

May 9, 2024

RCUD PUC SEC BUR
MAY 13 2024 AM 10:42

Secretary Rosemary Chiavetta
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd floor
400 North St.
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Distributed Energy Resource Participation in Wholesale Markets Investigation/Docket No. L-2023-3044115

Dear Commissioners:

I am a ratepayer in southeastern Pennsylvania and am writing to encourage you to embrace changes under FERC Rule 2222 that allow Distributed Energy Resources (DER) and DERs aggregated into Virtual Power Plants (VPP) in this state as quickly as possible.

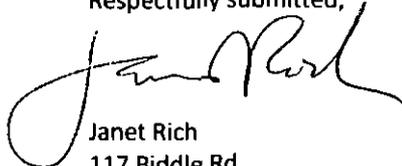
We need to rapidly decarbonize our grid by switching from electricity generated from fossil fuels to renewable energy. After many years of flat electricity demand, estimates are that electricity supply needs to double or even triple in the next decade to accommodate more EVs, more heat pumps, induction stoves, green hydrogen, not to mention data centers, cryptocurrency, and AI.

It is imperative that this new electricity is generated by renewable energy. Yet it has been challenging to get utilities to move from electricity by fossil fuels to wind and solar and geothermal. The incentives are set up for the old way of doing things. So that is all the more reason that we the public need the commissioners on the PUC to be our voice and to act on our behalf. Renewable energy, DER, and VPP represent opportunities for more affordable energy and a more reliable grid.

Consumers want DER and DER aggregated into VPP to be able to be sold to the grid, especially to meet peak power demands. This energy would be available to utilities without their spending one dollar of capital expenditures so it would lower the cost of energy for everyone. It would also be an incentive for people to get solar panels, battery storage, EVs, programmable thermostats on heat pumps and water heaters. Demand management is the cheapest form of electricity supply. Turning off appliances at peak demand can happen at virtually no cost to utilities. I have devices installed by PECO to turn off air conditioning at peak times through a program that they had years ago. They no longer have that program because it is no longer required. And guess what? Utilities would prefer to meet new electricity demand by building new gas power plants because that is how they make more profit. Commissioners need to require them to use demand management and DER aggregated into VPP as a more cost effective means of increasing power supply.

A grid is more reliable when it has multiple kinds of energy, not just nuclear, gas, and coal. Natural gas has supplanted coal as a source of power generation in Pennsylvania. Relying more and more on gas creates a less reliable grid, especially in the winter months. Utilities need new wind and solar generated here in PA, but right now existing solar and batteries can be aggregated into VPP. No transmission needed. No interconnection queues. I am asking, no begging, PUC commissioners to fulfill your mission on behalf of all Pennsylvanians to create rules that require utilities to utilize DER and VPP so that we can meet future demand more affordably and more quickly and in the process meet peak power demands more reliably.

Respectfully submitted,

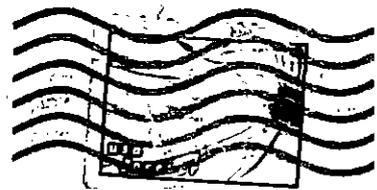


Janet Rich
117 Biddle Rd.
Paoli, PA 19301

117 Biddle Rd.
Paoli, PA 19301

PHILADELPHIA PA 190

11 MAY 2024 PM 8 L



Secretary Rosemary Chiavetta
Pennsylvania Utility Commission (PUC)
Commonwealth Keystone Bldg., 2nd floor
400 North St.
Harrisburg, PA 17120

17120-020505

