

**From:** Mary Beth Raven

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 5:07 PM

**To:** PUC: Clerks Office <clerksoffice@puc.nh.gov>

**Subject:** Re: DE 22-060, Consideration of Changes to the Current Net Metering Tariff Structure, Including Compensation of Customer-Generators

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To the Clerks of the PUC:

We, the undersigned members of the town of Merrimack Energy Committee, respectfully request that the PUC continue the state's current system for compensating customers who share surplus solar power on the grid. Our primary reasons are that Net-metering will:

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- Save money
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- Be better for health
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- Help New Hampshire to be more energy sustainable
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**Save money:** Between January 2018 and May 2023, the rate payers have paid ISO-NE more than \$400 million to make sure that "peaker plants" like the coal-burning Merrimack Generating Station in Bow are "on call" to produce power in periods of peak demand. That money is *in addition to* what it earns for the electricity they actually produce.

What if NH had enough net-metered solar installations so that we did not rely on peaker plants like the coal-burning facility in Bow? IF we did not have to pay peaker plants to just be "on call," it would save \$400 million dollars.

**Better for health:** As already stated, customer-generated net-metering reduces our reliance on peaker plants. The Merrimack Generating station in Bow emits particulate matter that is harmful for human health, especially for asthmatics.

The more we net meter, the less often we'll have to fire up the coal plant to generate electricity. The following table gives you an idea of the negative health impacts of the Merrimack Generating Station.

Table 1: Death and disease attributable to fine particle pollution from Merrimack Station located in Bow.

(source:[https://www.gem.wiki/Merrimack\\_Station#Table\\_1: Death and disease attributable to fine particle pollution from Merrimack Station](https://www.gem.wiki/Merrimack_Station#Table_1:Death_and_disease_attributable_to_fine_particle_pollution_from_Merrimack_Station) )

| Type of Impact      | Annual Incidence | Valuation    |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Deaths              | 3                | \$22,000,000 |
| Heart attacks       | 6                | \$610,000    |
| Asthma attacks      | 47               | \$2,000      |
| Hospital admissions | 3                | \$58,000     |
| Chronic bronchitis  | 2                | \$830,000    |
| Asthma ER visits    | 2                | <\$1,000     |

**Help New Hampshire to be more energy sustainable:** Why should we rely on harmful fossil fuel, when we can generate clean electricity right here in our state? Net-metering reduces our reliance on importing fossil fuels from other states or countries and on the pricing fluctuations of the fossil fuel markets.

Sustainability is a core New Hampshire value. Being self-sufficient has long been important to all of us. Net-metering takes us one more step in the direction of energy self-sufficiency.

Thank you very much for your time and attention,

Members of the town of Merrimack's Energy Committee:

Karen Contos -

Mary Beth Raven -

Wendy Thomas -

Matthew Brown -

Mary Beth Raven