

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

5:00 PM

City Hall, Room 16

Regional Utilities Committee

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Lauren Poe, Chair

Mayor Craig Lowe, Member

Commissioner Susan Bottcher, Member

Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this meeting are requested to notify the Equal Opportunity Department at 334-5051 or call the TDD phone line at 334-2069 at least two business days in advance.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as drafted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

121015. RUC February 19, 2013 Meeting Minutes (B)

Attachments: [2013.2.19 RUC Meeting Minutes](#)

The minutes of the February 19, 2013 RUC meeting were approved as submitted.

RECOMMENDATION *Approve RUC February 19, 2013 meeting minutes as drafted.*

CURRENT ACTION ITEMS

120516. Solar Feed In Tariff Referral to the Regional Utilities Committee (B)

Attachments: [#120516 Renewable Energy Presentation 2-19-13](#)
[RUC #120516 Solar Net Metering Presentation 4-17-13-Modified](#)

Lewis Walton gave a presentation on net metering and addressed some questions raised by the Committee at the February 19th meeting. Mr. Walton explained that initial solar policies were developed to encourage solar growth. However, now the markets are changing, costs of solar have substantially declined making it more cost effective for customers to install solar, and the current policy is creating upward rate pressure. He explained solar cost trends, compared FIT costs with net metering costs, and provided a comparison of our solar programs to other utilities in the state. He closed with a recommendation that net metering be paid at the retail fuel adjustment for excess generation monthly. Additionally, he recommended that we eliminate the residential solar PV rebate and consider adjustments to the Solar FIT program.

A great deal of public discussion ensued regarding the merits of the current net metering structure and what changes might be beneficial. It was suggested that rolling any excess kWh produced beyond those used by the customer be credited to the next month and any excess at the end of the year be paid at the avoided cost of generation, much like the current Florida PSC model, would keep rates lower as well as discourage over-sizing of systems.

Citizen Linda McGurn raised an issue regarding taxes paid on power used by a net metering customer and whether GRU should refund part of those taxes when we pay for the power sent back to the grid. Diane Wilson explained that the power sent back to the grid is purchased power, which we treat as fuel, and therefore no tax applies. Commissioner Poe asked staff to compare the costs of paying out monthly versus annually and bring a recommendation with alternatives to the full commission. He asked that we consider the tax issue raised by Mrs. McGurn.

RECOMMENDATION

Hear a follow up presentation of research and recommendations resulting from questions at the February 19, 2013 RUC meeting.

MEMBER COMMENT

CITIZEN COMMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE

May 9, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.