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March 17, 2006

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Attn: Secretary
P.O.Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Comments of
BRUBAKER FARMS

Regarding

Docket No. L-00050174/M-00051865

Proposed Rulemaking Re Net Metering for Customer-generators pursuant to Section 5 of the
Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act, 73 P.S. § 1648.5

This letter is to address the proposed rulemaking regarding Net Metering for customer-generators.

Brubaker Farms is a third generation dairy and poultry farm consisting of a partnership of three family members and their families. We are very active in both agriculture organizations and the local community. Our leadership is provided on the township planning commission, the Farm Bureau, Mt. Joy Farmers Co-op, Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board, Pennsylvania Animal Health Commission and the Governor's Renewable Ag Energy Council. What gives us the most satisfaction, though is running our farm to its utmost potential while at the same time taking care of our people, animals and the environment. We are currently well into the planning stage for an anaerobic digester on our farm. We commend the Commission and staff for positively addressing net metering, to allow for the benefits of renewable energy generated on the farm. I appreciate the opportunity to offer the following comments and recommendations.

Many farms are organized similar to ours in their layout. Animals are housed in many different barns at separate noncontiguous farms with many meters, often not of the same rate class. In our case, we have 8 different meters for our operation located up to two miles apart. The way the standards are proposed, only 3 of the meters could be used for Net Metering. Unfortunately, in farming, buildings and electric meters are often spread out to fully utilize the land and protect the health of the animals, thereby, making a single meter impractical.

We believe all of our barns, buildings, structures, and residences that are a part of the farming operation should be included in net metering regardless of their rate class or geographic location in order for the full benefits to be applied.

The proposed regulations deal with the issue of multiple meters through physical and virtual "meter aggregation". This is defined as:

"the combination of readings and billing for all meters *in a particular rate class on contiguous and adjacent properties* owned and operated by a customer-generator"

This language has three major problems:

1. The average farm has meters in three different rate classes entering the farming operation.
2. The average farm has multiple meters on non-contiguous farm properties.
3. The average farm does not own all of the properties which it operates. In a highly competitive real estate market, ownership of all production land and facilities is often not possible. Most

farms have several farm properties which are rented or leased, though effectively integrated into the farming operation in a manner indistinguishable from owned properties.

We would recommend the language to be changed for both physical and virtual meter aggregation to read: *"the combination of readings and billing for all meters in all rate classes on all properties under operational control of a customer-generator."* In order to deal with the multiple rate classes, I recommend that onsite generation is first applied to the meter through which the system feeds. Then all excess should be applied equally to other meters in the farm operation, allowing each meter to maintain its current rate class.

Thank you very much for taking the time to consider our comments. By adopting the noted suggestions, you can provide a win-win situation for both the utility and the agriculture community. This is also an opportunity to be proactive in providing additional renewable energy to your customers.

Please call to discuss any of these suggestions in more detail.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Brubaker
Partner/owner
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