

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

Implementation of the Alternative Energy
Portfolio Standards Act of 2004

Public Meeting: February 11, 2016
2404361-LAW
Docket No. L-2014-2404361

STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER ROBERT F. POWELSON

Before the Commission today for disposition is the Final Rulemaking Order (Order) updating several of the Commission's Regulations implementing the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act of 2004 (AEPS Act). While the Order disposes of several issues pertaining to the AEPS Act, the provisions updating our regulations on net metering have been particularly contentious.

I firmly believe that all of the new regulations contained in the Order being voted on today are much-needed consumer protections, particularly the 200% limitation on systems that are eligible for net metering and the clarification of the definition of virtual meter aggregation. These regulations are narrowly tailored to balance the Commonwealth's policy of promoting the development of renewable generation sources with the Commission's mandate of maintaining affordable and reliable electricity service for consumers. Further, I do not believe that these regulations impose any unreasonable burdens on the responsible development of renewable generation sources.

It is worth noting the lengthy input process the Commission has undertaken while considering these proposed reforms. On February 20, 2014, the Commission first asked for comment on proposed regulations. Due to intense interest in this matter, the Commission extended the initial comment period to ensure that all interested stakeholders had an opportunity to be heard. After carefully reviewing all of the comments submitted in response to our proposed regulations, the Commission made further changes to our proposed rules and solicited yet another round of comments to ensure that every stakeholder's voice was adequately heard. An almost unprecedented number of stakeholders from diverse industries provided input to the Commission and every single comment was carefully considered. As a result of that input, I believe that the regulations set forth in the Order appropriately balance the interests of all stakeholders, including those of the agricultural community.

It is important to note that the reforms contained in the new regulations are not occurring in a vacuum – similar discussions are occurring nationwide as the need to revisit net metering is being, and has been, recognized in other states, such as Nevada and Arizona. As is outlined in the Order, these new regulations are less restrictive than those found in many other jurisdictions. Just as in those other jurisdictions, the Commission could not stand by and ignore issues created by the absence of firm rules governing net metering.

Lastly, I want to recognize our legal and technical staff for their work in crafting today's Order. The Order is balanced, clear and well written, which was no easy task considering the numerous competing comments and staff is to be commended.


ROBERT F. POWELSON
COMMISSIONER

Date: February 11, 2016