

Kuether-Steele, Molly

From: Kovac, Nik
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 1:39 PM
To: Bauman, Robert
Cc: Kuether-Steele, Molly
Subject: FW: Thank you for speaking out against Solar Now and We Energies

Please add this to the file for tomorrow's meeting. Nik

From: Pam Ritger <pritger@cleanwisconsin.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 3:22 PM
To: Kovac, Nik <nkovac@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: Re: Thank you for speaking out against Solar Now and We Energies

Hello Alderman Kovac,

So I've dug into this a bit more and stand strongly by the support letter Clean Wisconsin provided. I also agree with Erick's points in his response to the comments from Michael Barnett. Taking the various issues one by one:

1) Renewable energy advocates like Renew Wisconsin, ELPC and Vote Solar submitted comments in the Solar Now docket regarding how the program could hurt smaller solar companies' ability to compete against a monopoly like We Energies. However, as you've pointed out, in the case of this specific project on a City of Milwaukee landfill, We Energies needs to build the project or, at the very least, agree to purchase electricity produced on the site. I also find it telling that none of those groups is opposing the City of Milwaukee developing this particular project through Solar Now, now that the program was approved by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) and is being utilized by different entities.

2) Similarly, there's a point made that no public comments were made in favor of Solar Now. First of all, there was support for the program from MATC, UW-Milwaukee (Mark Mone) and the Village of Whitefish Bay, and likely others (I did not read every comment in the docket). Right now, I'm sure you would find many comments in support of the City of Milwaukee pursuing this specific project. This support is already apparent in the form of letters of support from the Milwaukee Equity and Climate Alliance, the NAACP, the National Guard Community Council, and others.

3) As Erick mentioned, the City of Milwaukee can move forward with this project now and then expand solar on the site using the DRER program. The Solar Now program presents fewer costs and less risk to the City of Milwaukee, plus the annual lease payment, so I agree that it makes sense to move forward with this project now and then try a project through the DRER or another similar program later.

4) Some intervenors in the Solar Now docket characterize the DRER program as similar to MG&E's Renewable Energy Rider program and, while they suggested one or two modifications, neither the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) or Renew Wisconsin expressed opposition to the DRER program. ELPC and Vote Solar did suggest more modifications. But, if the City of Milwaukee wanted to go back and try to improve upon the DRER program, that is possible in the future. You probably already have access to this, but just in case you want to read the

testimony of these various intervenors, you can use this

link: <http://apps.psc.wi.gov/vs2017/dockets/content/detail.aspx?id=6630&case=TE&num=102>. If that doesn't work for some reason, you can also search for the Wisconsin PSC, Docket Search and then just type in Solar Now and everything but the confidential documents are available to read.

[PSC - Case Management System](#)

6630-TE-102 (Active) Application of Wisconsin Electric Power Company, as an Electric Public Utility, for Approval to Implement a Solar Now Pilot Tariff and a Dedicated Renewable Energy Resource Pilot Tariff

apps.psc.wi.gov

5) Erick makes the excellent point that other entities (New Berlin School District, UW-Parkside) are moving forward with Solar Now projects, so if the City rejects this project, We Energies ratepayers in the City of Milwaukee will end up helping to pay for Solar Now without reaping the benefits of a City of Milwaukee solar project to help reach renewable energy goals and an annual lease payment that can help with other sustainability and climate change mitigation efforts.

6) Finally, I think the idea that the City of Milwaukee could reject this project now and have another one ready to go in 6 months is highly unrealistic. Just reviewing this project progress, the City and County of Milwaukee, MATC and MMSD requested renewable energy options from We Energies in early 2018, the Solar Now and DRER programs were approved (after a very fast proceeding) at the PSC in December 2018. Now it's more than a year later and the project is still pending. Rather than 6 months, I would envision that whole process taking a couple more years, leaving the City of Milwaukee less time to achieve it's goal of 25% renewable energy by 2025.

I hope this helps!

Best,
Pam

Pamela Ritger
Milwaukee Program Director & Staff Attorney
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(646) 549-8224 (cell)



From: Kovac, Nik <nkovac@milwaukee.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 11:56 AM

To: Pam Ritger <pritger@cleanwisconsin.org>

Subject: FW: Thank you for speaking out against Solar Now and We Energies

Pam, do you have any thoughts on this?

I agree that the WE Energies deal isn't perfect, but it seems like we ought to do something now, and they're finally willing to do it, and we can't do landfills with 3rd parties anyway, so WE is our only option.

But there's a lot of detail here about solar rates and other options from other parts of the state that I'm not well versed in. Nik

From: Michael Barnett [<mailto:MBarnett@hga.com>]
Sent: Saturday, February 08, 2020 12:51 PM
To: Bauman, Robert
Cc: Kovac, Nik
Subject: RE: Thank you for speaking out against Solar Now and We Energies

Alder Bauman,

I have attached my (scathing) input on the proposed project.

I am working to get Renew Wisconsin to write a letter of opposition for the project, but cannot promise anything.

Please let me know what I else I can do to support your committee. Feel free to send to others as you see fit, or let me know the most effective way to distribute the document.

Happy to discuss more this coming week.

Thanks, Mike

From: Bauman, Robert <rjbauma@milwaukee.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 10:47 AM
To: Michael Barnett <MBarnett@hga.com>
Cc: Kovac, Nik <nkovac@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: RE: Thank you for speaking out against Solar Now and We Energies

This is very helpful. We will look forward to your additional input.

From: Michael Barnett [<mailto:MBarnett@hga.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2020 10:37 AM
To: Bauman, Robert; Kovac, Nik
Subject: RE: Thank you for speaking out against Solar Now and We Energies

Alder Bauman,

At first glance, there is a lot of misinformation in these documents. I have many ideas to make this a much better project and outcome for the City and its residents. Solar Now is not the right vehicle to drive this program. This project would be much better suited for something similar to Madison Gas and Electric's Renewable Energy Rider for a few reasons...

1. The project size could be increased quite significantly which would go much further in meeting the City's renewable energy goals. Solar Now has a limit of 2.25MW but the site can support a much larger system once that artificial limit is removed. I can put a number to this potential size increase. There would also be potential to partner with additional organizations to offtake excess energy such as the National Guard or the Airport.

2. The Renewable Energy Rider format does not push costs to non-participating rate payers like Solar Now does.
3. The RER economics are going to be more favorable to the city over the life of the contract. The Solar Now lease payment document grossly overestimates payments over the life of the program.
4. An RER type tariff is generally supported by a wide variety of stakeholders, whereas the Solar Now program is derided by nearly all stakeholders including renewable advocates, consumer advocates, and everyone else who is not a (misguided) host or utility. Getting PSC approval of such a program would be quite easy and could be completed in 6 months. Seeing this is a 30+ year installation, delaying the project 6 months for something bigger and better is insignificant.
5. Why would the City continue to support such a terrible program as We Energies continues to abuse their monopoly power? Case in point, We Energies is currently denying an interconnection application for a Milwaukee area church that is working with a non-profit finance group to monetize the investment tax credit.

I will expand on all these details in a long form document for you all to review along with citations. I'll plan to get something to you early next week.

It is unfortunate that the Mayor's office and the Office of sustainability are failing to see the forest from the trees on this project, but it's not too late to make a course correction.

Please note that this work is completed on personal time and not associated with formal HGA business. I'm sure Erick is going to be fuming if he gets wind of me vocalizing my opposition, but would really like to see the City make better decisions on this project. I'm fine with you all sharing my document once you get it, but probably best to wait to share my initial thoughts until then.

Also, in full disclosure there is an HGA Milwaukee employee who is in the national guard and has been active in developing the National Guard microgrid and I believe reports to Colonel Locke, the person that signed the letter of support for the National Guard.

Thanks, Mike

From: Kuether-Steele, Molly <Molly.Kuether-Steele@milwaukee.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:01 AM

To: Bauman, Robert <rjbauma@milwaukee.gov>; Michael Barnett <MBarnett@hga.com>; Kovac, Nik <nkovac@milwaukee.gov>

Cc: Spiker, Scott <Scott.Spiker@milwaukee.gov>; Lemmer, Jodi <Jodi.Lemmer@milwaukee.gov>

Subject: RE: Thank you for speaking out against Solar Now and We Energies

Good morning,

The information is available online at this link

<https://milwaukee.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4312845&GUID=D4234374-5689-493F-8919-0335CC5E4BF2&Options=ID|Text|&Search=191604>

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Molly Kuether-Steele
Staff Assistant
City Clerk's Office

From: Bauman, Robert
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2020 4:51 PM
To: Michael Barnett; Kovac, Nik
Cc: Spiker, Scott; Kuether-Steele, Molly; Lemmer, Jodi
Subject: RE: Thank you for speaking out against Solar Now and We Energies

Staff will send you the file information.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: Michael Barnett <MBarnett@hga.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 4:41:48 PM
To: Bauman, Robert <rjbauma@milwaukee.gov>; Kovac, Nik <nkovac@milwaukee.gov>
Cc: Spiker, Scott <Scott.Spiker@milwaukee.gov>; Kuether-Steele, Molly <Molly.Kuether-Steele@milwaukee.gov>; Lemmer, Jodi <Jodi.Lemmer@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: RE: Thank you for speaking out against Solar Now and We Energies

Alder Bauman,

I'd be happy to provide my personal thoughts if your staff assistant can send me the information.

Professionally speaking, it would put me in an awkward position to present to your committee.

However, on my personal time, I'd be happy to review the materials, provide some written thoughts and have a call to answer questions you may have prior to the meeting.

Thanks,

Mike Barnett, P.E.
Senior Project Engineer
Energy and Infrastructure

HGA
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mbarnett@hga.com

From: Bauman, Robert <rjbauma@milwaukee.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 11:14 AM
To: Michael Barnett <MBarnett@hga.com>; Kovac, Nik <nkovac@milwaukee.gov>
Cc: Spiker, Scott <Scott.Spiker@milwaukee.gov>; Kuether-Steele, Molly <Molly.Kuether-Steele@milwaukee.gov>; Lemmer, Jodi <Jodi.Lemmer@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: RE: Thank you for speaking out against Solar Now and We Energies

We are back at it.

The city is proposing another Solar Now plan involving a former land fill site near the airport. This is a relatively large solar installation 2250kw. City leases land to WE Energies for 20 years and they own the power.

This file will be heard at the next Public Works Committee meeting on February 20 at 9 am although we can move the time back to accommodate folks coming from Madison.

I was hoping you or your colleagues could attend to provide guidance and/or commentary to the committee.

I have copied the staff assistant to the committee who can send you all the file information for your review if you are interested.

From: Michael Barnett [<mailto:MBarnett@hga.com>]

Sent: Friday, February 15, 2019 8:13 AM

To: Bauman, Robert; Kovac, Nik

Subject: Thank you for speaking out against Solar Now and We Energies

Dear Alders Kovac and Bauman,

Thank you for having the courage to speak out against We Energies and their Solar Now fiasco, and supporting 3rd party solar in Wisconsin. I have been vocally opposing Solar Now since the application process and following along with the Eagle Point / City of Milwaukee situation. As a member of Renew and CUB, I have met with their leadership to galvanize opposition to Solar Now.

You can find my arguments against Solar Now here... <http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=354327>

I lead the team that created the 100% renewable energy report for the City of Madison, and am familiar with the barriers communities face to decarbonize their electricity production. The final report can be found here.. <https://www.madison100renewableenergy.com/>

One other point that I believe is missing in the recent news is that Solar Now is a \$128 million cost to ratepayers. By having the City of Milwaukee enroll in Solar Now, you are furthering burdening the most vulnerable in the community with even more expensive utility bills. There are more cost effective and equitable solutions to go solar. Solar Now benefits We Energies shareholders, not ratepayers or program participants.

I have also performed a financial analysis of the Solar Now program for a sample customer compared to other options such as third party and city owned. I am happy to review an analysis by others, as there is a lot of nuance in the Solar Now host payments that is quite misleading. Specifically regarding how the payments are tied to the MISO long term capacity value of rooftop solar.

Feel free to reach out. Happy to help in any way I can.

Thanks,

Mike Barnett, P.E.
Senior Project Engineer
Energy and Infrastructure

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