# RECEIVED By PSC at 4:10 pm, Sep 09, 2019

From: PSC - Public Information Officer

To: <u>Andrew Burden</u>

Subject: your comments in case 2019-00256 - Implementation of the Net Metering Act

**Date:** Monday, September 9, 2019 4:01:00 PM

### Dear Mr. Burden:

Thank you for the comments you have submitted to the Kentucky Public Service Commission in case 2019-00256. They will be placed into the case record for the Commission to consider as it prepares it final report in the matter.

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Please continue to cite the case number in any future correspondence in this matter.

Thank you again for your interest in this matter.

Andrew Melnykovych
Director of Communications/Public Information Officer
Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort KY 40601
Andrew.melnykovych@ky.gov
Direct line 502-782-2564
Cell 502-330-5981
Main 502-564-3940

From: Andrew Burden <

Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 10:21 PM

To: PSC - Public Information Officer < PSC.Info@ky.gov>

**Subject:** Re Case 2019-00256: Grow solar energy in Kentucky!

Dear Public Service Commission,

I am a resident of Oldham County and will be fortunate enough to have a solar panel system installed by the end of the year. Our primary interest in solar is to combat rising energy costs and clean energy. The two most important factors in our decision to install solar was the Federal Tax Credit and retail net metering. After reviewing House Bill 100, we were both disappointed and angry about the future of residential solar in Kentucky. It is our understanding that in 2020 the utility companies will apply to change the net metering rates to wholesale pricing which would make residential solar no longer financially feasible. Presently with retail net metering, that is 1 to 1 metering, the payback period of a solar panel system is

on the order of 10 years. However, if net metering were to be changed to wholesale pricing, then that payback period would be much much longer and no longer financially attractive.

We would also like to point out that every kilowatt produced by a residential solar panel system will be fed to the grid and used immediately by the nearest load, which would be our neighbors. This generated kilowatt is provided to our neighbors at little power loss. Whereas, a kilowatt produced at the utility power plant will have on average a 6% power loss before reaching our neighbor's house or in other words, for the utility to provide a kilowatt to my neighbors house they would have to produce more than a kilowatt at the plant. Of course, the utility company will charge my neighbors full retail price for the kilowatt our solar panel system produced. It is a win-win for the utility company to have net metering at wholesale pricing however, at a great loss for the residential solar producer. We have heard the utility company argue fairness regarding residential solar producers use of the utility infrastructure and suggest we would be subsidized by non-solar producers. However, residential solar producers still pay the base connection fees that everyone pays expressly for the utility infrastructure.

Presently, the maximum grid-tied solar panel system allowed for net metering is a 30 kW system. In House Bill 100, we noticed this will be increased to 45 kW so that a prospective residential solar producer would be able to purchase the extra needed panels to account for whole sale net metering to meet their energy needs. This is great for the utility company in that the residential solar producer is providing even more power to the grid and the utility company doesn't have to produce it at the plant and they get to charge the neighbors the full retail rate. Financially for the residential solar producer, their system will cost more than double an likely three times the cost under retail net metering.

As a residential solar producer, when our system produces an excess kilowatt that is used by the grid, all we ask is that when we are in need of a kilowatt we get it back. Most residential solar producers size their system to cover their energy needs. Furthermore, residential solar panel systems are not large scale and do not produce power in bulk where wholesale pricing would apply.

We hope you have heard some of these arguments from other residential solar producers and we hope you take these into consideration. We urge you to keep future net metering rates at retail pricing to encourage residential solar. House Bill 100, as written, makes it financially infeasible for future residential solar installations in Kentucky. House Bill 100 seems to have been written for the utility companies interest. So, we ask the PSC to keep prospect residential solar producers interest in mind and keep net metering at retail pricing.

Sincerely, Andrew Burden 3202 Hidden Springs Lane Prospect, KY 40059 United States

To:

Subject: your comments in case 2019-00256 - Implementation of the Net Metering Act

**Date:** Monday, September 9, 2019 4:00:00 PM

#### Dear Mr. Morris:

Thank you for the comments you have submitted to the Kentucky Public Service Commission in case 2019-00256. They will be placed into the case record for the Commission to consider as it prepares it final report in the matter.

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Andrew.melnykovych@ky.gov
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Main 502-564-3940

From: Jack Morris <

Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 10:11 AM

**To:** PSC - Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov> **Subject:** Case Related Question Case 2019-00256

Please include the following as part of the public comments for case 2019-00256. I also inquired as to who was an intervenor for this case and have not heard from you yet.

Case 2019-00256

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a net metering customer of KU since 2016 and therefore consider myself an interested person/stakeholder of matters that relate to net-metering.

Since this subject gets very technical very fast, I must assume the legislature did the right thing in deferring to technical experts. Good luck.

Here is my understanding of issues relevant to your task.

- Net-metering power is used by nearest neighbors to the net metering customer until any excess power is consumed. Net-metering power is naturally distributed and uses very few grid resources.
- A kilowatt generated by a net-metering customer is a kilowatt that the utility owned central generating station does not need to produce since generation and consumption must be balanced.
- Wholesale priced power is only available to a utility at the edges of its service area or at nodes of a nationwide transmission grid. As such, it is neither transmitted nor distributed. Since this power is neither distributed nor transmitted, its cost includes none of the very thing the utilities accuse net-metering customers of not paying for.

Net-metering customers pay more of their total bill in service fees than non-net-metering customers. They are charged every month for a service fee whether they are producers or consumers of electricity. The service fee should reflect 'fixed costs', of which 'grid' costs are one and LGE/KU just agreed to them. To determine a rate structure, you (the PSC) had to achieve more than just an adherence to an accounting standard. You considered other issues like proper price signals, encouragement of energy efficiency, impact to low income households, etc. to determine a 'fair' electricity rate. The utilities get their required (if not requested) revenue, so only a question of cost-shifting among and between members of rate structures remains. Besides, the utilities got what they really wanted - a hard cap on the amount of net-metering at 1%. We are currently at 0.1% according to SIEA. SB100 also gave them the victory of removal of the PSC's judgement about when net-metering becomes a burden and monopoly control of community solar between 1% and whatever upper limit they want to go.

Back to the relevant question – what is the value of net-metering energy? The utilities have offered essentially the wholesale price. It is low, it would require solid argumentation to refute it and low compensation benefits the utilities. I would probably start with this too, were I a utility. But here is a reason why it is not right – it's called *distributed* energy generation for a reason. It's **DISTRIBUTED!** Any added value that comes from transmission and distribution would largely be contained in netmetered energy. The PSC is on record saying it will consider benefits as well as costs for eligible netmetering power. Again, more than one dimension of the problem is to be considered. You have goals for the PSC that should include encouragement of growth power-related industries, cleaner air and water for Kentuckians, PSC policy goals, etc. Making progress toward these goals has real value.

Jack W. Morris 827 White Oak Road Stamping Ground KY 40379

Sincerely, Jack W. Morris 827 White Oak Road Stamping Ground, KY 40379

To: Richard Bryant

Subject: your comments in case 2019-00256 - Implementation of the Net Metering Act

**Date:** Monday, September 9, 2019 4:00:00 PM

## Dear Mr. Bryant:

Thank you for the comments you have submitted to the Kentucky Public Service Commission in case 2019-00256. They will be placed into the case record for the Commission to consider as it prepares it final report in the matter.

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Thank you again for your interest in this matter.

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Main 502-564-3940

From: Richard Bryant <

Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 7:07 PM

To: PSC - Public Information Officer < PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: Re Case 2019-00256: Solar energy is critical to future

I heard about the Pennyrile Mine. Although it produced its first ton of coal only in 2014, it will be closing soon and not reopened. I also heard that it is especially disappointing because the mine was projected to have enough coal to support twenty more years of extraction.

I thought about that fact. Twenty years. The Pennyrile Mine would be closing regardless. If not in the next few weeks, then next year or in a decade or, if the coal business went splendidly, then in no more than twenty years. But it surely would close because there would be no more coal to remove.

Removal. That's the catch. We as a society depend upon coal for energy and steel, but we

should be honest and admit that we don't manage coal. We don't oversee it; we don't nurture it. We just exploit it. Coal is fed into our economy, we benefit from it, and then it's gone. There is no coal recycling.

Think of Pennyrile as the most recent step where we shuffle along into an uncomfortable future where coal is increasingly scarce. And let's just agree to ignore the other uncomfortable future of climate change. Let's just keep to the reality that the more we burn, the less there is remaining to remove from the ground.

Our kids. Our grandkids. Those who follow us in the not-too-distant future will face a situation where demand is greater than supply because there is no coal regeneration: when it's gone, it's gone. Our heavy reliance on coal – and fossil fuels in general – is pulling us along a slow path to a fully predictable disaster.

Or we could change.

For all the wonderful benefits that coal provides, one thing it lacks is renewability. Wouldn't it be nice to close Pennyrile for a few decades and then return to harvest the coal crop all over again? Ain't gonna happen.

But we do have energy-producing technologies that are renewable. We can, metaphorically speaking, close down an energy mine, wait patiently, then return to harvest more energy. I do this every day with the solar panels on my barn's roof. The sun comes out, I use some of the electricity that my panels make, what's left over moves onto the power grid to my neighbors for their benefit, and I have done my little part in conserving a resource that is not renewable.

Will solar panels, by themselves, solve our energy problem? No. Our energy expectations and infrastructure are far too complicated for only a single, simple solution. But solar energy is clean, cost-competitive (and becoming more so) and -- very importantly -- renewable.

Let's not have a goal of maintaining a local industry or the status quo. Instead, let's agree on a better energy future and then build our way toward it. Solar energy should be a major player, and we in Kentucky should manage it and legislate so that the technology is embraced.

Richard L. Bryant 2775 Hifner Rd. Versailles KY 40383

To: <u>Jean Givens</u>

Subject: your comments in case 2019-00256 - Implementation of the Net Metering Act

Date: Monday, September 9, 2019 3:59:00 PM

#### Dear Ms. Givens:

Thank you for the comments you have submitted to the Kentucky Public Service Commission in case 2019-00256. They will be placed into the case record for the Commission to consider as it prepares it final report in the matter.

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Thank you again for your interest in this matter.

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Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort KY 40601
Andrew.melnykovych@ky.gov
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Main 502-564-3940

From: Jean Givens <

Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 6:39 PM

To: PSC - Public Information Officer < PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: Re Case 2019-00256: Solar energy is critical to future

Dear Public Service Commission,

I love Kentucky. It is a beautiful state and I love living here. I want it to prosper and grow while maintaining its beauty and character.

Retail net metering enables people to become more energy independent with solar and maintain the beauty of the mountains.

More solar energy means more good jobs for Kentucky. Neighboring states like Illinois and

Tennessee have 3x the number of solar jobs compared to Kentucky. Let's grow our economy, create good-paying jobs, and make our state more energy independent.

I urge you to protect solar energy in Kentucky!

Sincerely, Jean Givens Lexington, KY

To: Freda Ellis

Subject: your comments in case 2019-00256 - Implementation of the Net Metering Act

Date: Monday, September 9, 2019 3:56:00 PM

#### Dear Ms. Fllis:

Thank you for the comments you have submitted to the Kentucky Public Service Commission in case 2019-00256. They will be placed into the case record for the Commission to consider as it prepares it final report in the matter.

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Thank you again for your interest in this matter.

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From: Freda Ellis <

Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 1:19 PM

**To:** PSC - Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov> **Subject:** Re Case 2019-00256: Protect solar energy!

Dear Public Service Commission,

As your constituent, I am writing to tell you how important solar energy is to Kentucky's future, and how critical our state's retail net metering program is to that future.

Retail net metering enables people to become more energy independent with solar and fight back against monopoly utilities that have had a stranglehold on electricity for the past century. People should have the right to produce, use, and share their own energy and not be reliant on others.

More solar energy means more good jobs for Kentucky. More solar energy also means more good jobs for Kentucky. Neighboring states like Illinois and Tennessee have 3x the number of solar jobs compared to Kentucky. Let's grow the economy, create jobs, and make our state more energy independent.

I urge you to protect solar energy in Kentucky! Persons who invest in solar energy deserve to be paid the same as monopoly utilities. Do not take advantage of the citizens who are trying to conserve energy an go green.

Sincerely, Freda Ellis 1905 Hadley Loop Road Bowling Green, KY 42101 United States

To: <u>Cheryl Irwin</u>

Subject: your comments in case 2019-00256 - Implementation of the Net Metering Act

**Date:** Monday, September 9, 2019 3:55:00 PM

#### Dear Ms. Irwin:

Thank you for the comments you have submitted to the Kentucky Public Service Commission in case 2019-00256. They will be placed into the case record for the Commission to consider as it prepares it final report in the matter.

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Main 502-564-3940

From: Cheryl Irwin <

**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:17 AM

To: PSC - Public Information Officer < PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: Re Case 2019-00256: Solar energy is critical to future

Dear Public Service Commission,

As your constituent, I am writing to tell you how important solar energy is to Kentucky's future, and how critical our state's retail net metering program is to that future. We installed solar panels this year to help offset our carbon usage and to power our electric cars. We are thrilled with the result and feel that all Kentuckians should be able to produce electricity and store and share it with their neighbors through the grid.

Retail net metering enables people to become more energy independent with solar and fight back against monopoly utilities that have had a stranglehold on electricity for the past century.

People should have the right to produce, use, and share their own energy and not be reliant on others.

More solar energy means more good jobs for Kentucky. More solar energy also means more good jobs for Kentucky. Neighboring states like Illinois and Tennessee have 3x the number of solar jobs compared to Kentucky. Let's grow the economy, create jobs, and make our state more energy independent.

I urge you to protect solar energy in Kentucky!

Sincerely, Cheryl Irwin 173 Preston Avenue Lexington, KY 40502 United States

To: <u>Lunda Smith-Dike</u>

Subject: your comments in case 2019-00256 - Implementation of the Net Metering Act

Date: Monday, September 9, 2019 3:52:00 PM

### Dear Ms. Smith-Dike:

Thank you for the comments you have submitted to the Kentucky Public Service Commission in case 2019-00256. They will be placed into the case record for the Commission to consider as it prepares it final report in the matter.

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Main 502-564-3940

From: Lunda Smith-Dike <

Sent: Saturday, August 17, 2019 2:33 PM

To: PSC - Public Information Officer < PSC.Info@ky.gov>

**Subject:** Re Case 2019-00256: Grow solar energy in Kentucky!

Dear Public Service Commission,

As your constituent, I am writing to tell you how important solar energy is to Kentucky's future, and how critical our state's retail net metering program is to that future.

Retail net metering enables people to become more energy independent with solar and fight back against monopoly utilities that have had a stranglehold on electricity for the past century. People should have the right to produce, use, and share their own energy and not be reliant on others.

More solar energy means more good jobs for Kentucky. More solar energy also means more good jobs for Kentucky. Neighboring states like Illinois and Tennessee have 3x the number of solar jobs compared to Kentucky. Let's grow the economy, create jobs, and make our state more energy independent.

I urge you to protect solar energy in Kentucky!

Sincerely, Lunda Smith-Dike Wellington, KY 40387 United States

To: <u>Dave Kreher</u>

Subject: your comments in case 2019-00256 - Implementation of the Net Metering Act

**Date:** Monday, September 9, 2019 3:51:00 PM

#### Dear Mr. Kreher:

Thank you for the comments you have submitted to the Kentucky Public Service Commission in case 2019-00256. They will be placed into the case record for the Commission to consider as it prepares it final report in the matter.

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Thank you again for your interest in this matter.

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Andrew.melnykovych@ky.gov
Direct line 502-782-2564
Cell 502-330-5981
Main 502-564-3940

From: Dave Kreher <

**Sent:** Friday, August 16, 2019 12:13 PM

**To:** PSC - Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov> **Subject:** Comments on Case Number 2019-00256

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Case Number 20019-00256 regarding the net metering changes resulting from the Kentucky State legislature's passage of SB100 earlier this year.

My name is Dave Kreher and I am the Executive Director of People's Self-Help Housing, Inc. a 501(c)3 nonprofit providing affordable housing opportunities to low and very low income households in Lewis County.

Since 1982, our organization has constructed 360 new, energy efficient homes for households with limited incomes in our county. In 2009, to insure long term affordability for homebuyers with low and very low incomes, we started adding small rooftop solar arrays (6-8 panels) to provide approximately 1/3 of the homeowner's electricity using net metering provided by East Kentucky Power through the Fleming Mason Energy Cooperative. We now have 20 new homeowners in the Tollesboro area of Lewis County whose homes are more affordable throughout their30 year mortgage term due to the dollar for dollar credit they receive when their solar array produces more electric than their home requires. Since these homes began receiving net metering service under the prior statute, I understand they will continue to receive the full retail rate until 25 years from the beginning date of their net metering.

Going forward however, any reductions in the full retail credit rates will significantly reduce the return of investment on the installation of rooftop solar arrays, negating our incentive to invest in solar energy and eliminating an important tool we use to keep homes affordable for low income households. Without the <u>full</u> retail credit rates for net metering customers, we will no longer be able to provide solar energy for new homes, ending an effective affordability factor that has been feasible over the past ten years.

Respectfully,

Dave Kreher
Executive Director

People's Self-Help- Housing, Inc. 307 KY 59, Vanceburg, KY 41179

Phone Fax

visit us @ www.pshhinc.org

To: Bill Slater

Subject: your comments in case 2019-00256 - Implementation of the Net Metering Act

Date: Monday, September 9, 2019 3:50:00 PM

#### Dear Mr. Slater:

Thank you for the comments you have submitted to the Kentucky Public Service Commission in case 2019-00256. They will be placed into the case record for the Commission to consider as it prepares it final report in the matter.

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From: Bill Slater <

**Sent:** Friday, August 9, 2019 5:49 PM

**To:** PSC - Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: Case Related Question - #2019-00256

My name is Bill slater and I reside at 595 Coghill Lane Harrodsburg KY 40330. I am commenting on case number 2019-00256 regarding net metering. I am concerned about the future of clean energy in KY. Will net-metering be effectively terminated with the filing of the first utility rate case concerning net metering? If so, how is one to install a residential clean energy system if the value of the solar energy produced is reduced substantially thus rendering installation financially untenable? I am concerned that we in KY will be harming if not eliminating a growing industry that contributes to overall public health if the valuation is low. Consider the Martin County disaster of 2000 and the result that plagues the residents (and really all of us) to this day. High levels of heavy metals, including mercury, lead, and arsenic, as well as other industrial pollutants flooded the area at the time of the

disaster. The sludge worked its way down two tributaries of the Tug Fork River in Martin County, where it polluted 100 miles of streams, creeks, and rivers, obliterating fish and wildlife in its path. When rate cases are filed does the PSC ever take into account the destruction of our land, air, and water, or does the PSC simply raise the water rates due to the need for new infrastructure to deliver potable water to residents who are adversely affected by fossil fuel generation? My point is this; solar energy benefits everyone, even the utilities, while creating jobs for the people of KY. Solar energy is not only the future, it is the present. We need solar energy and we need solar energy systems installed everywhere. We need distributed generation. Let's see about valuing solar energy at its true value. The floor should be the retail rate at the very least. The true value is certainly retail + premium.

Lets assume that the PSC permits a significant clean energy devaluation that renders solar installation untenable. Can you tell me who owns the demand interval data that is generated by a given utility subscriber? Is demand interval data the property of the subscriber? If so, I can see where that information would have real value to a homeowner/farmer etc... insomuch as it may afford an opportunity to work with a solar installer to power the home behind the meter. Certainly this information is the property of the utility customer to obtain upon request. I would especially appreciate a response to this question.

Thank You,

Bill Slater 595 Coghill Lane Harrodsburg KY 40330

To: William Jason Buckles

Subject: your comments in case 2019-00256 - Implementation of the Net Metering Act

**Date:** Monday, September 9, 2019 4:01:00 PM

### Dear Mr. Buckles:

Thank you for the comments you have submitted to the Kentucky Public Service Commission in case 2019-00256. They will be placed into the case record for the Commission to consider as it prepares it final report in the matter.

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From: William Jason Buckles <

**Sent:** Friday, September 6, 2019 5:54 PM

To: PSC - Public Information Officer < PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: Re Case 2019-00256: Solar energy is critical to future

Dear Public Service Commission,

As your constituent, I am writing to tell you how important solar energy is to Kentucky's future, and how critical our state's retail net metering program is to that future.

I kept up with the legislation for the literal power grab. At no point was it articulated, in anything I saw, how net metering detracts from anyone! There was talk about it not being fair to non-net metered residents, but I don't see how that is. I pay the same usage fees as non-net metered resident do, they just don't realize it. I bet maybe 1 in 1000 may actually know this. I just make my own electricity, and my neighbors during sunny days. Utility companies want

more justification for profit, and control of the electricity.

I chose to pay my utility bill at once for the next 25 years with the purchase of solar panels. Over the 25 year life span of my panels they will decrease production gradually. They should not be completely used up after 25 years. Yet, the grandfather clause is just 25 years.

If anything needs to come from all of this, the utilities should give a fair rate for locally produced electricity that they are selling to my neighbor. No long distance line loss factor. The rate suggested by many of 0.1 to 1 is a joke.

When someone can clearly articulate to me the need for reducing the 1 to 1 net metering, I'll listen. It should be factual and scientific based, not just monetary.

If a fair rate can be decided then this should not kill the solar industry in KY. I made the solar commitment with the understanding that KY was a solar friendly state. When it turns unfriendly, who's going to be around to maintain my system?

Sincerely, William Jason Buckles 1213 Mud Splash Rd. Glendale, KY 42740