

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Docket Number M-2025-3054271 – Tentative Order and Large Load Model Tariff

My name is Lois Drumheller. My husband and I are both retired respiratory therapists and educators who have lived in Pennsylvania for over 28 years. We are ingrained in this community, having both been elected to local government council and school board. Our appreciation for subsequent generations to continue to thrive in good health can only come from a sustained nurturing environment. I support the PUC in finalizing a strong Model Large Load Tariff because we have had enough of bankrolling large, AI data centers while ordinary residents of communities pay higher electric bills. We want to ensure that the footprint of our community supports good air, and buffers municipal zones of commerce so they do not interfere with the health of our citizens. We recognize that each one of these zones should honor the highest use of its land development.

When we did our homework to see that AI data centers were infiltrating so many other communities, it was troubling to see a corresponding PA electricity rate that was exponentially higher due to how these centers infiltrated communities who never asked for them and do not benefit BY them. Regular utility customers should not become forced debtors from this cost shift. Residents utility bills are increasing as a result of tech companies who are not paying their fair share. Large load customers/AI data centers should conduct and pay for their own interconnection studies, which help make sure infrastructure buildout to serve a large load/ AI data center is done efficiently and in a way that minimizes costs.

Our Pennsylvania Constitution under Article 1, Section 27, recognizes that the Commonwealth's population needs to thrive and survive. We pay our taxes, shop, garden, work and recreate because the constitution guarantees citizens the right of clean air, water and nurturing land. We willingly agree to pay taxes for this. But, it is not an equal playing field when one discovers that large load/AI data centers do not come prepared to pay for the amount of energy they need for a technology that is here front and center and down our collective throats. It's not fair and we therefore demand that these large load centers have to pay for the resources they need. The vast majority of citizens are at the heart of these communities, so we recognize that large-load customers prepare for those needs and play fair with their end of the cost..

Our household made the decision to offset our electrical grid requirements when we saw that solar technology had become very efficient. We decided to provide solar energy by capturing it from our roof, and we do pay separately for that. Even so, solar energy is the cheapest energy on the market and does not emit atmospheric particulate matter. This logic in the public use of this clean energy extends to data centers. That logic should be the requirement for large load customers like data centers. Clean energy is quicker to build and deploy, avoiding concerns of "stranded assets" that are much more likely with the decades-long lifespan of gas-fired power plants. Energy efficiency, grid enhancing technologies, and advanced transmission technologies can also reduce a large load/AI data center's strain on the grid. This is a call for the PUC to wake up and smell the coffee on equalizing cost across residents and business.. The clean energy of solar, certainly, but also wind and geothermal energy should be a requirement for

large load customers. It matters in terms of lives and who continues to thrive in the United States and a time of peak oil.

Listen to our advice not only as elders of Pennsylvania, but as people who have lived and worked in places north and south of Pennsylvania. We have engaged in all these phases of life through work, children, and now grandchildren. We are all stakeholders within a population who more than ever want to sustain fair payment through an affordable electric bill while contributing to the tax base. It's not going to happen unless the entire playing field is level between citizens of Pennsylvania and large load customers like AI/data centers.

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