



ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 7, 2017

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April Open Meeting News Briefs

Commission Approves Enhancement of Community Solar in Tucson

(Phoenix) The Arizona Corporation Commission approved an agreement that will enhance and promote community solar in Tucson.

The agreement allows Ventana Medical Systems Inc. to purchase a large amount of solar energy from Tucson Electric Power Company (TEP) at a premium rate. Ventana will acquire between six and ten megawatts of generating capacity under the Bright Tucson Community Power Program. TEP has agreed to similar agreements with other large customers.

The Commission approved the Bright Tucson Community Power Program in August of 2010 to provide access to solar and distributed energy without requiring customers to invest in a self-owned system or entering long term contracts. Under the program, one or more solar photovoltaic power plants are either constructed or owned by TEP or by a private developer which operates the plants under a Purchase Power Agreement. The customer can buy one or more “blocks” from the solar plants. Each block represents 150 kWh of electric energy per month.

As of January 2017, 1,226 residential customers and 116 non-residential customers have purchased a total of 20,771 solar blocks under the program representing 3,115,650 kWh per month of energy.

Commission Approves Rates for Southwest Gas Customers and Increases Assistance for Low-income Families

(Phoenix) The Arizona Corporation Commission approved a rate application for Southwest Gas customers which involves a minimal increase in the monthly bill and also increases the eligibility for low income customers to qualify for assistance.

Southwest Gas originally asked for a \$31.9 million increase in revenue. A settlement agreement which was approved by the Commission set that revenue increase at \$16 million. The average annual bill impact for residential customers would be an increase of 1.09 percent. The conditions of the rate case included an amendment by Commissioner Andy Tobin which requires the company to investigate the feasibility of adopting an automatic enrollment process to enroll more customers in the Low Income Ratepayer Assistance Program.

Southwest Gas serves 1.9 million people in Arizona, California, and Nevada.

Established by Article 15 of the state's constitution, the Arizona Corporation Commission is responsible for the regulation of public utilities, overseeing the incorporation or registration of companies wishing to do business in Arizona. Additionally, the Corporation Commission registers and oversees securities offerings and dealers, and enforces railroad and pipeline safety. The five commissioners that make up the Commission are elected by the people of Arizona for a four-year term, with the option of serving for two consecutive terms. To learn more about the Arizona Corporation Commission and the Commissioners, please check out <http://www.azcc.gov/Divisions/Administration/about.asp>