
comment

David.Ronen <David.Ronen@adelectricalsupply.com>
To: ABP Administrator InClime <admin@illinoisabp.com>

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We have a great working relationship with the IPA, Ameren and almost all of the coops. The last year has been an absolute terrible rollercoaster ride. We went from the bid program which was working great to nothing at all. The old program worked great. Hundreds of happy customers guaranteed srecs. Now we have no clue what to tell people. Some customers have been waiting since last July for credits. We currently have over 300 customers waiting for the new program! Our phone never stops ringing, everyone wants to know about recs. All of these customers were aware that there was a risk they might not receive recs. We had over 100 people in some way shape or form with a job related to the solar program. Now we are down to about 15 and we have no certain future for them. We have over 300 projects in que for the new program but after listening to the webinar I have no clarity at all. I received a call from a company yesterday wanting us to bid 30 2MW projects in the large category. This would almost wipe out the entire large category and this is only one company. The sad thing is they could not even pronounce Ameren. If this program would have been released earlier this year I think a lot of this could have been avoided. In the 14 days from what I can tell you will fill all the categories except for the small at least 15x over. We have spent half of this year working on projects trying to hold seminars to help people understand the programs and just do the right things. Now from what I can see every person from all over the world is going to try to flood the Illinois market and make a mess of it. I watched this happen in Missouri and now almost every company is gone and over half the systems are not even operable. The goal of this was to create jobs here in Illinois. We are trying to do that but if you allow all these companies to come into Illinois and just try to take all they can it will be worse than Missouri. Also it will only bring in part time help from out of state then they will all be gone. I watched this happen in Missouri and in the coal industry where I live. We live here, we support local business, we create Illinois jobs. We have spent countless days explain to schools and colleges about PPA vs. purchasing. So many companies are trying to take advantage of our already strapped schools. Also a very important question is what do we tell the customers that lose out on the lottery? Are they going to have another program after this? These programs need consistency. If the state truly wants to create and keep jobs this is not the way to do it. In the end please see our suggestions below. I think these are reasonable and definitely better for the taxpayer.

1. Break apart the Large category into at least one more category to allow our agriculture and commercial customers a fair chance. 60% of our customer base would fall into this category. We have over 100 projects in this category.

a. Examples

- i. 0-10kw
- ii. 10-100kw
- iii. 100kw-2MW

2. I know it is probably not possible but allow Illinois companies priorities. This was the entire point of the program, create Illinois jobs!!

3. Do not allow dual entry!! As all the companies are finding out the community solar is full they are applying in the large also. This should not be allowed.
4. Do not allow PPA's in the program. These programs are only to the advantage of the company providing them not to the end user.