

1237 Main Street
Akron, PA 17501
August 29, 2014

RECEIVED

2014 SEP -2 AM 10: 35

PA.P.U.C.
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
P. O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265
Attention: Secretary

RE: Docket L-2014-2404361 – Proposed Net Metering Charges

Dear Commissioners:

I come from two different perspectives as I offer comments on the proposed changes to net metering as stated in the above referenced Docket. My first perspective comes from my work as an agricultural engineer, based in Lancaster County from 1999 to 2010. My second perspective, which is very different, comes from living and serving for the past four years in the country of Nepal, a country with the second highest amount of hydro-power resources in the world, yet still with most of the population living in poverty, due to poor governance, poor investment, and a lack of energy, among other reasons.

During my eleven years' experience as an agricultural engineer on many types of farms throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I deeply appreciated the values and commitment that many farmers have towards conservation and improving the environment. I was involved in numerous projects which involved collaborative efforts of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Agriculture, County Conservation Districts, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, farms, banks, and utility companies, such as PP&L, PECO, and Penelec, to name a few. The installation of anaerobic digesters was largely possible due to this amazing collaboration among such a diverse group. Digesters are widely recognized as an important solution for addressing environmental concerns.

You may already be aware of the federal government's new Climate Action Plan to reduce methane emissions and promote cutting-edge technologies that help farmers, energy companies, and communities convert methane into a renewable energy source and grow America's biogas energy industry. This new plan envisions an additional 11,000 biogas systems in the United States which will reduce methane emissions. One of the barriers listed in this strategy are inconsistencies across Federal, State, and Local Governments.

While some farms have benefited from government grants for constructing their digesters, they still put a lot of effort into their maintenance and operation. The revenue earned from the sale of the electricity is important for this maintenance and operation of the digesters. Changes to net metering that reduce the revenues could be detrimental to these operations.

I urge the Commissioners to ensure that new changes in net metering will not be harmful to what already has been accomplished by Pennsylvanian farmers and our wonderful collaboration. For these reasons, I urge the PUC to:

1. Provide an exemption within the rules that encourage farmers to utilize alternative energy systems such as digesters.
2. Waive the required Commission approval for farms to net meter alternative energy systems with a nameplate capacity of 500 kilowatts or greater.
3. Waive the 110% limit on the size of on-farm generation systems.

Pennsylvanians need consistency from our various government agencies and commissions in order to improve our quality of life. I learned from my Nepal experience when this did not occur. I urge the Commissioners to have policies that are in line with our other government agencies and also improve our quality of life.

Faithfully yours,



John R. Williamson

WILLIAMSON
1237 Main St.
Akron, PA 17501

PHILADELPHIA, PA 190

29 AUG 2014 PM 4 L



Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265