

10/25/2023

To: Lee County Electric Co-op (LCEC)
Subject: New PURPA Standards

To Whom It May Concern,

Hello! My name is [REDACTED]. I live on Sanibel and have been part of LCEC since 2004. Having experienced the devastation from Hurricane Ian, I am very aware of what has been needed from our utilities.

Thank you for inviting members to comment on the new Federal standards resulting from amendments to the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA), designed to support reduced peak energy usage, pricing structures to reduce energy bills, and measures to promote greater electrification of the transportation sector.

Hurricane Ian made it clear that Southwest Florida must develop a resilient power system if we are to remain thriving communities well into the future. That means not only developing a power system able to withstand increased storm intensity and rising sea levels, but also one that minimizes, or eliminates, any contribution to these climate-driven threats.

The new proposed standards are examples of investments utilities across the nation are making to update our nation's power grid and implement practices to improve energy resilience.

Whether or not LCEC decides to implement these new PURPA standards at this time, I encourage you to pursue policies and investments that modernize the electric grid, including strategies and technology to manage demand and minimize energy waste and costs, improve energy efficiency, harden infrastructure, allow essential services to function even when the grid is down, and transition to both centralized and distributed renewable energy sources. I also applaud you for your net metering program that supports rooftop solar, along with energy efficiency and cost containment strategies already in place. These and other measures to create a more resilient power system are essential for protecting the strong economy and quality of life we have enjoyed in Southwest Florida. I strongly believe further strategic planning and investments in these areas should be a priority for LCEC over the coming decade.

10/29/2023

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is [REDACTED] and I've been an LCEC member since 2009.

Thank you for inviting members to comment on the new Federal standards resulting from amendments to the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA), designed to

support reduced peak energy usage, pricing structures to reduce energy bills, and measures to promote greater electrification of the transportation sector.

Hurricane Ian made it clear that Southwest Florida must develop a resilient power system if we are to remain thriving communities well into the future. That means not only developing a power system able to withstand increased storm intensity and rising sea levels, but also one that minimizes, or eliminates, any contribution to these climate-driven threats.

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Whether or not LCEC decides to implement these new PURPA standards at this time, I encourage you to pursue policies and investments that modernize the electric grid, including strategies and technology to manage demand and minimize energy waste and costs, improve energy efficiency, harden infrastructure, allow essential services to function even when the grid is down, and transition to both centralized and distributed renewable energy sources. I also applaud you for your net metering program that supports rooftop solar, along with energy efficiency and cost containment strategies already in place. These and other measures to create a more resilient power system are essential for protecting the strong economy and quality of life we have enjoyed in Southwest Florida. I strongly believe further strategic planning and investments in these areas should be a priority for LCEC over the coming decade.

Additionally, I would request that LCEC reaches out to the Insurance Industry to negotiate common ground in the utilization of rooftop solar and net metering that can still result in insurability for the homeowner. At present my understanding is that some Insurance Companies will cancel policies if a homeowner utilizes rooftop solar in conjunction with net metering. Not only does using clean solar energy benefit the planet, but also it may be one of the few sources of power left after a disaster damages the electric grid, such as after hurricane Ian.

10/29/2023

Dear friends,

I have been an LCEC member since 2006. I want to thank you for inviting members to comment on the new Federal standards resulting from amendments to the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA), designed to support reduced peak energy usage, pricing structures to reduce energy bills, and measures to promote greater electrification of the transportation sector.

In addition to being a Sanibel resident, I serve as co-chair for SanCap Resilience, a coalition group representing 16 local nonprofits, including business, conservation, government, and social services organizations. In my position, I hear from residents throughout the community

how much of a priority they feel it is to address all aspects of our community's resilience, including energy resilience.

I also serve on a leadership role for the Sanibel-Captiva Renewable Energy Working Group, which is actively working to promote solutions for energy resilience in our community.

Hurricane Ian made it clear that Southwest Florida must develop a resilient power system if we are to remain thriving communities well into the future. That means not only developing a power system able to withstand increased storm intensity and rising sea levels, but also one that minimizes, or eliminates, any contribution to these climate-driven threats.

The new proposed standards are examples of investments utilities across the nation are making to update our nation's power grid and implement practices to improve energy resilience. I see some clear advantages to the adoption of the new PURPA standards LCEC is required to consider. For example, there is currently no EV charging infrastructure on Sanibel and Captiva, and there is insufficient infrastructure throughout Southwest Florida to support the coming changes in transportation. Having said that, I understand that the priority of these two standards must be evaluated relative to other energy resiliency investments needed in our community. LCEC management is likely in the best position to determine whether or not to implement them at this time.

Whether or not LCEC decides to implement these new PURPA standards at this time, I encourage you to pursue policies and investments that modernize the electric grid, including strategies and technology to manage demand and minimize energy waste and costs, improve energy efficiency, harden infrastructure, allow essential services to function even when the grid is down, and transition to both centralized and distributed renewable energy sources. I also applaud you for your net metering program that supports rooftop solar, along with energy efficiency and cost containment strategies already in place. These and other measures to create a more resilient power system are essential for protecting the strong economy and quality of life we have enjoyed in Southwest Florida.

Hurricane Ian was a wake-up call. While we all hope nothing like it will occur again soon, we also know that the risks of extreme weather events and rising sea levels increase with every year that we do not directly address the causes of climate change. We need to harden and adapt our systems to withstand more extreme events and incorporate newer technology that allows critical services to receive power even when the grid is down. In addition, and most importantly, we need to move aggressively away from a reliance on power based on fossil fuels and transition to fully renewable electricity sources to power our economy, including electrifying the transportation sector. I urge LCEC management and its Board to make these issues a core focus of its 10-year strategic planning and investments.

10/30/2023

Lee County Electric Co-op (LCEC)
Subject: New PURPA Standards

To Whom It May Concern,

We are 12+ year Sanibel residents and customers of LCEC. We drive an electric car and hope you will help others invest in electric transportation to improve our environment.

Thank you for inviting members to comment on the new Federal standards resulting from amendments to the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA), designed to support reduced peak energy usage, pricing structures to reduce energy bills, and measures to promote greater electrification of the transportation sector.

Hurricane Ian made it clear that Southwest Florida must develop a resilient power system if we are to remain thriving communities well into the future. That means not only developing a power system able to withstand increased storm intensity and rising sea levels, but also one that minimizes, or eliminates, any contribution to these climate-driven threats.

The new proposed standards are examples of investments utilities across the nation are making to update our nation's power grid and implement practices to improve energy resilience.

Whether or not LCEC decides to implement these new PURPA standards at this time, I encourage you to pursue policies and investments that modernize the electric grid, including strategies and technology to manage demand and minimize energy waste and costs, improve energy efficiency, harden infrastructure, allow essential services to function even when the grid is down, and transition to both centralized and distributed renewable energy sources. I also applaud you for your net metering program that supports rooftop solar, along with energy efficiency and cost containment strategies already in place. These and other measures to create a more resilient power system are essential for protecting the strong economy and quality of life we have enjoyed in Southwest Florida. I strongly believe further strategic planning and investments in these areas should be a priority for LCEC over the coming decade.

We hope there is better planning for future storms and streamlining of reconnection issues. We also would like to see support for an electric trolley system to reduce traffic and auto emissions and more EV charging spots for tourists and residents.

10/31/2023

To: Lee County Electric Co-op (LCEC)

Subject: New PURPA Standards

To Whom It May Concern,

My husband and I have been property owners on Sanibel Island since 2018 and have always cared deeply about the island and its residents. Our biggest love for the island comes from the sense of stewardship that most of the residents here share--taking care of the land, the water, and the wildlife. LCEC has been our electricity provider since we purchased property, and I am writing to express my opinion about the new Federal standards that have been designed to help sustain the quality of life as our climate changes and our sea levels rise.

I thank you for inviting members to comment on these new Federal standards resulting from amendments to the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA), designed to support reduced peak energy usage, pricing structures to reduce energy bills, and measures to promote greater electrification of the transportation sector.

We lost our condo on Sanibel when hurricane Ian hit. The storm made it clear that Southwest Florida must develop a resilient power system. We know that storms are increasing in both their intensity and in their frequency, making barrier islands such as Sanibel very vulnerable. We need a power system able to withstand increased storm intensity and rising sea levels, but also one that minimizes, or eliminates, any contribution to these climate-driven threats. Sadly, time is not on our side. We really need to draw down our greenhouse gases as quickly as possible and build resiliency into our power systems.

The new proposed standards are examples of investments utilities across the nation are making to update our nation's power grid and implement practices to improve energy resilience, and to help stabilize and reduce our carbon footprint. My husband and I continue to take steps to reduce our individual carbon footprints, but we believe significant change relies on systemic statewide and nationwide policies and incentives.

I encourage you to pursue policies and investments that modernize the electric grid, including strategies and technology to manage demand and minimize energy waste and costs, improve energy efficiency, harden infrastructure, allow essential services to function even when the grid is down, and transition to both centralized and distributed renewable energy sources. I also applaud you for your net metering program that supports rooftop solar, along with energy efficiency and cost containment strategies already in place. These and other measures to create a more resilient power system are essential for protecting the strong economy and quality of life we have enjoyed in Southwest Florida. I strongly believe further strategic planning and investments in these areas should be a priority for LCEC and measures should be implemented as quickly as possible.

October 31, 2023

Lee County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Post Office Box 3455

North Fort Myers, FL 33918-3455

Letter submitted electronically via: PURPA@lcec.net

Re: LCEC Consideration of PURPA amendments

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Coastal Resilience Manager for the Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF), and co-chair for SanCap Resilience and the SanCap Renewable Energy Working Group (REWG). As long-standing LCEC customers we appreciate the level of service the Cooperative has provided us with. We've also appreciated the interaction we've had with LCEC, especially through Key Account Executive Tricia Dorn, as we work on island energy issues and their intersections with future island resiliency through our involvement in the SanCap REWG. As part of our mission to "Protect and Care for Southwest Florida's Coastal Ecosystems," we especially view the greenhouse gas reductions associated with renewable energy and energy efficiency as essential to safeguarding the health of natural systems while leveraging the ways they protect our human community on Sanibel and Captiva.

Thank you for inviting members, such as SCCF, to comment on the new Federal standards resulting from amendments to the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA), designed to support reduced peak energy usage, pricing structures to reduce energy bills, and measures to promote greater electrification of the transportation sector.

Hurricane Ian made it clear that Southwest Florida must develop a resilient power system if we hope for our communities to continue to thrive well into the future. That means not only developing a power system able to withstand increased storm intensity and rising sea levels, but also one that minimizes, or eliminates, any contribution to these climate-driven threats.

The new proposed standards are examples of investments that utilities across the nation are making to update our nation's power grid and implement practices to improve energy resilience.

Whether or not LCEC decides to implement these new PURPA standards at this time, SCCF encourages you to pursue policies and investments that modernize the electric grid. This includes strategies and technology to manage demand and minimize energy waste and costs, improve energy efficiency, harden infrastructure, ensure that essential services are able to function even when the grid is down, and transition to both centralized and distributed renewable energy sources. We also applaud you for your net metering program that supports rooftop solar, along with energy efficiency and cost containment strategies already in place. These and other measures to create a more resilient power system are essential for protecting the strong economy and quality of life we have enjoyed in Southwest Florida. We strongly believe further strategic planning and investments in these areas should be a priority for LCEC over the coming decade.