

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 2:48 PM

To: PUC: Clerks Office <clerksoffice@puc.nh.gov>; Governor Sununu <governorsununu@nh.gov>

Subject: DE 22-060:-NM: Potential tariff changes

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

To the Clerks of the PUC:

I write to urge the PUC to continue the state's current system for compensating customers who share surplus solar power on the grid. The three investor-owned utilities here in NH accept 75% as fair compensation and a fair balance among the interests of Customer-Generators, the utility companies, and NH residents who do not have net-metered energy devices.

I am in a unique position to comment on maintaining the current NM structure. I am the person that managed the installation of the solar array on the Bristol municipal library (Minot Sleeper) and a resident experiencing long term (100%) NM benefits from our personal resident solar array installation.

The municipal 15KW array was installed in 2013 and the benefits from the solar and NM are threefold.

1. Beneficial to the town people by lowering the utility bill that is paid from resident taxes.
2. Adjacent businesses have the benefit of a local generator next door to them that upholds local regional voltage level of service at peak times of utilization during high load times (summer). During these times the library array is powering the grid. This relieves the serving utility of needing to increase supply characteristics (frequency maintenance during high demand times), reducing utility power delivery requirements, (the adjacent businesses are partially fed from the array power being fed back into the grid). Each of these reduces costly equipment deployment demands on the supplying utility.
3. The library array production graphs are available on-line at the library website and serve to educate the patrons (both while at the library and for remote accessing) as to the savings being achieved by the library and the offsetting of power and infrastructure costs that a utility is exposed to in serving municipal facilities.

Our personal 7.3 kw rooftop array (installed in 2014) provides two examples to local residents as to what a personal residential array can provide for adjacent neighbors.

1. Our array is at the end of the utility service leg. Our array along with power provides both voltage and frequency maintenance for the neighborhood during periods of high load (summer A/C induction (power factor reduction) loads). This offsets the need/cost of the utility to maintain these service characteristics on a long leg supply line.
2. Our NM banking educates local residents as to what NM is and how it benefits the owner by offsetting charges to periods of lower demand (fall/winter) when the NM credits are redeemed.

Both these arrays with their NM banking, offset by 6 months, the charges utilities have for supplying power to customers. The credit for the power these arrays pump into the grid at periods of high demand are not redeemed to the owners for 6 months, giving the utilities access to free money for 6 months. In these times of high interest rate expenses this lowers the “cost of money” to the utilities, at the expense of these small local residential suppliers/generators. Lowering the NM redeemable tariff structure further, will just discourage further take-up/deployments of municipal and residential arrays and impose more capital expenditures on the part of the utilities, which in turn is passed onto consumers in the form of increased rates.

Regards

William Dowey,

Chairman Bristol Economic Development Committee.