATE INCREASES

As a member of the Sulfur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC), I strongly urge the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) to reject the SSVEC rate increase request (Docket No. E-01575A-15-0312.) This proposal would unfairly penalize those of us who have installed roof top solar: i.e. Base rate would go from \$10.25 per month to \$50 for us as well as a jump to \$25 for non-solar customers.

In your deliberations, please remember that SSVEC actively solicited participation in the solar program as evidenced by their literature at the time and their 59% rebate program. Even so, the capital outlay for a homeowner was substantial and helped the cooperative move toward their renewable energy goals. Now, however, we homeowners are being demonized as being unfair to non-solar customers. It seems to me that SSVEC was directly complicit in promoting roof top solar and perhaps to paraphrase Jimmy Buffett, " It's their own damn fault!"

In short, this request is, and the earlier SSVEC request in April 2015 was, clearly prejudicial to their solar customers and has already sent a chilling message to the small business solar installers in Arizona which will mean loss of jobs. Perhaps SSVEC is trying to corner the solar market with their announced plan to build a large solar farm.

Again, I urge the commission to reject this rate increase request and perhaps suggest to SSVEC that they submit a more fair and balanced proposal if they so choose. Thank you for your consideration.

Richard Ament
2647 Meadowbrook Place
Sierra Vista AZ 85650
Telephone: 520-803-6551

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Jay Garwood <jay.garwood@cox.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2015 10:04 AM
To: tedoyle@cox.net
Cc: BitterSmith-Web; Forese-Web; Little-Web; Stump-Web; RBurns-Web
Subject: Individual Petition Opposing the SSVEC Base Rate Increase
Attachments: HGarwood Petition Individual_Rescind SSVEC Sep 15 Base Rate Increase Request_17Sep15 (2).docx

Categories: DOCKETED

Attached is my individual petition opposing the SSVEC Base Rate Increase your commission currently has before it.

Public Comment:

I fully understand the cost of business is increasing in all industries and SSVEC's desire to provide fair quality service to their members. Given the current economic downturn in Arizona and more specifically southern Arizona where the majority of SSVEC's business is, I cannot support their request at this time. Tell SSVEC to come back when the economy has turned the corner and is beginning to recover.

Sincerely,

W [Jay] Garwood
Cell: [520] 678-0295

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Frederick Johnson Sr <fmjsr60@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 9:37 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: Rate increase docket number E-01575A-15-0312

Categories: DOCKETED

ACC Chairman BitterSmith,

This letter is in reference to docket number E-01575A-15-0312. I am an SSVEC customer and I want to make it known that I am absolutely opposed to the rate increases that SSVEC is proposing. I am also a rooftop solar owner so I'm even more concerned that they are proposing such a large increase to those of us who put in a significant investment into what was being promoted by the company at the time.

The information I've been reading says SSVEC is losing money because those of us with rooftop solar are not contributing to the support of existing infrastructure. I don't see how such a small group of about 1300 solar customers could have such a large impact on the more than 53000 SSVEC customer base. None of us have a zero dollar electric bill every month so it is not like we are not paying into the program.

I am not opposed to a reasonable rate increase. The cost of doing business always goes up and the company has to maintain itself. But what SSVEC is asking for is more than outrageous. It is a common negotiating strategy to ask for an outrageous thing and negotiate down to something close to what you really wanted all along. To raise rate in general from \$10.25 to \$25 is pretty steep. To single out one small group of consumers and have the base rate move from \$10.25 to \$50 a month, even if it is over a 4 year period is also a ridiculous request. I highly doubt a rate increase request of 100% each year for 4 years in a row would be given serious consideration. One of the reasons the corporation commission exists is to ensure that utility companies, which are a monopoly, treats its customers fairly. I don't see any way that what SSVE has asked for is fair to any of its customers. I trust that the commission will act accordingly and protect our local consumers.

Respectfully,

Frederick and Catherine Johnson
Sierra Vista AZ

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Roger Harder <rogerharder@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 3:05 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web; Forese-Web; Little-Web; Stump-Web; RBurns-Web
Subject: SSVEC Rate Increase Comment (Docket #: E-01575A-15-0312) - Please Reject Rate Increase

Categories: DOCKETED

Dear Commissioners,

As a member of the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) since 2003 and a prospective solar user, I urge the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) to reject the latest SSVEC rate increase request (Docket number: E-01575A-15-0312).

I have been researching the viability of installing a solar rooftop system in my own home and what I have found in every credible study says solar **does have benefits to the grid**. Drastic changes specific to solar customers are very premature, especially since the ACC hasn't completed the Value & Cost of Distributed Generation (Including Net Metering) docket.

Based upon the limited information provided by SSVEC, this rate increase request involving the phased introduction of base rates (\$50 monthly for distributed generation [DG]members; \$25 monthly for all other members) at a very minimum adversely impacts members that do not use a lot of electricity.

Examples of such SSVEC members are those that have energy efficient homes, those that live in this home only part of the year (e.g., snowbirds), and those that do not use electricity as their main power source, or that generate their own electricity (DG – wind and solar). In addition, SSVEC should be bound by the written and implied contracts it has with its current DG members (no base rate was mentioned-why not grandfather) and the ACC should consider whether this sends the signal the commission wants to those using or planning to use less electricity.

Additionally, I would think the ACC must be concerned about the negative impacts this egregious SSVEC rate increase would have on jobs in Arizona. Since any new individual home solar rooftop systems would not appear to make financial sense now, local Arizona jobs would be lost, and utility scale solar project(s), such as SSVEC is planning, would not make up for these job losses. I am not going to suggest a solution to SSVEC's rate issues, as I only have the limited information provided by SSVEC; but I will suggest that SSVEC relook the rates for all of its customers based upon the information in this email and others like it.

Why single out solar? Other specific customer subclasses also impose costs. Rural customers cost more than urban customers, people who build efficient "energy star" rated homes that don't use a lot of power, and snowbirds might not be paying their "fair share" either if this egregious attack on solar "net zero" customers is valid.

SSVEC's planned changes are regressive. They impose increased costs on customers with low electric usage (older people and low income families), and de-incentivize conservation and energy efficiency.

So, it seems to me that folks who use less energy by installing solar or energy star systems are saving SSVEC a lot of money by making the personal capital investments that SSVEC avoids in energy purchases and additional infrastructure to support higher energy use.

And I understand there must be a minimum monthly charge on every customer's bill to support metering, grid maintenance, and billing, however, it appears to me that the current monthly \$10.25 plus fees should be adequate to cover those costs and maintenance of the grid. It does not need to be increased 150% for non-solar customers and 400% for solar users.

Finally, it would appear to me that SSVEC's net operating margins in 2014 (from their annual report) increased 1.7% to \$6,392,061. Curious that they say solar customers are costing them money but they actually increased profits in 2014.

SSVEC must work for a win-win solution that preserves energy choice and fairness for all of their customers.

Upon consideration of the preceding information and as a member of the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) I urge the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) to reject the latest SSVEC rate increase request (Docket number: E-01575A-15-0312).

Sincerely,

Roger K Harder
Sierra Vista

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Russ Williams <russ@rawilliams.net>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 9:32 AM
To: BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web; Stump-Web; Little-Web; Forese-Web
Subject: Proposed DG/Net Metering Rate Changes Docket E-01575A-15-0312

Categories: DOCKETED

Dear Commissioners,

Re: Docket E-01575A-15-0312

I am concerned and appalled by the current effort to "fast track" a rate increase for DG, net metered customers.

The influence of "Dark Money" over the ACC members from APS, ALEC, and others have tainted the appearance of fairness.

I have issues with my local power company, SSVEC regarding the actual cost vs value of solar and other services SSVEC provides to their customers. The Net metered members are being singled out as being unfair without any supporting cost information and SSVEC is unwilling to share their information.

In the a notice we received in April , SSVEC referred to "their study" that was used to generate a \$71.89 cost for all customers.

- 1) Monthly Cost to connect to a home (\$23.02)
- 2) monthly cost to connect to a transformer (\$21.35)
- 3) monthly cost to connect to the power plant (\$27.52)
- 4) Total of all 3 (\$71.89)

When I requested a copy of the study, SSVEC referred me to meaningless data inside hundreds of pages of poorly scanned, accounting spreadsheets within an old ACC docket that had been combined, with another docket. When I asked Mr. Bane of SSVEC to identify where within the dockets I can find the information, he again referred me to the hundreds of pages of spreadsheets. I also received a CC email from Mr. Jack Blair instructing Mr. Bane:

"And after you refer him back to document no further response. We will still be corresponding with him months from now. He can always come to our board meeting and ask the board" From email received from Jack Blair 4-17-15 at 9:18am

When I asked SSVEC CEO Mr. Huber about the "study" at the April board meeting, he said "the study does not exist".

My concern is that these rate increases are being "fast tracked" without proper review of the actual costs to all SSVEC customers.

In the current notice, net metered customers are again being singled out as "unfair" without any supporting cost or value data. The proposed rate change will cost all DG net metered customers \$50 per month vs the current

\$10.25 and all other residential customers \$25 vs the current \$10.20.

There is no reason for service to my home to cost SSVEC any more than any other home beyond the additional \$2.70 "net metered" fee that I am currently paying.

These increases are huge for all SSVEC customers and unfair to net metered customers who along with the taxpayers, invested a lot of money installing these systems.

In my case, the final monthly bill would be the same or more than before I installed my PV system.

How is this fair or reasonable?

SSVEC is saying that they will have lost assets. What about our asset costs and the expenses to maintain our systems?

Can we as DG/net metered customers and suppliers impose a monthly charge for SSVEC to connect to our systems?

Would we be permitted to store electricity on our property?

Would we be permitted or possibly required to install a battery backup system to alleviate spikes in demand?

This DG rate issue is shared with all net metered customers in Arizona not just SSVEC.

It is unfair to impose these rate changes without a fair and open review of all costs and value related to DG and other services these power companies supply.

I am strongly opposed to any DG rate changes at this time.

Russ Williams

Teresa Tenbrink

From: David Loeffelman <dcloeffelman@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 8:05 AM
To: BitterSmith-Web; Forese-Web; Little-Web; Stump-Web; RBurns-Web
Subject: SSVEC Rate Proposal

Categories: DOCKETED

Dear Commissioners,

I am deeply troubled by the recent SSVEC rate proposal in which my base rate will go from \$10.25 per month to \$50.00 per month over a 4 year period. I am a solar user and I feel that this is discrimination at its worst because non solar rates only go to \$25.00 per month.

I could go into great detail on why this is unfair but the one overriding fact which trumps all the rest, and that is that they are reneging on a contract with people who installed solar in good faith in past years. Based on what SSVEC is proposing will essentially destroy residential solar in Cochise county. Finally, It would appear to me that SSVEC's net operating margins in 2014 (from their annual report) increased 1.7% to \$6,392,061. Curious that they say solar customers are costing them money but they actually increased profits in 2014.

Please reject this recent SSVEC proposal.

Respectfully Submitted:
David A. Loeffelman
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Janet Rech <kcwrex@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2015 8:48 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web; Stump-Web; Little-Web; Forese-Web
Subject: SSVEC's Recent Rate Proposal

Categories: DOCKETED

Dear Commissioners,

In the SSVEC Community there are approximately 1,300 rooftop installations out of approximately 53,000 SSVEC customers. We do not believe that such a small number of installations can account for the massive increases SSVEC is proposing. SSVEC's recent rate proposal will increase rooftop solar users base rate from \$10.25 per month to \$50.00 per month over a 4 year period. As a solar user we feel this is discrimination at its worst because non solar rates only go to \$25.00 per month. In addition, when we installed rooftop solar SSVEC agreed to pay \$.125/ KWH for excess power produced from solar. However, in their current rate proposal they want to pay us \$.0258, a substantial decrease from the current rate.

There are numerous reasons why this is unfair, but there is one overriding fact which trumps all the rest. This fact is SSVEC is reneging on a contract with people who installed solar in good faith in past years.

If there was another company we could switch to for power, we would do it, but we are a captive audience and are at the mercy of any ACC ruling on the SSVEC rate increase.

Bottom line is we feel betrayed by SSVEC.

Please reject this recent SSVEC proposal.

Roger and Janet Rech

**2978 Glenview Dr.
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650
520-335-2126**

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Cecil Britton <cbritman@cox.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2015 1:40 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web; Forese-Web; Little-Web; Stump-Web; RBurns-Web
Subject: SSVEC Rate Increase Comment (Docket #: E-01575A-15-0312) -

Categories: DOCKETED

Dear Commissioners,

As a member of the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) I urge the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) to reject the latest SSVEC rate increase request (Docket number: E-01575A-15-0312). Based upon the limited information provided by SSVEC, this rate increase request involving the phased introduction of base rates (\$50 monthly for distributed generation [DG]members; \$25 monthly for all other members) at a very minimum adversely impacts members that do not use a lot of electricity. Examples of such SSVEC members are those that have energy efficient homes, that live in this home part of the year (e.g., snowbirds), that do not use electricity as their main power source, or that generate their own electricity (DG - wind and solar). In addition, SSVEC should be bound by the written and implied contracts it has with its current DG members (no base rate was mentioned; why not grandfather) and the ACC should consider whether this sends the signal the commission wants to those using or planning to use less electricity. Finally, I would think the ACC would be concerned about the negative impacts the SSVEC rate increase would have on jobs in Arizona. Since any new individual home solar rooftop applications would not appear to make financial sense, local Arizona jobs would be lost, and utility scale solar project(s), such as SSVEC is planning, would not make up for these job losses. I am not going to suggest a solution to SSVEC's rate issues, as I only have the limited information provided by SSVEC; but I will suggest that SSVEC relook the rates for all of its customers based upon the information in this email and others like it.

In this paragraph I would like to provide one example of how DG members are saving SSVEC infrastructure costs, so why the big base rate difference to non-DG members? If the 1,300 solar members spent at least \$20,000 to install their systems, this results in a minimum \$26 million infrastructure

savings for SSVEC. I would also like to provide an example of the actual base rate

impact on a SSVEC non-DG member. It shows the largest percentage increase will be to those members in smaller homes and trailers who can least afford the increase. In other words, the poorest will have the largest percentage increase. Here is the analysis of a recent 12-month period for an 1865 square foot, 10-year-old home with air conditioning that used about 3600 kilowatts or an average of 300 per month:

Current monthly amount: \$48.05 (plus percentage of bill taxes and fees). $(300 \times .126 = \$37.80 \text{ [energy use]} + \$10.25 \text{ [facility charge]} = \$48.05)$

Proposed monthly amount: \$55.55 (plus percentage of bill taxes and fees). $(300 \times .102 = \$30.60 \text{ [energy use]} + \$25.00 \text{ [facility charge]} = \$55.55)$

Percent increase: 15.6% - much more than the 3.17% in SSVEC's notice. $(\$55.55 \text{ minus } \$48.05 = \$7.50, \text{ then } \$7.50 \text{ divided by } \$48.05 = 15.6\%)$

Upon consideration of the proceeding information and as a member of the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) I urge the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) to reject the latest SSVEC rate increase request (Docket number: E-01575A-15-0312).

I would add or reiterate that if the claimed negative impact on rates that SSVEC is claiming is factual then that same negative impact existed when they contracted with me to install about \$26,000 worth of solar in my home. This whole thing may be the result of gross incompetence on the part of SSVEC management; if not then it is a patent case of bait and switch that they are trying to perpetrate on their Co-Op members. Is this the kind of reputation a major non-profit corporation wants to entertain and do our elected state officials want to abet such actions?

Sincerely,

Cecil Britton
Sierra Vista, AZ

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Dale Janet Murphy <drjdm88@cox.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2015 8:04 AM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: Fwd: SSVEC Member Reply to Proposed Base Rate Increase - For ACC; Use as You Wish
Categories: DOCKETED

Dear Commissioner Bitter-Smith,

As a member of the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) I urge the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) to reject the latest SSVEC rate increase request (Docket number: E-01575A-15-0312). Based upon the limited information provided by SSVEC, this rate increase request involving the phased introduction of base rates (\$50 monthly for distributed generation [DG] members; \$25 monthly for all other members) at a very minimum adversely impacts members that do not use a lot of electricity. Examples of such SSVEC members are those that have energy efficient homes, that live in this home part of the year (e.g., snowbirds), that do not use electricity as their main power source, or that generate their own electricity (DG - wind and solar). In addition, SSVEC should be bound by the written and implied contracts it has with its current DG members (no base rate was mentioned; why not grandfather) and the ACC should consider whether this sends the signal the commission wants to those using or planning to use less electricity. Finally, I would think the ACC would be concerned about the negative impacts the SSVEC rate increase would have on jobs in Arizona. Since any new individual home solar rooftop applications would not appear to make financial sense, local Arizona jobs would be lost, and utility scale solar project(s), such as SSVEC is planning, would not make up for these job losses. I am not going to suggest a solution to SSVEC's rate issues, as I only have the limited information provided by SSVEC; but I will suggest that SSVEC relook the rates for all of its customers based upon the information in this email and others like it.

In this paragraph I would like to provide one example of how DG members are saving SSVEC infrastructure costs, so why the big base rate difference to non-DG members? If the 1,300 solar members spent at least \$20,000 to install their systems, this results in a minimum \$26 million infrastructure savings for SSVEC. I would also like to provide an example of the actual base rate impact on a SSVEC non-DG member. It shows the largest percentage increase will be to those members in smaller homes and trailers who can least afford the increase. In other words, the poorest will have the largest percentage increase. Here is the analysis of a recent 12-month period for an 1865 square foot, 10-year-old home with air conditioning that used about 3600 kilowatts or an average of 300 per month:

Current monthly amount: \$48.05 (plus percentage of bill taxes and fees). $(300 \times .126 = \$37.80 \text{ [energy use]} + \$10.25 \text{ [facility charge]} = \$48.05)$

Proposed monthly amount: \$55.55 (plus percentage of bill taxes and fees). $(300 \times .102 = \$30.60 \text{ [energy use]} + \$25.00 \text{ [facility charge]} = \$55.55)$

Percent increase: 15.6% - much more than the 3.17% in
SSVEC's notice. ($\$55.55$ minus $\$48.05 = \7.50 , then $\$7.50$ divided by $\$48.05 =$
15.6%)

Upon consideration of the proceeding information and as a member of the
Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) I urge the Arizona
Corporation Commission (ACC) to reject the latest SSVEC rate increase
request (Docket number: E-01575A-15-0312).

Sincerely,
Dale Murphy
Sierra Vista



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Teresa Tenbrink

From: bgestes72 <bgestes72@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2015 11:57 AM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: Docket # E-01575A-15-0312

Categories: DOCKETED

Susan Bitter Smith(ACC)
bittersmith-web@azcc.gov

Dear Commissioner,

I would hope that one of the roles of the ACC is to consider and protect citizens against arbitrary and unfair rates and policies of Arizona utilities. In this regard, I am troubled by the recent SSVEC rate proposal in which my base rate will go from \$10.25 per month to \$50.00 per month over a 4 year period, whereas non solar rates only go to a proposed \$25.00 per month.

After being encouraged by federal and local (SSVEC) initiatives to install an expensive solar system on my home, I am now a solar user, the system which was contractually arranged with SSVEC. This organization now wants to radically and unilaterally change the agreement. I feel that this move by SSVEC is a violation of our agreement and is discriminatory and unfair at its worst. **Please reject this SSVEC** proposal. A reasonable increase that does not unfairly treat or make solar users look like the bad guys in the SSVEC community should be the goal of The Commission and SSVEC. Please help.

Bill J. Fears
2749 Glenview Dr.
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650
bgestes72@yahoo.com

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Dennie Gilbert <dennieg@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 1:32 PM
Subject: Recent SSVEC solar proposal

Categories: DOCKETED

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply troubled by the recent SSVEC rate proposal in which my base rate will go from \$10.25 per month to \$50.00 per month over a 4 year period. I am a solar user and I feel that this is discrimination at its worst because non solar rates only go to \$25.00 per month.

I could go into great detail on why this is unfair but the one overriding fact which trumps all the rest, and that is that they are **reneging on a contract** with people who installed solar in good faith in past years.

Please reject this recent SSVEC proposal. This financial program based on 2% of their customers is totally unjustified.

Teresa Tenbrink

From: David Parsons <umpy@cox.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 10:21 AM
To: BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web; Forese-Web
Subject: Fwd: Recent SSVEC rate proposal

Categories: DOCKETED

I am forwarding this email sent to you by Tom Kennedy as I support all his comments and wish to add my concerns about this proposed rate increase. As noted, we were greatly encouraged by both SVECC and the federal government to install solar on our rooftops. Now, they wish to gouge us for using them. It is just not right, period!!

From: twkennedy@cox.net
To: bittersmith-web@azcc.gov, rburns-web@azcc.gov, stump-web@azcc.gov, Little-web@azcc.gov,
Forese-web@azcc.gov
Sent: 9/16/2015 3:59:39 P.M. US Mountain Standard Time
Subj: Recent SSVEC rate proposal

Dear Commissioners,

I am deeply troubled by the recent SSVEC rate proposal in which my base rate will go from \$10.25 per month to \$50.00 per month over a 4 year period. I am a solar user and I feel that this is discrimination at its worst because non solar rates only go to \$25.00 per month.

I could go into great detail on why this is unfair but the one overriding fact which trumps all the rest, and that is that they are reneging on a contract with people who installed solar in good faith in past years.

Please reject this recent SSVEC proposal.

Very truly yours,

Tom Kennedy
Sierra Vista, AZ
520-803-8383

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Thomas Kroger <azkroger@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 9:23 AM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Cc: Tom Kennedy
Subject: Rate Hike for SSVEC in Sierra Vista

I am writing to ask that you hold SSVEC to its previous position of encouraging patrons to purchase solar generating equipment as part of a larger commitment to conservation. It was presented as a mutually beneficial commitment. I made that commitment and now SSVEC is not only abandoning its position but attacking me for taking advantage of the other patrons that do not have solar. Further, they are taking the opportunity to punish those who whether they have solar or not but use little electricity will be punitively billed by raising the minimum while lowering the cost per kwh. My family encompasses both examples, I have a well and a pool and use more electricity so I invested in solar to use less natural resources while my son is very conservative and uses very little electricity, both of us are going to be punished for our conservation. Is SSVEC not making enough money to continue their operation? Are the changes that the federal government is mandating going to threaten their stability without an increase? If not, tell SSVEC to leave alone those that have installed solar, accept the fact that they made a mistake causing patrons to make large investments, make what changes they feel necessary for new solar customers and to not raise the minimum charge for the conservative non solar patrons.

Please give this matter a complete and thorough evaluation.

Thomas E Kroger

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Ray Bersano <r.bersano@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 7:13 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: SSVEC PROPOSED RATE HIKE

Categories: DOCKETED

Dear Commissioner Bitter Smith

I strongly urge you to reject the Sulfur Springs proposal to dramatically raise electric rates on Solar users ! Solar energy has been strongly encouraged by the Federal government and SSVEC in the past. Now solar users are being portrayed as not paying their share. This is unfair and not in the best interest of our state or country. Not only will this irreparably hurt the solar industry but also dramatically slow new home owners from installing solar panels.

Please vote NO to the SSVEC Proposal , it is the right thing to do !

Thank you

Raymond & Martha Bersano

520 227 3278

Sent from my iPhone

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Donald Storm <dndbears2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 6:11 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web; Stump-Web; Little-Web; Forese-Web
Subject: SSVEC proposal

Categories: DOCKETED

Dear Commissioners,

I am deeply troubled by the recent SSVEC rate proposal in which my base rate will go from \$10.25 per month to \$50.00 per month over a 4 year period. As a solar user I feel that this is discrimination at its worst. Non solar rates only go to \$25.00 per month, but even that is not justified. . This increase will ultimately hurt the lower wage scale households the hardest.

We solar system owners entered a contractual agreement with SSVEC before we installed our systems. SSVEC set the rules, enticed us to invest, and is now breaching the contract. Their actions are not in good faith.

Please reject this recent SSVEC proposal.

Don & Dolores Storm
Sierra Vista, AZ
520-378-3586

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Connie Walczak
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:02 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: RE: SSVEC solar rates

Hi Teresa,

We are trying to figure out how to handle this request. We will be in contact with Nyles shortly.

Thanks,
Connie

From: Teresa Tenbrink **On Behalf Of** BitterSmith-Web
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 9:48 AM
To: 'Nyles Courtney'
Subject: RE: SSVEC solar rates

She asked me to let you know that we have asked our Consumer Services division to help you. They will be sending you some information.

Thanks,

Teresa Tenbrink
Executive Aide to Chairman Susan Bitter Smith
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 542-3625

From: Nyles Courtney [<mailto:ncourt@cox.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 11:36 AM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: RE: SSVEC solar rates

Dear Chairperson Bitter-Smith;

I have emailed you a few times concerning ssvec solar rate proposals and appreciate you taking the time to look at them. I would really appreciate any info on the past years voting records of commissioners regarding "Sola Rate" and net metering issues. I have scoured your web site, and have been unable to find that info. Could you aim me in the right direction or send me some info.

Thanks
Nyles Courtney
ncourt@cox.net
2654 Meadowbrook Circle
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650

From: Teresa Tenbrink [<mailto:ttenbrink@azcc.gov>] **On Behalf Of** BitterSmith-Web
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 9:12 AM
To: 'Nyles Courtney' <ncourt@cox.net>
Subject: RE: SSVEC solar rates

Thank you for sharing your concerns with Commissioner Bitter Smith. She asked me to email you and let you know that your email will be made a part of the public comment record. Thanks for the time taken and your interest in this issue.

Thanks again,

Teresa Tenbrink
Executive Aide to Chairman Susan Bitter Smith
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 542-3625

From: Nyles Courtney [<mailto:ncourt@cox.net>]
Sent: Friday, September 04, 2015 7:55 AM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: SSVEC solar rates

I have written to you previously about this proposed rate increase. I would like to urge you to ask certain members of the commission to recuse themselves on solar rate issues. There are members who received the bulk of their campaign monies from known Anti Solar organizations and businesses. Their voting would reflect a lack of integrity and fairness to us, the voters. If a rate increase can be purchased by large donations, then our system is corrupt.

Thank you

Nyles Courtney
2654 Meadowbrook Circle
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Timothy Doyle <tedoyle@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 2:29 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Cc: Pat Call; Mayor, City of Sierra Vista, AZ
Subject: SSVEC petition for higher rates

Categories: DOCKETED, Responded

To: Arizona Corporation Commission

From: Timothy Doyle

2310 E. Suma Dr

Sierra Vista, AZ

Sirs:

I am writing you to ask you to turn down the petition of Sulfur Valley Electric Cooperative to raise rates. Especially the way they want to raise the rates.

The reasons are as follows:

1. Raising the base rates hits the small homeowner the hardest as it will raise the bill no matter what they do to save electricity and SSVEC wants to raise it 150%. The small homeowners raise will be 25% of most bills. Whereas it will only be a 5 to 15% on the larger homeowners and this raise is permanent. How fair is that to all members? Raising the electric rate is fair to all but the base rate is grossly unfair to the members who can least afford a rate raise.

2. By going to a \$50 base on only the homes with solar or wind is not only unfair to those that have installed these systems in the past but, very unnerving as Arizona is supposed to be one of the states favorable to solar and wind power. Those with solar or wind contribute back to the system by providing lower cost electricity to their member neighbors. They also spent a considerable amount to install those systems under the understanding that they would recoup the costs in savings. This much of a raise means that many will not recoup costs ever! Solar would now be a negative for anyone selling their home! Not only that but, most of the systems installed are not net zero so they are "just another smaller house on the grid". Why is SSVEC not putting a \$50 raise on those small homeowners too? Also you must remember that only 3% of the members are Solar or wind.

3. By letting what SSVEC wants to charge members after April 2015 if they installed solar, the rates that they want will stop all but off the grid individual solar installations in our service area. So much for Arizona being solar friendly. What about the members that are being trapped who thought they were getting a different deal? Why does this have to go back to April 2015?

4. Members were not notified in a timely manner about this raise. SSVEC just sent out letters to its members about this petition in early September and it looks as if this has been in the works for many months. Going back to April?

I hope you will take in these reasons to vote no on the SSVEC petition. As I understand it your commission is here to protect the citizens of this state from rates that are unjustified. Well I for one think these rates fit that description.

Thank you for your time,

Timothy Doyle

SSVEC member

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Nyles Courtney <ncourt@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 9:30 AM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: FW: voting records

Categories: DOCKETED, Responded

From: Nyles Courtney [<mailto:ncourt@cox.net>]
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2015 12:33 PM
To: Bitter-Smith-web@azcc.gov
Subject: voting records

Dear Chairperson Bitter-Smith;

I have emailed you a few times concerning ssvec solar rate proposals and appreciate you taking the time to look at them. I would really appreciate any info on the past years voting records of commissioners regarding "Sola Rate" and net metering issues. I have scoured your web site, and have been unable to find that info. Could you aim me in the right direction or send me some info.

Thanks

Nyles Courtney
ncourt@cox.net
2654 Meadowbrook Circle
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650

Teresa Tenbrink

From: William Guinn <williamguinn@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2015 4:11 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Cc: Forese-Web; Little-Web; Stump-Web; RBurns-Web
Subject: SSVEC rate hike -- Something Is Not Right

Categories: DOCKETED, Responded

Chairman Bitter Smith,

SSVEC is proposing to raise rates again, this time by 3.17%. That makes about a 17% kwh rate increase over a 9-year period. Contrast SSVEC's 17% energy rate increase to the price of oil over the past several years. The price of oil is currently at a 7 year low according to the Federal government energy czars - less than half the price it sold for just a few years ago. Yet SSVEC's kwh prices are increasing by 17% over a similar timeframe? Something is not adding up in the SSVEC energy world.

Something else is not adding up. SSVEC is trying to shift the focus off of their 17% kwh rate increases – by blaming increases on residential solar owners. SSVEC says charging residential solar users for the electricity they use is somehow unfair. According to SVEC, it is especially unfair to those who do not have solar. So to make things right for us all, SSVEC proposes increasing solar owner's basic bill by more than 400% from \$10.25 to \$50. SSVEC is hoping this shaming of solar users will divert attention from SSVEC's proposed 250% increase to the non-solar basic rate. On top of the 17% kwh rate increase. Are they kidding?

If the water company follows SSVEC's logic it would look like this. Joe reads the news and decides to reduce his water usage. Joe removes his water thirsty plants and irrigation, replacing them with desert hardy plants. Joe buys and installs low water toilets, showers, appliances, etc... As a finishing touch, Joe buys a cistern that he installs on his roof to collect rainwater for later usage. Joe's water usage and bill goes down a lot. Following SSVEC's lead, does the water company now blame Joe for not paying his fair share of the water companies costs?

Something is not right here. What if I buy and replace my HVAC and appliances with more energy efficient models? Replace my windows and insulation with more energy efficient applications? Start turning off unused lights, raise my thermostat temperature in the summer – and my energy usage goes down substantially. Am I now not paying my fair share to SSVEC? Do I need a basic rate increase so as not to interrupt the revenue stream SSVEC has grown comfortable with?

Something else is not right. While energy costs are decreasing worldwide, government protected monopolies like SSVEC are raising their prices – and asking for more. SSVEC has double-digit rate increases over the same timeframe as we see record decrease in other related energy sectors. If there is any effort by SSVEC management to become more efficient, it is not evident in their past 9 year history of rate increases. It appears SSVEC management hopes that by demonizing and penalizing solar customers – non-solar customers may think they are getting off lucky with only a 250% increase to their basic rate.

Being a government protected utility monopoly should not be a license to demonize citizens – especially when they pay the same kwh rates as everyone else who uses electricity. If SSVEC gets away with this, what is their next move? Demonizing snowbirds for not paying their fair share - because they're gone half a year? Will SSVEC want to increase snowbirds basic rates by 400%? A move like that might hurt Arizona's economy, but SSVEC is already trying to do exactly that to our local residential solar installers and maintainers.

I urge the ACC to reject all of SSVEC's ridiculous rate increase requests – like local voters did overwhelmingly just a few years ago. Before granting any rate increases, let SSVEC first demonstrate they are being more efficient.

Let's keep rates low and keep paying for what we use – not for what we don't use. As the ACC, you are our elected representatives, we're counting on you.

Best Regards,

Bill Guinn

Sierra Vista

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Inge & Steve Scheumann <sscheumann@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2015 5:18 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: SSVEC Proposed Rate Increase - SSVEC Member Concerns

Categories: DOCKETED, Responded

Dear Commissioner Bitter-Smith,

This is a letter to the ACC regarding the various proposals from SSVEC (and for that matter all Arizona power companies). I am concerned about the way the electric power companies continue to single out the rooftop solar households as the reason for raising the power rates well above what would be a normal increase. I am a SSVEC member and in the SSVEC community there are approximately 1,300 rooftop installations out of approximately 53,000 SSVEC customers. My SSVEC member friends with solar power and myself do not believe that such a small number of installations can account for the large increases SSVEC is proposing. A fellow rooftop solar friend had a discussion with an SSVEC manager and here is what he learned (This is from an E mail several of us received concerning the SSVEC proposal.):

"Since I last wrote, I received and read SSVEC's letter and I also met with one of the ranking managers from SSVEC this morning. I had planned to prepare a spreadsheet with lots of numbers, but I decided that it would be better to simply explain SSVEC's proposal as it affects us solar users in the near term. All the other data is superfluous for our purposes. So here goes, as I understand it.

1. Our basic monthly service charge will rise from \$10.25 to \$50.00 over a 4 year period starting in early 2017.

2. The following items will be grand fathered for 20 years following the installation date:

a. Avoided cost will equal retail cost no matter what the numbers actually are.

b. Users who produce excess yearly energy will be paid wholesale cost at true-up time.

I did not try to address what happens after the grand fathering period because it gets kind of gray and there are different options to consider based on the amount of energy you produce.

If the group wants to convene a meeting at Winterhaven Rec Center 2 like we did before, let me know what afternoon would be best and I will schedule it. If you have any questions, e-mail me and I will try to answer them."

The meeting is now scheduled for next week. Although other residential customers will see their monthly service charge increase to \$25, why should 1,300 homes with installed rooftop solar be charged twice as much? Also, those of us that installed rooftop solar were told that the buyback might be reduced, but we were never told that SSVEC would try to lower it to 1 to 3 cents/KWH or less. We were also told we were doing a good thing and now several years later we are the bad guys? We laid out the capital investment to install rooftop solar under the guidelines that would insure we would produce a certain percentage of our needs with any excess banked for either future use or a credit on our bill at the designated "True Up" date. All of this

"information" indicated the installation was the correct choice if we planned to remain in our home for 7 to 10 years. It also added value to our home if and when we decided to sell. Now that "added value" is questionable.

I am concerned by the SSVEC "spin" that the rooftop people are the cause of the proposed increases to base electric rates. They are saying that out of approximately 53,000 customers 1,300 rooftops are responsible for this huge proposed increase. I don't think so.

Am also concerned that I signed a solar power contract with SSVEC, which they now are changing. To me, SSVEC should be bound by the written and implied contract it had with its solar power users. This means SSVEC can propose reasonable, transparent changes after the contract's time frame expires, but not before – we should be grandfathered. How can a SSVEC member trust anything SSVEC says in the future?

In addition, several non-roof top solar friends are upset about the increase because they elected not to install solar because they do an excellent job conserving energy. Their feeling is that with such a large increase conserving will make no difference. Again, SSVEC is sending the wrong message.

Finally, I have read that you are one of the ACC member's that has been investigating "dark money" charges and have proposed a way solution. I appreciate your efforts, because we AZ citizens do not have the funds to compete with the big guys.

The rooftop solar residents in the Sierra Vista area are asking for your help in protecting us against what we feel is an unfair rate increase and SSVEC's attack on the rooftop homes to justify their proposed rate changes.

Sincerely,
Steven Scheumann

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Chris Hilliard <hilliarcc@cox.net>
Sent: Sunday, May 17, 2015 1:25 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: SSVEC Net Metering Changes

Categories: DOCKETED

Dear Chairman Susan Bitter-Smith,

Please deny SSVEC's request to impose additional costs on the utility's paying customers who also choose to install photo-voltaic (PV) systems.

SSVEC has recently followed the lead of Arizona's other power utilities by attempting to change the terms under which utilities buy electricity from customers who install PV systems. Contrary to the implied message in the utility companies' synchronized marketing campaigns, these customers pay the full price for the electricity they buy from the electric utilities. They also lower the utilities' costs by reducing their production burdens. By installing household PV systems, they lower aggregate demand for power during the day, which reduces the utilities' need to bring additional generating capacity online. By selling un-needed electricity produced during peak demand times (the working day), they provide additional capacity to the electric grid at the very time that the grid is most strained. The combination lowers electric utilities' day to day costs and helps them delay capital-intensive expansion of the utilities' generating capacity. Customers who install PV systems save money for themselves and the power utilities. They shouldn't be penalized for doing so.

Sincerely,

Christopher Hilliard
3672 La Terraza Drive
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Ron & Shirley Faulkner <faulknerrh@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2015 12:38 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Cc: RBurns-Web; Stump-Web; Forese-Web; Little-Web
Subject: FW: Docket number E-01575A-15-0127

Categories: DOCKETED

Dear ACC Chairperson Bitter-Smith and Commissioners;

I respectfully request the commission reject Docket number E-01575A-15-0127. I received the SSVEC notice just a few days before their published April 15, 2015 date requesting exemption from some of the rules regulating PV systems. There was no prior notification or awareness provided to the membership of their intent to do such of which I am aware. I find this detrimental to relations between management and the co-op members. Transparency in past business actions with them has always been evident per my experiences. Their action appears to have intentionally discouraged public input and creates an adversarial relationship amongst members - the 98% versus the 2%.

Page one of their notice states residential solar owners are not paying their fair share of costs and are being subsidized by non solar members. SSVEC financial estimates, which have been questioned regarding their accuracy, are presented / illustrated and have the effect of creating a type of confrontational atmosphere between solar and non-solar members. This is counter to when SSVEC actively encouraged residents to invest significant financial resources in this proven, renewable, and abundant Arizona energy resource in agreeing to achieve ACC alternative energy goals. Variable financial rebates were offered as an incentive to residents to install PV systems with the purposes of supporting the environment, reducing use of fossil fuels, reducing or delaying generational constructional projects and just being a logical way to reduce utility bills. An added benefit is the reduction of power grid utilization during peak use periods which lessens the potential for brownouts or worse.

SSVEC's proposal is an about face in supporting residential solar owners. While professing to support solar production at all levels, they now request to be exempt from certain rules which I believe will adversely affect Arizona's private solar installation / maintenance solar industry, reduce the economically value of residential systems, and discourage increased investment and installation of solar systems which in effect diminishes the maximizing of Arizona's solar energy advantage. This change exudes inferences of a bait and switch position. This attitude incurs a reluctance on non solar members to invest in or even consider the benefits of PV. This is detrimental to encouraging support for all alternative energy sources.

I encourage the ACC to consider SSVEC's request as a rate change hearing versus granting a waiver so as to attain increased public input and continue to render decisions which support increased residential solar net metering systems.

In God We Trust,
Ron Faulkner
faulknerrh@cox.net
1749 Elmwood Lane
Sierra Vista, Az 85635

Teresa Tenbrink

From: mh <insv.mark@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2015 11:36 AM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Cc: Stump-Web; RBurns-Web; Forese-Web; Little-Web
Subject: Docket No. E-01575A-15-0127

Categories: DOCKETED

Dear Chairman Bitter-Smith and Commissioners,

Why do I feel I'm being punished for doing the right thing. We are trying to do something for the greater good. SSVEC's Proposed Changes to Net Metering *should not be passed*. Docket Number E-01575A-15-0127. Is the government really for or against conserving energy and natural resources, that is the question. I am beginning to wonder.

We are in our 70's and a solar system was a huge expense from our retirement savings, but we thought it was worth doing. We even wondered if we would live long enough to reach the break even point which is usually 7 to 10 years or more, depending on the size of your system. We took a chance and hopefully we will make it.

As for the people complaining about our solar, go check some of them out. You will find a large portion of them drive larger vehicles like high powered cars or trucks etc. consuming lots of fuel. They keep there houses at 69 degrees in the summer and 75 in the winter. They think its everyone else's job so save natural resources so there will be enough left for them. My mother in law actually told me this once. She said she was old and she deserved it. I couldn't believe she actually said that. She is deceased now so she is no longer part of the problem.

As for us, please check us out. I would bet we have the lowest natural gas consumption of anyone in our neighborhood. The lowest water consumption also. At our own expense we had a gray water system installed to reclaim as much water as we could from what little water we use. This will be really important someday in the future. We don't run the heater that much in winter, we wear sweat shirts at home most of the time. In the summer we keep the air conditioning at 78 and use fans to move the air around which actually works pretty well. Do you get the picture, we care about our environmental footprint as everyone should. We are not extremist, we just try to be responsible. We drive two economical Ford cars, one is a hybrid getting nearly 50mpg. We even bought American cars to help our economy, **WHAT MORE COULD WE DO!!**

If SSVEC gets their way you can pretty much kiss solar good by for most people in Cochise County. We certainly would not have invested in a system. Solar installers will be going out of business left and right, leaving people who made large investments in solar up the creek without a paddle. Resale or homes with solar systems will be in the toilet, no one will want to buy a home with solar, unsure if they can find anyone qualified to fix them. People with solar systems paid

their dues up front, these systems were not cheap. Did I mention, I feel I'm being punished for doing the right thing.

One more thing, I vote.

Very truly yours,

Mark Hanna

Teresa Tenbrink

From: philnjill@cox.net
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2015 2:44 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: SSVEC Solar Net Metering Proposal
Attachments: SSVEC Letter.wps

Categories: DOCKETED

Please read the attached letter voicing my concerns re: the changes SSVEC has implemented in their solar program.

Thank you,

Jill Vanden Heuvel

520-335-2300
philnjill@cox.net

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Frank Pitts <ffjrpitts@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2015 10:08 AM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: RE: Don't Stifle Solar

Hi Teresa,

Thank you for listening to my concerns and I hope my words help add content to your discussion. I look forward to the outcome and hope the ACC makes the best choice for Arizona.

Sincerely,

Frank

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

----- Original message -----

From: BitterSmith-Web <bittersmith-Web@azcc.gov>
Date: 05/05/2015 10:48 PM (GMT+06:00)
To: 'Frank Pitts' <ffjrpitts@aol.com>
Cc:
Subject: RE: Don't Stifle Solar

Thank you for sharing your concerns with Commissioner Bitter Smith. She asked me to email you and let you know that your email will be made a part of the public comment record. Thanks for the time taken and your interest in this issue.

Thanks again,

Teresa Tenbrink
Executive Aide to Chairman Susan Bitter Smith
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 542-3625

Please join us for the Western Conference of Public Service Commissioners!
<http://western.naruc.org/meetings.cfm>

-----Original Message-----

From: Frank Pitts [<mailto:ffjrpitts@aol.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 1:11 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: Don't Stifle Solar

Dear Chairman Bitter Smith,

Utilities shouldn't get special treatment to raise rates for solar. The fair process for discussing solar rates is in a rate case. Solar is the right energy source for Arizona. We need to nurture solar and allow it to grow. A GREEN economy will be profitable for our state as well as healthy for our environment. Solar is good for many. Solar is good of our planet. Solar is good of our children. Solar is good of our nation. With solar's many obvious and mammoth benefits why even consider limiting its growth? Please deny APS, Trico, TEP, and SSVEC special treatment at making another money grab. If these giants want to remain in business they need to evolve with healthy technology and compete on a level playing field.

Sincerely,

Frank Pitts

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Gordon Cruger <gcruger@cox.net>
Sent: Sunday, May 03, 2015 12:15 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Cc: Stump-Web; RBurns-Web; Forese-Web; Little-Web
Subject: Inputs on SSVEC Docket No. E-01575A-15-0127

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: DOCKETED

May 3, 2015

Dear Chairman Bitter-Smith and Commissioners,

I am upset about SSVEC's plan set forth in Docket No. E-01575A-15-0127. At my home, this will result in a 75% increase in my monthly electric bill. I am particularly upset that there was never any discussion of cost increases when I purchased the system. At the time, we all went forward with solar in good faith that we were doing something good for the environment and at the same time helping SSVEC meet government mandated quotas. Now we are considered the "bad guys" being subsidized by non-solar users. I put \$10,000 out of pocket into my solar system. I hardly consider that being subsidized.

SSVEC claims that they are pro-solar, but this clearly is not true for residential solar. The fact that SSVEC is putting in solar fields reinforces my long held belief that electric utilities want to get into the solar business and they need to get residential solar users in line with their solar business model. Also, there is some question of whether SSVEC's plan is even legal.

Residential solar customers provide a service which is neither recognized nor rewarded. Our systems obviate the need for capital energy expansion thereby saving SSVEC customers money, yet we are scorned for having it.

If this policy is adopted by SSVEC, it will absolutely kill the residential solar business in Cochise County. Aside from killing an industry that is good for the economy and the environment, it also means that existing users will no longer have anyone to maintain their systems. This is a serious threat to all solar users.

I request that Docket No. E-01575A-15-0127 be summarily rejected and any discussion of grandfather deadlines be eliminated so that the solar industry can continue supporting our existing systems.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gordon Cruger
520.803.0853

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Trace Nuttall <tracenuttall@netzerosolar.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 2:09 PM
To: Trace Nuttall; BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web; Stump-Web; Forese-Web; Little-Web
Subject: Docket Number E-01933A-15-0100

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: DOCKETED

Dear Arizona Corporation Commission,

How is that TEP, SSVEC and Trico Electric companies can effectively create a new net metering policy when ultimately they do not have the power to do such? Is it not the job of you, our elected Commission? What happens when an electric company takes it upon themselves, without commission, and drafts a new net metering policy? This is what happens, solar suffers. That is what is happening now and without swift intervention solar as we know it, will die under your watch. Quality, reputable solar companies will go out of business. More jobs will be lost. Clean energy and our environment will suffer. As I write this email today, we have already laid off two excellent solar technicians from our work force, with more lay-offs and pay cuts to come. It would be one thing if these new policies had been heard by you our Commission and they were found to be accurate. It is a whole other thing when they are simply the "wishes" of a few board members, their vision, their angle, their desire to protect their bottom line. I urge you all, at the very least, to revoke TEP, SSVEC and Trioc's temporary hold on solar installations by use of a grand-father date, and immediately revoke those dates until a hearing of all sides is complete and you, our Commission, have ruled on the issues.

Regards,

Trace Nuttall
Owner/Manager
Net Zero Solar LLC

101. W. 5th St., Tucson, AZ 85705
Phone: (520) 241-0027 . Cell
Fax: (520) 203-7230

Arizona ROC #248710, 259756, 259521
tracenuttall@netzerosolar.net
www.NetZeroSolar.net

Teresa Tenbrink

From: EDEFJI@aol.com
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2015 2:43 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: Re: SSVEC Proposal Docket NO. E-01575A-15-0127

Appreciate the confirmation that you did receive my letter.

Dennis Ehrenberger, Sierra Vista AZ

In a message dated 4/27/2015 2:10:00 P.M. US Mountain Standard Time, bittersmith-Web@azcc.gov writes:

Thank you for sharing your concerns with Commissioner Bitter Smith. She asked me to email you and let you know that your email will be made a part of the public comment record. Thanks for the time taken and your interest in this issue.

Thanks again,

Teresa Tenbrink

Executive Aide to Chairman Susan Bitter Smith

Arizona Corporation Commission

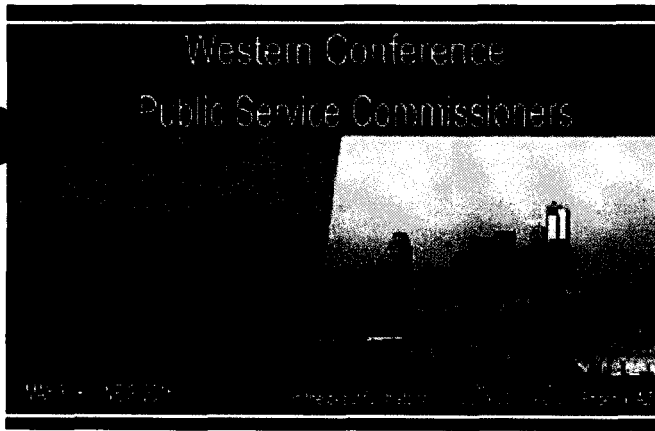
1200 W. Washington

Phoenix, AZ 85007

(602) 542-3625

Please join us for the Western Conference of Public Service Commissioners!

<http://western.naruc.org/meetings.cfm>



From: EDEFIJI@aol.com [mailto:EDEFIJI@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2015 10:47 AM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Cc: RBurns-Web; Stump-web@azcc.web; Forese-Web; Little-Web
Subject: SSVEC Proposal Docket NO. E-01575A-15-0127

Please read the attached comment from me concerning the SSVEC proposal on changing the way current solar owners are treated. I am asking that you deny their request.

Thank you for hearing my concerns!

Dennis Ehrenberger

2783 Glenview Drive

Sierra Vista, AZ 85650

520-378-1313

=

Teresa Tenbrink

From: JAMES F JOHNSON <jsjohnson05@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2015 5:43 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: SSVEC Net Metering proposal
Attachments: Scan0025.pdf

Categories: DOCKETED

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Nancy Ament <dnament@earthlink.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2015 5:08 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web; Stump-Web; Forese-Web; Little-Web
Cc: 'Tom Kennedy'
Subject: DOCKET NO. E-O1575A-15-0127

Categories: DOCKETED

I understand you will take up the above docket in the near future. Please consider the following in your deliberations:

1. The manner in which SSVEC announced their intention to change the reimbursement rules for solar customers was and is offensive to those of us who installed roof top solar. Their notice says we (2% of their members) are being unfair to non- solar members and are costing them money. The notice also is a blatant effort to quash small solar installer businesses by setting an April 14, 2015 cut- off date for applications under the current rules. In addition, the local newspaper (The Herald) was fed a similar line to further the class warfare theme.
2. We were made aware some time ago that SSVEC wanted to change the rules regarding the rate paid for residential generated solar power and we expected some adjustment would be necessary. We also believed SSVEC would give us prior notice of any proposed changes and time to raise questions. This did not happen. A fellow member of the cooperative, Mr. Dave Grieshop, submitted a letter to you dated April 21, 2015 proposing an alternative which I believe most of us could accept. I hope you will consider his proposal carefully since it would provide for more equitable cost sharing and relief for the solar installer companies.
3. Another idea worth considering would be to open a rate case hearing wherein SSVEC's actions could be construed as single issue ratemaking and therefore unacceptable.
4. In short, we feel that SSVEC themselves acted unfairly and tried to set solar users and non-users at odds. It is also evident that they want to severely limit or stop further residential solar expansion. Therefore, I urge you to reject the SSVEC submission and direct that solar installers can continue under current net metering rules pending further action.

Thank you for your consideration
Richard Ament, Sierra Vista

Teresa Tenbrink

From: R BASS <omni757@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2015 4:05 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web; Stump-Web; Forese-Web; Little-Web
Subject: Docket No. E-0157A-15-0127

Categories: DOCKETED

To All:

I am an SSVEC customer who purchased solar power six years ago. I purchased the solar power because it was eco-friendly and cost-effective with the offered incentives. Now I learn that SSVEC is casting me as a "subsidized" customer who's not paying their "fair share." Their portrayal of me and other solar power customers ultimately facilitates justification to renege on the original incentives for me to purchase solar power.

I have several comments about their recent actions. First, I resent SSVEC making an appeal based upon "class warfare." Reality tells us the SSVEC's customer base is economically stratified. That's part of life in a free, capitalist nation. However, SSVEC somehow feels justified in using a populist appeal to generate more revenue — revenue that I believe they will use to accelerate their plans to build/operate a solar farm. It seems to me that all customers should pay the same costs for the same service, but that hasn't happened because of cost-shifting — another reality.

Second, what does "fair share" mean when cost-shifting occurs as a routine part of their business? For example, is it "fair" that I live in the city yet help pay for the infrastructure costs for distant SSVEC customers? Is it fair that I make an investment decision based upon one set of SSVEC criteria and then allow SSVEC to change the criteria at their discretion later? My initial outlay of capital was over \$30,000 — was that "fair" in the eyes of SSVEC while other customers were already benefitting from cost-shifts at the time? My point is this: SSVEC's assertion of what is "fair share" masks factual truths in this matter. Without consideration of all the facts, how can anyone claim to be adjusting policy "fairly"?

Third, what are the facts? Wouldn't a normal process in this matter allow interested parties to voice their concerns over SSVEC policy plans? My understanding is that SSVEC filed an official request to the Arizona Corporation Commission asking for an exemption from some of the current rules effective April 15th, 2015. Preceding their request was a hurried solicitation for input from customers around April 10, 2015. Is that really an adequate amount of time to receive and evaluate customer concerns? Maybe that's why they employed the politics of "solar power have's" vs. "solar power have not's" — to generate numbers for approval and support. After all, who cares about the 2% of solar power owners? Numerically, "they" have a small voice. Again, facts do matter and play a vital role in doing what's right for everyone. No entity should be in the business of picking winners and losers. Personally, I think it's despicable to pit people against one another on the basis of personal economics.

Finally, I ask that each of you on the commission consider SSVEC's petition only after discovery and analysis of the facts. With the limited information I have, it appears to me that SSVEC's proposal targets solar power owners for special treatment as a "rate class." Is that appropriate based on the facts? Is it allowable under current Arizona law? I have no expertise in this field, but rely on you to protect my interests in this matter. Please deny SSVEC's current petition (Docket No. E-0157A-15-0127) until their request can be fully vetted and evaluated.

With appreciation,
Roy Bass
2712 Provenza Dr.
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650
(C) 520.227.0288

Teresa Tenbrink

From: David Parsons <umpy@cox.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2015 6:05 PM
To: dennis Ehrenberger; Tom Kennedy
Subject: Dolar
Attachments: IMG.pdf

Categories: DOCKETED

Teresa Tenbrink

From: libravo@q.com
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2015 4:28 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: SSVEC Plans for Solar

Categories: DOCKETED

April 25, 2015

Dear Chairman Bitter-Smith and Commissioners,

We are upset about SSVEC's plan set forth in Docket No. E-01575A-15-0127. At our home, this will result in as much as \$50/month increase in my monthly electric bill. We are particularly upset that there was never any discussion of cost increases when we purchased the system. We did answer a survey which ask questions about us paying more fees, which we responded with that we did not agree to increased costs. At the time, we all went forward with solar in good faith that we were doing something good for the environment. We put \$12000 last year out of our pocket into our solar system. We received a small check from SSVEC compared to other homeowners in the years past.

SSVEC claims that they are pro-solar, but it seems that perhaps they are not for residential solar. They seem to want to charge us more when we are in fact providing electricity to the residential customers who have not invested in solar. Also there is some question of whether SSVEC's plan is even legal.

"It would appear in SSVEC'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."

"The 'grandfather date' presented by SSVEC has 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 proceeding 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."

I request that Docket No. E-01575A-15-0127 be summarily rejected and any discussion of grandfather deadlines be eliminated so that the solar industry can continue supporting our existing systems.

Very truly yours,

David A Cook and Lois I. Bravo
libravo@q.com

Sent from Windows Mail

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Richard Davis <sobaco@sanfili.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2015 1:03 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: Solar proposals

Categories: DOCKETED

“ It would appear in SSVEC’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.”

“The “grandfather date” presented by SSVEC has 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 proceeding 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.”

Teresa Tenbrink

From: rockycreek <rockycreek@ssvecnet.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 12:30 PM
To: jblair@ssvec.com; dbane@ssvec.com; chuber@ssvec.com
Cc: BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web; Stump-Web; Forese-Web; Little-Web; 'Chad Waits'
Subject: The end of Solar for SSVEC homeowners

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: DOCKETED

Dear Jack Blair:
Referencing your memo, and it's undated but starts:

"We want you to know where Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) is heading on the Net Metering issue. Net Metering is regulated by the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC), the part of state government that oversees the utility industry."

It starts out by saying...

"We are pro-solar. In fact, we are in the process of evaluating final bids on a 20 MW Purchase Power Agreement. This solar field will cover more than 100 acres. This is an addition to our 41 school community solar projects (in 2009) and two other large solar projects; one in San Simon and the other in Sonoita (in 2012)."

This statement is of course complete BS, there is no correlation between building a solar electric generating field or adding solar projects to community buildings and encouraging home solar installations.

"Please also keep in mind as you consider this issue, we are a not-for-profit utility whose only purpose is to serve our members, 100% of whom are voting members of SSVEC because it is a cooperative. As a not-for-profit organization, we routinely return capital credits to our members/owners. Since SSVEC was founded in 1938, we have returned over \$17 million to our members. The point is that we are not motivated to enrich distant stockholders. We are 100% locally owned and controlled. Unlike huge for-profit utilities, we don't pay executive bonuses or provide stock options (although we do have a modest annual safety bonus awarded to employees who consistently use safe work practices)."

Mmm yes so what, if you are not for profit, what is the concern?

"SSVEC is attempting to maintain a fair playing field for all of our members. As a not-for-profit member-owned cooperative, SSVEC is governed by a member-elected board of directors and subject to the oversight of the Arizona Corporation Commission's rules and regulations. SSVEC exists to do one thing: provide reliable electric service to its members at the best possible price. We have successfully done that since 1938. You (our member/owners) continue to tell us that we are exceeding your expectations; in fact, our member satisfaction rate is among the highest in the nation when compared against our peers."

This is a nice history lesson, now what are you going to do to keep the member/owners of our COOP to exceed our expectations?

*"The tariff definition is "The ability to connect a customer's alternative power-generating system to a public utility's power grid to offset the cost of power drawn by the customer from the grid."
Since 1938, we have invested millions of dollars to build electrical transmission and distribution lines and substations throughout our service territory. Prior to 2009, our rates were designed to make sure that everyone who used those*

facilities paid their fair share of the cost. As you might have guessed from that last sentence, things have changed. Today, not everyone is paying their fair share, which is why it is important to discuss this net metering issue."

I highlighted your statement that everyone is not paying their fair share, I did it for a reason, let me explain this fair share.

We Solar Electric providers, and that is 2% of your member/customers have paid a large amount of dollars expecting that sometime in the future that these solar panels (photovoltaic panels) we will break even on our investment, for me it was 7 years.

7 years is a long time for a typical homeowner, however I was one of your customers from 1981 to 1988, and again at that residence from 1990 to 1995, I have been at my current residence from 1995 to present, I installed PV just over 3 years ago.

"Under the current ACC net metering rules that were intended to promote more solar power (a goal with which we agree), we are required to pay retail prices for wholesale power sold to us by members who have solar installations. In other words, most people selling us solar power are paying little or nothing for the use of the poles and wire and the cost of operating and maintaining the system (even though they use that system whenever they are not generating enough solar power to meet all their needs). That amounts to a subsidy paid by our non-solar members. The 2% of our members who currently have solar units are being subsidized by the other 98%. The percentage of solar units is only going to grow larger."

I highlighted the BS...

You fail to understand that the power that the homes that have PV installed offset what you have to provide to the rest of their neighborhood, you provide a very small portion of the poles and wire and line losses to the PV providers, we are like your own little Apache Generating Station in your own backyard.

"SSVEC currently pays residential solar unit owners our current retail rate of 12.6 cents per kilowatt-hour when they sell solar power to us. We are asking the ACC to allow us to lower that amount to 3.07 cents per kilowatt-hour. That's how much we pay on average when we buy the power elsewhere. In other words, the ACC net metering rule requires us to pay over 4 times more than we otherwise would for the power that our non-solar customers use."

So what you are saying is that you can sell us electricity at 12.6 cents / KWH that you are unwilling to buy that same KWH back from us to sell to our neighbor at no additional expense to you? Yeah that sounds fair.

"Net metering, in its current form, results in cost shifts from those with solar to those who do not have solar or can't afford solar or can't install solar (renters)."

So what you are saying it that if I am a frugal energy user, and for instance do not have an air conditioner and have replaced all my high energy appliances with energy star and all my incandescent light bulbs with LED bulbs, that is unfair to those that have not? ...more BS.

"A customer that is net metered avoids paying the full cost of those facilities and yet receives a full retail rate for power generated by the customer."

Again this is no different than that of a frugal energy user, or a snow bird that is only here 3 months of the year.

"The other members will eventually be forced to pay higher rates to subsidize these costs that are not being paid by net metered customers. In addition, as a result of the high cost of Distributed Generation ("DG") systems, affluent member/customers will be installing DG at the expense of less affluent member/customers."

Yes those that have not become more energy independent may have to pay more of the maintenance cost of your distribution lines and power generation costs, although the maintenance costs of your distribution lines should have nothing to do with a less than 2% reduction in the power you need to transport over those transmission lines. And so in your liberal thinking, affluent member/customers should be punished because they are more affluent? And perhaps you think that someone that has grid power available to them and chooses to go completely off-grid should pay for the infrastructure... I think not!

"No, it's not true for SSVEC. The typical residential solar system produces power, on average, for about 6 hours per day. Shorter winter days, rain, clouds, haze, dawns, and dusks reduce the amount of energy those solar panels can produce."

So on one hand we are hurting our neighbor members by producing power, but on the other hand we don't produce enough to be a benefit to SSVEC... which is it?

"Since there is at present no affordable battery system for homeowners to store solar power, it means that, on average, those solar homes are using the SSVEC wires and poles (infrastructure) 18 hours a day. The trouble is, we have to pay for the infrastructure no matter how many hours it's used."

Wait, I'm confused about the facts, "there is no affordable battery system", seems to me I signed an agreement not to add batteries to my system, correct? Or can I now add a battery system so I don't have to be dependent on the SSVEC infrastructure 18 hours a day, which I am now paying to support the "wires and poles" 18 hours a day.

"Because SSVEC does not own any conventional generation facilities, the power we purchase at 3:00pm costs the same as power purchased at 3:00am. To keep within the car analogy, it doesn't matter what time of day we buy our gas."

This is almost a whole truth, but in reality you own 2% of your generating power via home owner installed PV systems, and their output during the daylight hours, which due to air-conditioning is the peak period of what you have to supply the power to your members/customers.

"SSVEC is currently allowed by the ACC to charge \$10.25 per month for the cost of the infrastructure (the cost of building, maintaining, and operating the system of poles, wires, and substations that brings power to your home). As you can see in the chart below, those things actually cost more. Our study shows it costs \$23.02 per month for the facilities to connect your home to the nearest transformer."

It seems to me that I paid to have electricity brought in to me when I build this house, so you're saying that it costs you \$23.02/month to maintain the 200' from the transformer that I dug the hole for and provided the A-B footing for so you could mount the transformer on the pedestal? And so over the past 20 years it has cost you \$5524.80 to maintain that wire?

You have lost all credibility. You also charge solar providers an additional fee for the special meter we were required to have.

"It costs another \$21.35 to connect that transformer to the nearest substation, and it costs \$27.52 to connect that substation to the power plants. Added up, it costs \$71.89 per month to build and operate the physical system that brings power to your house - no matter how much power you use!"

So therefore frugal users, snow birds and solar and wind generator users should be punished.

"SSVEC is not alone in seeking a change. Last year, the ACC allowed an adder to Arizona Public Service (APS) for solar customers. The Salt River Project (SRP) board of directors just voted to charge new net metering customers a demand charge that will average \$50 about a month (SRP is not under the jurisdiction of the ACC). Tucson Electric Project (TEP) and Unisource just petitioned the ACC for a waiver to the net metering rules similar to what SSVEC is proposing."

And APS, SRP, TEP are not COOPs...

If you installed a system or submitted an interconnection request prior to April 15, 2015, SSVEC is proposing that these systems be grandfathered for 20 years from the date of activation. So you keep the deal you now have."

And of course being grandfathered does not affect the resale value of my home, more BS.

Your proposal will kill Solar Electric Home power generation in Arizona.

Sincerely,

**John J. Renwick
Hereford AZ**

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Inge & Steve Scheumann <sscheumann@cox.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2015 3:40 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: RE: ACC Docket # E-01575A-15-0127, SSVEC, New Net Metering Tariff Schedule NM-2 and Revisions to the Existing Net Metering Tariff Schedule NM

Categories: DOCKETED

Dear Chairman Susan Bitter-Smith,

I managed change my whole working life and best practices were to keep users informed and make changes gradually if at all possible. I was very disappointed by the way I was informed of this change and the speed of the change. Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) mailed its notice to customers on Friday April 10 and I received it on Monday April 13 with a proposed rule effective on Tuesday April 14.

I urge you to consider not approving these tariff schedules right now, but recommending that SSVEC provide its customers with more warning of this change and that the change be gradually implemented over a few years. This should be linked to a thorough review of cost-shifts. SSVEC mentioned cost-shifts in its notice. SSVEC stated that there is a cost-shift, with solar customers not paying their fair share of grid costs. A cost shift is not unfair by default-SSVEC's rates already include a number of cost-shifts due to rate design, where customers pay less or more than their fair share of grid costs. Some examples are customers who leave town for much of the year, customers with very low or very high-energy use, and urban versus rural customers. Cost-shifts should be considered in a rate case at the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC). This process would allow a careful weighing of the best policy options for SSVEC's ratepayers, along with introduction of evidence, expert testimony, and significant ratepayer input. This would be a win - win for everyone.

Respectfully,

Steven Scheumann
SSVEC Member - Net Zero since 2012

Teresa Tenbrink

From: georgep4@cox.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2015 6:55 AM
To: BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web; Stump-Web; Forese-Web; Little-Web
Subject: PRAGG01: Roof Top Solar Residential Customer Input on Docket E-01575A-15-0127

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: DOCKETED

Dear Commissioners-

Please reference Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) Docket No: E-01575A-15-0127 filed by Sulfur Springs Valley Electric Coop (SSVEC) in April 2015.

As a 34 year proud resident of Arizona, I wish to make three comments that may impact your decision in this matter.

1. Who should pay to reduced pollution in Arizona- I believe all Arizona residents must help pay the cost because we all rich or poor benefit from the positive environmental effects of solar electricity generation. Clearly we may have to pay in different ways. Those who can afford it have funded expensive roof top installation costs through ownership or lease arrangements. Those who cannot afford this route or choose not to or simply cannot (e.g. renters) will likely wind up paying 1% to 2% more each month on there electric bill which will probably be reflected in increased future FUEL or INFRASTRUCTURE costs. This seems fair to me and I believe a civil court will agree that this is fair.

2. Possible Legal Action- From the beginning of residential roof top solar installations in the SSVEC service area, I believe SSVEC has mislead its customers as to the cost of installing solar devices. SSVEC monthly bills have always and still do directly state that the vast majority of monthly electric costs are from FUEL costs. There has never been a split out of costs between FUEL costs and INFRASTRUCTURE cost. Had such a split out occurred in past bills, I suspect virtually no residence would have elected to install roof top solar even given the SSVEC SUNWATT program incentive. This misrepresentation may be grounds for a class action suit against SSVEC and possibly the ACC should the ACC enforce SSVEC's NM-2 or similar tariff. This class action may involve removal of roof top solar systems, payments to solar owners for funds already expended, and court costs associated with breakage of lease agreements.

3. Impact on future Residential Solar Installations- I believe under NM-2, the payback period for future solar installations will be so long that very few residences will install solar systems and that most installer companies will go out of business with the attendant loss of higher paying tax paying AZ jobs.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my input.

Have a great day
from Marilyn/George Praggastis (listed in the Sierra Vista phone book)

Teresa Tenbrink

From: RANDY REDMOND <randyredmond@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2015 6:35 AM
To: Forese-Web; Little-Web; BitterSmith-Web; Stump-Web; RBurns-Web
Cc: Derek Jordon
Subject: SSVEC 's Solar Request is a Contractual Violation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: DOCKETED

Mr. Forese, Mr. Little, Ms. Bittersmith, Mr. Stump, Mr. Burns,
(Mr. Jordon - please forward this to the letter to the editor column - thank you)

This email is in regards to the proposed changes requested of you, by our local energy provider - SSVEC. As a 35+ year member of the coop I am very happy with their overall service, but do not agree with their proposed changes. My disagreement is not based on their financials, it is simply based on integrity and contractual agreements.

When I answered SSVEC's solar incentive program in 2012-13 and installed solar it was because SSVEC was offering an incentive based on financial facts that they provided, as viable for both parties. Solar was presented to be beneficial for both the customer and the coop. Now I am being told, just 3 years later, that I am not paying my portion of the "system". I am not sure of the true impact because all costs associated with the "system" are presented by SSVEC. With that said I simply believe that my agreement should not change - not based on the financials - but based on the fact that SSVEC presented me, and paid me an incentive, to install my \$20,000 solar system based on the saving to both parties. Now, only 3 years later I am being told that SSVEC is loosing 1M dollars because of residential solar customers. If the utility is truly loosing money then I suggest, like any corporation, you look to the responsible party who made the wrong decision and offered the incentives. Holding the customers responsible for a bad management decision to pay incentives and support the program is simply wrong. The SSVEC CEO should be held responsible for the decision - if their financials are truly accurate.

I feel like I was offered an incentive to finance my home and was notified 3 years after closing that my payment will be changed after 20 years - it is simply wrong. I, like many, agreed to the incentives and the sale pitch offered by SSVEC. They are now changing that agreement. I am not in support of SSVEC's attempt to transfer responsibility of this horrible financial decision by their employees, back to the customers who simply responded to their offer.

I would offer that the true costs are lower and would suggest the legal costs associated with a class action lawsuit by solar customers would be far more detrimental. How about you respond to SSVEC's request by telling them to "stand up" and accept liabilities associated with **THEIR** bad decision, and not allow them to transfer this to their coop members.

Thank you,

Randy Redmond
Fire Chief - Retired, Sierra Vista
Arizona Firefighter's Fund
Redmond Consulting
3511 East Little Hill Lane
Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635
1-520-456-4815

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Ray Bersano <r.bersano@cox.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2015 12:25 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Cc: RBurns-Web; Stump-Web; Forese-Web; Little-Web
Subject: SSVEC's Net a Metering Proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: DOCKETED

Attention:
Chairman Susan Bitter-Smith
Commissioners Bob Burns,
Bob Stump, Tom Forese, and
Doug Little

For the past several years my wife and I have been looking at installing Solar Panels. All we have heard for the past several years is how we are killing our planet. I have always been suspicious of Solar, and made excuses about the high cost, even after rebates and the long return of investment time. However, down deep I knew Solar was the right thing to do for our environment and our future. Now that Solar Panels are dependable , warranted and somewhat affordable, I could no longer make excuses. So we installed Solar Panels in January.

We are GRANDFATHERED, but
the new regulations will effectively Kill the Solar industry !

This seems so short sighted !! The Electric Companies should be looking at the Big Picture and not the immediate bottom line. I know this is a Industry Problem and Not just SSVEC !! I realize SSVEC is trying to look out for All their customers. But, you have to ask yourselves is Solar GOOD or BAD. If Solar is good, then You must say NO to SSVEC's request. If Solar is BAD then say yes to the request, BUT we all know Solar is GOOD. The entire Solar industry, especially the little guys will go out of business and Kill Solar in our area. You can't possibly want that ! But, that will be the effect of granting SSVEC's Request. SSVEC is a good Company run by good people , with a concerned Board of Directors. But, they got this one wrong, and this is happening all over the country. Someone must say Stop, look at the Big Picture and do the Right Thing.

I sincerely hope your Board will do the Right Thing !!!

Thank You For Your Time And
Consideration,

Raymond Bersano
Martha Bersano
Sierra Vista

Sent from my iPhone

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Marvin Purdy <nivram@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2015 6:34 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web; Stump-Web; Forese-Web; Little-Web
Subject: SSVEC proposal for Net Metering Customers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: DOCKETED

I am a little puzzled at SSVEC and their tactics to send out a mailings about their submitting changes to rules on Net Metering with only one day to respond. I also find fault in their reasoning that Net Metering customers don't pay their fair share. What happens with the banked power? It surely does not sit on some pole somewhere, SSVEC uses it to power other users.

Also, why did they give an incentive for so many years and now decides to change the way they operate. Wrong! We need to reduce fossil fuel usage and one way is to sponsor solar usage. SSVEC is even doing that in getting a solar farm setup for its use.

Let them know they need to stop these tactics of one day notice and do it with input from the community. SSVEC is a cooperative and they need to let the users decide how to proceed.

Thank you for your time,

Marvin Purdy

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Bob Spalding <spaldingrb@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2015 6:26 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web; Stump-Web; Forese-Web; Little-Web
Subject: SSVEC's Net Metering Proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: DOCKETED

ALCON,

As a current solar users I will first say, I'm immensely grateful for the "Grandfather" clause. Otherwise, this would have destroyed our return on investment which had a very significant cost.

Speaking for future customers and solar companies I can only imagine their disbelief regarding this proposal. This action will cripple the solar industry which is proven to a valuable, renewable, and an environmentally friendly resource. We take great pride in knowing the power we use comes from the sun and not nuclear power, oil, coal, or gas. I'm not asking to do away with this proposal completely but please, compromise on the return for excess k-Whs. Seventy-five percent reduction – really! This compromise is the only way future customers will see value added to their investment – an investment that will benefit all living creatures and this great irreplaceable planet we all reside on. Let's invest in the future!

My trust and faith are with you all to make the decision that will benefit new customers, solar industry and the power company. Please don't destroy this industry that focuses on renewable resources.

Thank you...
Bob and Pam Spalding
Hereford, AZ

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Chad Waits <chadwaits@netzerosolar.net>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2015 3:13 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web; Stump-Web; Forese-Web; Little-Web
Subject: Letter In reference to Docket numbers: E-01461A-15-0057, E-01933A-15-0100, and E-01575A-15-0127
Attachments: BRN30055C38BE29_001683.pdf
Importance: High
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed
Categories: DOCKETED

COMMISSIONERS

SUSAN BITTER SMITH - Chairman
BOB STUMP
BOB BURNS
DOUG LITTLE
TOM FORESE

In reference to Docket numbers:
E-01461A-15-0057
E-01933A-15-0100
E-01575A-15-0127

My name is Chad Waits. Since 2008 I have owned Net Zero Solar in Tucson, AZ. We are a design and build firm specializing in rooftop and ground mounted solar electric systems. Net Zero Solar has roughly 600 customers in Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Cochise, and Graham counties. Our grid-connected systems are interconnected with the following utilities: Tucson Electric Power (TEP), Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC), Unisource, and TRICO. I'm writing this email on behalf of our current customers and employees.

The recent proposals in the above referenced docket numbers have created several problems that have made it almost impossible for Net Zero Solar operate our business.

1. All 3 proposals insist that there is a cost shift from solar ratepayers to non-solar ratepayers. This may be true, however, we know very well that cost shifts occur in all the rate structures of Arizona utilities, both investor owned utilities, and cooperatives. Customers that use large amounts of energy subsidize customers that use small amounts of energy. Urban customers subsidize rural customers. Snowbirds pay less in fixed costs. And so on...
2. All three proposals have "grandfather dates", with SSVEC and TRICO only giving about 48 hours notice to get potential solar customers in under the deadline. This has effectively stopped all sales of solar electric systems for my business in the SSVEC and TRICO service areas. With TEP's June 1st, 2015 "grandfather date" rapidly approaching, it will be only a few weeks before we will have no place to sell our products and services.

3. If none of these proposals are heard and decisions made until late in the year, it will put Net Zero Solar out of business and you can add ten people to Arizona's unemployment ranks.

Cost shifts are appropriately addressed in rate cases, as ACC staff has recommended for both TEP and TRICO. This alleged cost shift should be treated no differently. I respectfully ask that the Commissioners immediately order all parties to withdraw, at the very minimum, the "grandfather date" in the proposals and let the free market continue until each case is heard, and more importantly, a carefully considered decision is made. It seems extremely unfair to the ratepayers and to the solar businesses to now have to wait in limbo while these proceedings play out in lengthy and costly commission hearings.

Thank you.

Chad Waits
President/Owner – Net Zero Solar
101 W. 5th St., Tucson, AZ 85705
Office: 520-207-4053
Cell: 520-270-4873
NABCEP Certified PV Installation Professional
NABCEP Certified Solar Heating Installer



Teresa Tenbrink

From: TnD Black <tnd.black3@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2015 6:36 AM
To: Richard Martinez; Stump-Web; RBurns-Web; BitterSmith-Web; Little-Web; Forese-Web
Cc: investigators@kvoa.com; news@kgun9.com
Subject: Fwd: FW: SOLAR - SSVEC
Attachments: SSVEC_NET METERING.PDF

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: DOCKETED

Richard,

Please update my comments or add if you could. Again, thank you in advance for assisting with the posting of below comments.

Reference: SSVECs petition/waiver submitted via Docket # E-01575A-15-0127.

I am requesting you attach the below comments to SSVECs waiver for all commissioners/reviewers to see.

I've cc'd the below to two News Channel Teams petitioning them to follow-up and research, investigate, and make people aware so that the public can comment to the ACC.

I am also trying to collect additional remarks to be submitted ... but I do not want the waiver to go unchallenged, so I submit the below as a start.

I am 100% for alternative solutions that may reduce our impact to the environment, drive down costs, etc.

Bottom Line: Arizona could lead our nation in solar production and use if "we" choose to. Management of our precious resources will always take a back seat to greed. One would think that the Arizona electric companies (such as SSVEC) would be looking to adopt and leverage current and future technologies for home solar systems but instead, SSVEC and other companies are opting to take another path. The lack of vision and/or leadership by our energy/electric providers is troubling and inconsistent to previous claims made by them to industry professionals and their customers whom, they say they value.

I Oppose SSVECs request for a waiver to NET Metering and would like the following addressed as rebuttal to SSVECs petition the ACC:

1. SSVEC's intent was not disclosed to their customers in advance.
 - SSVEC notified it's customers of their intent to stop NET Metering the day they mailed the attached (14 April 2015), the same day they filed the exemption to ACC - posted to the E Doc registry 15 Apr 2015..

- SSVEC claims (in the attached and in the petition/waiver) to be customer oriented why were they not up front about this process of filing the petition?

2. According to the attached, SSVEC proposes to be the sole provider of

electric (solar or not).

- SSVEC wants to build their own solar array.
 - They do not want the public producing energy, although the public helped them meet the Green mandate.
 - Their intent, now is to cut these same customers out.
 - It is apparent that SSVEC wants to monopolize the generation and sales of electric, putting the customer in a position that is NOT beneficial.
- SSVEC proposes to control more resources, and if they do, they may charge whatever they want. It appears they want customers as consumers only.

3. SSVEC claims:

- They pay retail prices for solar produced by members: Not sure this claim is totally true. Maybe they are referring to credits; meaning the credits they post to a solar customers account is reimbursable at the same rate as they are billing that customer for usage.

- Solar customers pay little to nothing for the use of the poles and wire. Early last year SSVEC raised their meter fees ... rationale: to defray the costs of infrastructure. (another flyer I received earlier ... I will have to find a copy of that)

We do pay a meter fee, and we are charged taxes for energy use even when the use results in a credit.

What about the cost savings to SSVEC in reduced transmission, is this addressed (more stated below)

- According to the document, Solar customers (making up 2%) are free loading on the other 98%.

Are we talking about 2% of the customer base demolishing SSVEC's profits, and negatively impacting their ability to operate?

This needs to be challenged.

- The solar subsidy is unfair to non-solar members?

We need an explanation.

How is the government sponsored subsidy unfair to those who choose to or cannot afford Solar?

What about corporations who have installed solar panels (military facilities, businesses, etc)? What is the impact to them?

SSVEC seems to claim that they are having a hard time sustaining the grid.

Have they produced facts indicating that they are in trouble keeping pace with maintenance, sustainability, etc?

- Solar energy produced by home systems are unreliable - because the weather (time of sun) is inconsistent page 2 ... but then SSVEC tells how they will become more effective in the production of cheaper electric when THEY complete their solar systems (page 4).

Apparently these systems will not rely on weather or earth rotational issues, seasons.

4. Why is SSVEC so opposed to methods of driving costs down for the consumer?

Contrary to the Attached Article: In my 14 years with SSVEC I have NEVER received a rebate or cost savings on my electric bill until I paid for the installation of Solar at my residence.

5. Rooftop solar has broad collective economic benefits:

- Cooler homes in the summer (the panels shade rooftops) = reduction in energy required to cool those homes.

- Local energy: Power produced on solar rooftops stays local, it doesn't travel far like utility-scale electricity.

Savings to electric companies, due to a reduction in transmission

Local electricity distribution from solar reduces use and congestion of the transmission and distribution system - saving SSVEC and all SSVEC customers' money through reduced need for grid maintenance. (Imagine the reduction to long haul transmission if more homes had solar systems)

- Energy at the Right Time: Solar produces electricity during the time of day when it is most expensive, saving customers money.

- Job Creation: Rooftop solar generated jobs even during the Great Recession. There are currently 10,000 rooftop solar jobs in AZ.

- Ignoring the benefits of rooftop solar for all of its customers, SSVEC sees it only as a threat to its bottom-line.

6. SSVEC received many kudos in the solar panel industry (references can be provided) and found online it is interesting to note that they are now backing out on promises/agreements made with customers who fronted their personal funds to help SSVEC get these awards, and drive the conversion to green energy.

7. Lastly, SSVEC states that TEP, Unisource, APS, SRP, and TRICO are all seeking the same waiver to NET Metering.

Comment:

The current petition/wavier is a slap in the face to the user/consumer for wanting to do the right thing. Why can't, why shouldn't, why couldn't AZ be ranked number 1 in solar production? see the following URL ...

<http://www.seia.org/research-resources/2014-top-10-solar-states>

Do Not approve SSVECs waiver to NET Metering

Teresa Tenbrink

From: Bruce Plenk <solarlawyeraz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2014 8:14 AM
To: Stump-Web; BitterSmith-Web; Burns-Web; RBurns-Web; Pierce-Web
Subject: Re:E-01575A-14-0232, Sulphur Springs proposed FCRF

Dear Chairman Stump and Commissioners:

I write to urge you NOT to implement the proposed FCRF charge that SSVEC has proposed, especially given the procedural context in which this item has come up. There is simply no need for an important issue, the value of net metering, to be decided on a few days notice at a staff meeting, rather than after full consideration in a rate case, with testimony, cross examination, full studies, etc. There is also no basis for such a charge, other than to penalize customers who have installed solar equipment.

These customers have assisted SSVEC in meeting demand, have helped deal with climate issues by reducing the need to burn coal at AEPSCO's plant and helped balance loads. These and other benefits have not been considered at all.

Adopting such a fee in this proceeding at this time would be bad policy, unfortunate and likely legally defective.

Please reject the proposed "solar tax."

Thank you for your consideration. Please place my comments in the docket in this matter.

Bruce Plenk
Solar Possibilities Consulting
Tucson, AZ
520 909-1389