



July 22, 2019

Progressive Energy Group  
1981 Downer Place Suite 402  
Aurora, IL 60506

Illinois Power Agency  
105 West Madison Street, Suite 1401  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Program Administrator:

Progressive Energy Group would like to provide feedback specifically related to:

**D. June 26, Afternoon Session: Community Solar, Consumer Protections**

5. Disclosure forms. How can the disclosure forms (and process) be streamlined to be more consumer friendly while still maintaining their essential purpose of providing essential program information to customers? How can the complexity of varying net metering credits (e.g., default service compared to many different ARES levels) and the resulting impact on customer value from solar be best conveyed? Are the simpler disclosure forms for over 25 kW projects providing the appropriate program information?
6. Consumer protection requirements. Are the Agency's published consumer protection requirements, installation contract requirements, community solar contract requirements, standard consumer brochures, and other published conditions properly allowing Approved Vendors to market and price competitively while protecting consumers? Should anything be revisited? What issues can be expected with community solar subscription marketing?

Progressive Energy Group would like the Illinois Power Authority to consider allowing a Governmental Aggregator as defined under the Illinois Municipal Aggregation Opt-Out legislation (20 ILCS 3855/1-92) to be able to sign the Illinois Shines Community Solar Informational Brochure and Standard Disclosure Form on behalf of the members of the aggregation. Under Section 1-92 of the Illinois Power Agency Act ("IPA Act") residents by referendum have empowered the governmental aggregator to enter into contracts on their behalf. A proper interpretation of Section 1-92 is that the governmental aggregator has the authority to enter into contracts on behalf of the members of the aggregation.

Under Section 1-92 of the IPA Act

***(a) The corporate authorities of a municipality or county board of a county may adopt an ordinance under which it may aggregate in accordance with this Section residential and small commercial retail electrical loads located, respectively, within the municipality or the unincorporated areas of the county and, for that purpose, may solicit bids and enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the sale and purchase of electricity and related services and equipment. (emphasis added)***

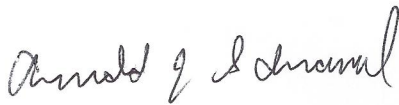
We understand and fully support that residential and small customers need consumer protections. We also believe and history has shown that in Illinois "Opt Out" Aggregation Programs have proven the most successful way for small customers to participate in deregulated energy markets. Specifically, the programs we have consulted with have always had:

- Price match guarantees against utility rates
- \$0 early termination fees
- New enrollments allowed at anytime
- 100% audit process ensure residents who are enrolled with other ARES, or are on utility space heating, and hourly pricing customers are not enrolled in aggregation programs.
- Contract review by experienced Legal Counsel

Alternative Retail Electric Suppliers which participate in governmental aggregation programs are generally not subject to the Commission's Part 412 rules. Particularly to the point here, they do not enter into individual contracts with customers. They enter into contracts with the governmental aggregator after that governmental aggregator has followed all of the required procedures under the IPA Act. Progressive Energy Group experience is that customers receive greater protection by participating in governmental aggregation programs than from one-on-one marketing. Progressive Energy Group is not aware of any problems such as unauthorized enrollments (slamming) in the operation of governmental aggregation programs.

In conclusion, Progressive Energy Group respectfully requests, on behalf of its governmental aggregators and their citizens, that the Illinois Power Agency allow governmental aggregators to enter into agreements on behalf of their members.

Sincerely,



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