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Boyd, Jocelyn

From: Boyd, Jocelyn
Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2019 3:55 PM
To: Nelson, Jeff; Grube-Lybarker, Carri; Becky Dover ; Kenneth.burgess@dominionenergy.com; matthew.gissendanner@dominionenergy.com; Jamey Goldin; Weston Adams; richard@rlwhitt.law; Edwards, Nanette; Pittman, Jenny; Belton T. Zeigler; Mitchell Willoughby (MWilloughby@Willoughbyhoefer.com); Weston Adams; Blan Holman; ahand@willoughbyhoefer.com; sferguson@selcsc.org; seaton@spilmanlaw.com; dwilliamson@spilmanlaw.com; cgrundmann@spilmanlaw.com; Jeremy Hodges; Jeremy Hodges; Scott Elliott; richard@rlwhitt.law; bsnowden@kilpatricktownsend.com; lbowen@selcnc.org; mhutt@selcnc.org; Heather Smith; Dulin, Rebecca Jean; Becky Dover ; Grube-Lybarker, Carri; Jamey Goldin; Weston Adams; richard@rlwhitt.law; Edwards, Nanette; Bateman, Andrew; Knowles, Alex; Weston Adams; Blan Holman; Samuel J. Wellborn; fellerbe@robinsongray.com; sferguson@selcsc.org; seaton@spilmanlaw.com; cgrundmann@spilmanlaw.com; dwilliamson@spilmanlaw.com; Jeremy Hodges; Jeremy Hodges; Scott Elliott; richard@rlwhitt.law; bbreitschwerdt@mcguirewoods.com; bsnowden@kilpatricktownsend.com; mhutt@selcnc.org; lbowen@selcnc.org; len.anthony1@gmail.com; trey.gowdy@nelsonmullins.com; Heather Smith; Dulin, Rebecca Jean; Grube-Lybarker, Carri; Becky Dover ; Jamey Goldin; Weston Adams; richard@rlwhitt.law; Bateman, Andrew; Edwards, Nanette; robsmith@mvalaw.com; Knowles, Alex; Weston Adams; Blan Holman; Samuel J. Wellborn; fellerbe@robinsongray.com; sferguson@selcsc.org; seaton@spilmanlaw.com; cgrundmann@spilmanlaw.com; dwilliamson@spilmanlaw.com; Jeremy Hodges; Jeremy Hodges; Scott Elliott; richard@rlwhitt.law; bbreitschwerdt@mcguirewoods.com; lbowen@selcnc.org; mhutt@selcnc.org; len.anthony1@gmail.com; trey.gowdy@nelsonmullins.com
Subject: FW: [External] Fwd: PURPA was created to give small solar developers access to the market

Importance: High

Dear Parties of Record in Docket Numbers 2019-184-E, 2019-185-E, and 2019-186-E,

Please see the request below from Commissioner Ervin:

As required by the provisions of the Code of Judicial Conduct concerning ex parte communications, please send all attorneys of record on the Dominion Energy and Duke Energy dockets the attached email I sent in response to Rebecca Haynes' email with CVSC.

I will give the parties and their attorneys an opportunity at our January 3, 2020, PSC business meeting to express any concerns or comments on the record including asking me to recuse from participating in any motions for reconsideration or rehearing. The Duke Energy parties and attorneys will be given the same opportunity to be heard on my recusal on January 3, 2020, as well.

Sincerely,
Tom Ervin

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From: Tom Ervin <tomervin@bellsouth.net>
Date: December 13, 2019 at 10:50:27 PM EST
To: rebecca@cvsc.org
Cc: john@cvsc.org
Subject: Re: PURPA was created to give small solar developers access to the market

Rebecca:
Decades ago, PURPA was passed by Congress to give small scale renewable providers with access to the market. This federal legislation requires monopoly utilities to accept "must take" solar and other renewables and so the small providers have a level playing field with access to the marketplace.

The PSC didn't "slash rates". We are required by law to determine "avoided cost rates" based upon actual utility costs which are driven by market conditions like the cost of natural gas which is currently trading at the lowest prices since 1999. Solar energy will continue to be an important part of the state's energy portfolio. Technological breakthroughs in battery storage have the potential to make solar an even more valuable investment in meeting our future energy needs. Battery storage will empower solar to meet peak demands for electricity on cold winter evenings when the sun isn't shining. Solar plus storage will be the next development that provides renewable energy with a strong footprint. Storage is a game changer because it increases the market value of solar.

The PSC is required by law to adopt "avoided cost rates" which are fair, just and reasonable to the ratepayers, the small solar developers and the utilities. This is a difficult balancing act which requires insuring that all parties and intervenors are treated fairly given the facts presented at the hearing. Unintended consequences like overpayment risks pose significant negative financial impacts on low and moderate income customers in our state. Like several other states, North Carolina recently reduced the length of their power purchase agreements from 15 years to 5 years noting how difficult it is to predict how future conditions might change. For example, if natural gas prices go back up in ten years, avoided cost rates will also increase. So it's in the solar developers best interest as well as the ratepayers best interest to reset avoided cost rates periodically rather than be locked into lower rates for longer terms.

"Large solar developers" aren't affected by the recent PSC Order since they are not covered by PURPA. We appreciate CVSC's passionate support for clean energy and hope you will accept these observations as being supportive of your mission. South Carolina deserves a clean energy future.
Best wishes,
Tom

On Dec 13, 2019, at 8:35 AM, Rebecca Haynes <rebecca@cvsc.org> wrote:

CVSC
CONSERVATION VOTERS
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Tom,

Just a few weeks ago, I emailed you about a "doomsday scenario" for South Carolina's large-scale solar deve
Public Service Commission's latest vote.

Thank you to those who took action and contacted your elected officials – your voice was heard and we are
are getting involved, but we need your help to keep the pressure on. We're asking citizens to sign on to a "R
solar energy, which will be delivered to the PSC on Dec. 20th.

Sign on here

In case you missed it?

In their November vote, the PSC slashed the payments that utilities make to large-scale solar producers by 3
to 10 years, despite evidence that 15-20 year contracts are critical for solar development to occur. The comb
and short contracts essentially will stagnate solar development in South Carolina for the next two years.

In response to your public outcry, legislators from around the state are speaking out! Check out these editori

Sen. Tom Davis - Post and Courier

Rep. Shannon Erickson - Island Packet

Rep. Bobby Cox - Greenville News

Rep. Max Hyde - Spartanburg Herald

What's Next?

The Commission issued their final order for the Dominion case earlier this week and we're keeping an eye ou
around December 27th. If parties request reconsideration or rehearing in the Dominion case, we expect the
determination on January 3, 2020.

What Can You Do?

Sign our Ratepayer Letter to the Public Service Commission.

We are gathering signatures from ratepayers across the state for a letter in support of clean energy in South
letter to the PSC, making sure they hear our voice, before their final ruling to make sure they hear our voice.

Add your name to the Ratepayer letter by December 19th by clicking here! >> https://p2a.co/2fgykNO

The coming weeks will be packed with action - so stay tuned for more updates.

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Rebecca Haynes

Deputy Director

Stay Connected:

Mail: CVSC
701 Whaley Street
Columbia, SC 29201
United States

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