

Oost, Julie

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Sent: Friday, September 09, 2011 10:24 AM
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Comments on the 2012 Draft Power Procurement Plan, 9/9/11

Submitted to the Illinois Power Agency by Phillip Geil, Mahomet, IL

Copies to Senator Dale Righer) and Representative Chapin Rose

As an owner of 8kW PV and 10kW Wind systems I welcome this opportunity to comment on the 2012 Draft Procurement Plan (the “Draft Plan”). It is my understanding that the Solar Carve Out in the Illinois Renewable Energy Standard (RES) is one of the most aggressive solar mandates in the nation. It could both be the source of significant job growth and economic development in Illinois and a benefit to persons such as I who have distributed power systems. As the recipient of funds derived from RECs purchased by Naperville through the ISEA I know of how much benefit they can be to the small power system owners and how limited the current program is.

Unfortunately, in so far as I can tell, the Solar Carve Out implementation process outlined in the Draft Plan will not yield these benefits to the State or me. In the Draft Plan it appears that the IPA proposes to procure RECs, including SRECs and WRECs, through an auction in which I (and similar small scale, distributed system owners) will not be able to participate due to the complexity of the process. This is a lost opportunity for the state to promote individual ownership of solar and wind systems and the growth of small-scale installation companies.

Solar module prices have plummeted in the last two years, approaching \$1.25/watt (not including installation), making both rooftop and ground mounted solar highly cost effective; we generate more than 11,000 kWh annually from our solar system, having originally paid ca. \$3.00/watt and it is cost effective. “Fuel costs are zero, transmission costs are zero, and distributed solar delivers benefits to the electric distribution system by providing power at peak hours when other generation resources are at their most expensive, generating considerable savings on our electric bill. The wind system, on the other hand, complements the solar system in providing more power in the winter and overnight. Initiating an SREC procurement program for distributed solar (and wind, if possible) systems in 2012, possibly based on the average price derived from the auctions, would allow the state and our power companies to take advantage of these benefits and also support badly needed job growth and economic development; installation of home-based systems would generate considerably more jobs/watt installed than the large scale systems and bring continued benefit to more Illinois residents

Thus, I highly recommend and request that the IPA modify the Draft Plan to include language stating affirmatively that the Agency will (1) create a procurement program for solar and wind renewable energy credits (RECs) from distributed energy systems; (2) implement the program over multiple years to encourage sustainable, long-term growth of Illinois’ solar and wind industry; and (3) hold a series of workshops prior to

the Spring 2012 procurement events to furnish appropriate information, and seek stakeholder input, on program features and implementation procedures. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Phillip Geil

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