

3061



June 23, 2016

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RE: IRRC #3061
PUC Docket #L-2014-2404361

IRRC Commissioners:

TeamAg, Inc. works with a large number of agricultural and livestock clients throughout the Commonwealth. We are concerned about the proposed rulemaking order and its impact on future on-farm manure management initiatives. We request that you consider our suggestions below.

The proposed 75.13 (a) (1) now appears to require customer-generators to have an existing electric load. This is a new provision, and while it may be intended to limit availability of net metering to any new alternative energy system (solar, wind) that has no load, it may again have unintended consequences on agriculture's attempt to address environmental issues in a cost effective manner. Currently operating dairies already have an electric load, and this section would not immediately affect them. However, this would exclude a third party entity that might take manure from several farms for a regional manure to energy system. For example, a new community facility which would receive manure from multiple smaller farms for economy of scale would be exempt from net-metering benefits. We request that proposed 75.13 (a) (1) be removed.

The current and proposed rule restricts other alternative energy sources, such as gasification. The rule should not restrict technologies. Gasification is a proven technology that the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has established a Conservation Practice Code. Gasification has an excellent potential for processing for livestock manure and other biomass waste. Gasification is a high-temperature, oxygen-starved thermal process that releases energy from manure, litter, or other biomass. This process could have a huge benefit for the Chesapeake Bay, and is included in the Commonwealth's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan. This proposed rule seems to be excessively restrictive of alternative energy sources including proven technologies, such as gasification. **We suggest modifying the definition of (vii) Biomass energy to include: (D) Waste-to-Energy systems, including, but not limited to, biological and thermal waste processing and treatment systems which generate electricity utilizing by-products from farms and including dairy manure, hog manure, poultry litter, food waste and spent mushroom substrates.**

We are also concerned about the proposed definition of Utility, in that it now includes any entity or person that generates electricity. This definition could be used to include customer-generators and thereby disqualify them from the benefits of net-metering? We suggest the

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following wording to be added: THIS TERM EXCLUDES... CUSTOMER-GENERATORS GENERATING LESS THAN 5 MW.

We believe that the PUC's continued proposals will limit agriculture's ability to self-fund and sustain innovative manure management systems which utilize animal waste-to-energy. This potentially has a negative impact on current and future investments by farm families throughout the Commonwealth to meet their environmental obligations. We appreciate the opportunity to comment and hope that again, the IRRRC will disapprove the PUC's proposed final form rule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Williamson".

John Williamson
TeamAg, Inc.

cc. Honorable Representative David Zimmerman,
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51B East Wing
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