

AUSTIN ENERGY'S TARIFF PACKAGE: §
2015 COST OF SERVICE § BEFORE THE CITY OF AUSTIN
STUDY AND PROPOSAL TO CHANGE § IMPARTIAL HEARING EXAMINER
BASE ELECTRIC RATES §

**AUSTIN ENERGY'S RESPONSE TO PUBLIC CITIZEN AND SIERRA CLUB'S
FOURTH REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

Austin Energy ("AE") files this Response to Public Citizen and Sierra Club's ("Public Citizen/Sierra Club") Fourth Request for Information submitted on May 26, 2016. Pursuant to the City of Austin Procedural Rules for the Initial Review of Austin Energy's Rates §7.3 (c)(1), this Response is timely filed.

Respectfully submitted,

**LLOYD GOSSELINK ROCHELLE &
TOWNSEND, P.C.**

816 Congress Avenue, Suite 1900

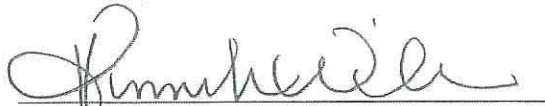
Austin, Texas 78701

(512) 322-5800

(512) 472-0532 (Fax)

tbrocato@lglawfirm.com

hwilchar@lglawfirm.com



THOMAS L. BROCATO

State Bar No. 03039030

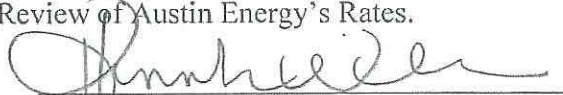
HANNAH M. WILCHAR

State Bar No. 24088631

ATTORNEYS FOR AUSTIN ENERGY

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of this pleading has been served on all parties and the Impartial Hearing Examiner on this 31st day of May, 2016, in accordance with the City of Austin Procedural Rules for the Initial Review of Austin Energy's Rates.



HANNAH M. WILCHAR

AUSTIN ENERGY
2016 MAY 31 PM 1:34

Public Citizen/Sierra Club 4-1 Does Austin Energy have an established process for evaluating what possible impacts proposed commercial solar installations may have on transformers and other local infrastructure?

ANSWER:

Austin Energy has a process to determine proper transformer sizing, but does not have an established process to look at other impacts on local infrastructure. Austin Energy recognizes the need for increased scrutiny of those impacts, particularly for commercial PV systems, as the number and size of installations increase in Austin Energy's territory, and as solar penetration increases on a given feeder. Austin Energy is participating in a pilot study with EPRI to identify capacity constraints on a limited number of feeders, and depending on the findings from that research, new procedures may be developed to evaluate possible impacts from proposed solar installations in the future, along with associated costs and benefits.

Prepared by: DM, DT
Sponsored by: Debbie Kimberly

Public Citizen/Sierra Club 4-2 If the answer to 4-1 is yes, please describe the process and provide any relevant documents.

ANSWER:

Currently, Austin Energy compares the size of the proposed commercial PV system to the size of the transformer serving that system. If the proposed solar system is more than 50% of the size of the existing transformer to which it is being connected, further engineering review is required. In some cases, the transformer is required to be upgraded at the requesting customer's cost in order to prevent potential power quality impacts to existing local infrastructure.

Prepared by: DM, DT
Sponsored by: Debbie Kimberly

Public Citizen/Sierra Club 4-3 If Austin Energy determines that a proposed commercial solar installation will impact a transformer or other local infrastructure, what procedure is followed?

ANSWER:

The customer submits an Electric Service Planning Application to AE's Distribution Design group in order to estimate the cost to upgrade or mitigate any affected infrastructure. This estimate is then presented to the customer proposing the solar installation. If they choose to proceed, the proposer must upgrade or mitigate any issues at their cost before they will be allowed to interconnect.

Prepared by: DM, DT
Sponsored by: Debbie Kimberly

Public Citizen/Sierra Club 4-4 Does Austin Energy currently have a policy that defines limits how the capacity of commercial solar installations should be limited?

ANSWER:

No. Established policy exists at this time in AE's rates or interconnection guidelines. However, larger standalone installations or large blocks of aggregated solar on individual feeders are reviewed to determine if added solar would have a negative effect on existing infrastructure. If so, the proposer must upgrade or mitigate any issues at their cost before they will be allowed to interconnect.

Prepared by: DM, DT
Sponsored by: Debbie Kimberly

Public Citizen/Sierra Club 4-5 If the answer to 4 is yes, what is the policy and are there any exceptions?

ANSWER:

Not applicable.

Prepared by: -
Sponsored by: -

Austin Energy's Response to Public Citizen/Sierra Club's 4th RFI

Public Citizen/Sierra Club 4-6 What data did Deborah Kimberly rely on to determine that residential customers receive 60% of the incentives/rebates? What this calculation based on budget numbers or actual incentive spending, or some other measure?

ANSWER:

See Austin Energy's Response to AE Low Income Customers' RFI No. 10-7.

Prepared by: DK, MA
Sponsored by: Debbie Kimberly