

From: tim miner

Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 7:12 PM

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

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

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To the Clerks of the NH PUC, and the honorable Commissioners:

I am very concerned about the proposed discontinuation of the PUC current system for compensating electricity customers who export surplus generated power to the grid. The following points in support of my position were not written by myself, however I agree with everything included and could not significantly improve upon them, so have copied them. I strongly believe the PUC should be doing all within its jurisdiction to encourage and promote distributed generation from renewable power sources - both for positive economic and individual/global health reasons. I understand the issue of down-shifting costs, but believe those undesirable economic effects will be more than offset by reduced costs incurred by the utilities as a result of the distributed generation and peak-shaving. And the health benefits for each of us are almost laughably obvious. Please do the right thing here.

Thank you,

The three investor-owned utilities 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.

DOWN-SHIFTING: The VDER Study acknowledged that, for residents without net-metered devices, “Monthly bills would increase by a small percentage for non-DG customers (1% to 1.5% for residential).”

REDUCE TOTAL DEMAND: But on the positive side, the VDER Study found that Customer-Generated net-metering (DG systems) “can generate energy and thereby decrease utility load, reducing the total demand that must be met by New Hampshire’s utilities – and the ISO New England (ISO-NE) wholesale markets. This can reduce utility costs, generating avoided cost values.”

ADDITIONAL SAVINGS: There would be diminished need for transmission lines, poles, and peaker plants. These are important considerations. As more NH customers are turning to electric vehicles and electric heating systems, there is expected to be a greater need for expensive new transmission lines and poles and peak plants to meet capacity. Customers who net-meter greatly relieve the utility companies of the pressure of these added expenses.

BETTER TRANSMISSION EFFICIENCY: Electricity used at the property where it is generated does not suffer transmission loss. Electricity that must travel through transmission lines, from where it is generated to where it is used, does lose power along the way.

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL ECONOMY: Energy purchased from our legacy utilities is generated out-of-state, so the money NH residents use to pay their energy bills is sent out of New Hampshire. Solar panels are installed by businesses located in NH – they create jobs and keep money in the state. Money saved by those who net-meter is money that can be spent in the state, also adding to our economy.

REDUCED MEDICAL COSTS: Energy produced by rooftop solar does not create particulate matter (which is created when fossil fuels are burnt). There is widespread evidence from the NH Department of Environmental Services on the health and cost impacts of breathing particulate matter from fossil fuel emissions. We need to work towards cleaner air!

STABILITY: Continuity of net-metering rates will create stability for NH businesses, by supporting local contractors, helping bring down the cost of solar for all users, and keeping our workforce healthy.

The economic advantages of a stable net-metering system outweigh the disadvantage of minimal downshifting. Our three investor-owned utilities jointly gave their support to continuing the current system. Eversource spokesperson William Hinkle testified in favor of the economics of the system: “New Hampshire’s net metering policy—which is among the most balanced in New England—has been effective in encouraging the growth of [solar]resources in our state, and there is no evidence that the current compensation level is creating unjust cost shifts.”