

From: Richard Cole

May 13, 2024

To: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

Subj: Distributed Energy Resources and Virtual Power Plants

Docket number: L-2023-3044115

RCUD PUC SEC BUR  
MAY 16 2024 AM 10:25

Dear Commissioners,

I'm a member of Third Act, a nationwide movement of older Americans founded on the principles of safeguarding our climate and democracy. This letter addresses both concerns.

Pennsylvanian has the distinction of having the least amount of renewable energy sources on the power grid than any other state. This needs to change. The state's electric utilities would much rather build more gas-fired power plants than incorporate renewable sources of energy which would not only benefit the climate, but also ratepayers who must foot the bill for construction of new power plants where the focus is on return on investment.

Demand for electrify is increasing. Yet there are ways to meet this need without the costs associated with building traditional combustion turbines and associated infrastructure. One way is with the use of "virtual power plants"; the tying together existing home solar, batteries and smart technology using software. A number of states have already adopted this approach and Pennsylvania needs to get on board.

It is an absolute imperative that we respond to what is an ever worsening climate crisis. Our planet is warming at an alarming rate due in large part to the burning of fossil fuels and leakage of methane from extraction and distribution of fossil gas. As I write this, wild fires are again raging across Canada, posing health problems in the US as smoke descends south. Gulf states are experiencing intense storms causing major flooding. The same in Afghanistan where hundreds of people have lost their lives - this following severe drought which has led to food insecurity. The impacts of climate change also result in extreme heatwaves, loss of biodiversity, "sunny day flooding" of coastal areas from sea level rise and more. We can expect more record-setting events, as we did last year, as long as greenhouse gas emissions continue to remain unchecked. This is the legacy of suffering that we will leave our future generations if we do not tackle climate change fully and with a sense of urgency.

I strongly urge the PUC to require utilities to incorporate the use Distributed Energy Resources (DER's). Quite simply, DER's are a logical alternative to traditional power plants as they are far cheaper, easier to deploy and rely on readily available, proven technology. As well, the use of DER's would help ease the burden on environmental justice communities while also providing an important

tool in addressing climate change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Cole', written in a cursive style.

Richard Cole

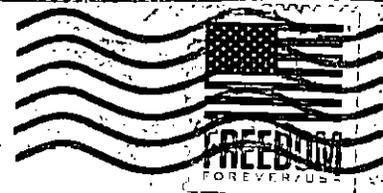
Third Act PA volunteer



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