Greetings:

I am a rooftop solar owner and would like to comment on the ongoing fight between APS and the Solar industry.

I have a relatively small system (about 2.5KW) so I occasionally send power back to the grid (and enjoy seeing my meter run backwards) but I never send more than I demand for even a day, let alone a year. I bought my system because I wanted to help the utilities meet the mandate of >15% pollution free sources, I want to see a modest decrease in my bill, and I want to help the environment.

I have read the articles on net metering and have never seen what I think is a simple concept discussed. I suggest that a big improvement in the rate system and billing would be to separate the cost of generating the power from the cost of maintaining/improving the facilities. With this done, whoever drew power from the grid would pay only for the amount he drew (the homeowner pays for it at the price that all people pay (even those who don’t have solar)). In parallel, the utility should be able to quantify the amount it needs to build (less frequently because of the solar impact), service, and maintain the power grid structure. Everyone should pay the same share of those costs because we all use the facilities at one point or another.

A given utility bill may stay the same but the price per kilowatt-hr may even go down because the costs for grid maintenance would compensate.

I think APS is “asking for the moon” and hoping they get something. The above idea might help both parties come to a solution.

Notice from my address that I am an SRP customer. I am vocal now because whatever comes from the APS case will surely spill over onto SRP, TEP, and others sooner or later.
ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Freeman Smith
Phoenix, AZ 85044

*End of Complaint*

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:
10/31
Emailed to the Phoenix ACC office for docketing.
FILE CLOSED.
*End of Comments*

Date Completed: 10/31/2013

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