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PUC Project 51603 Comments

The PUC should consider that Winter Storm Uri changed the game in Texas. Prior to Uri, solar installers actively dissuaded potential customers from getting batteries with the firm belief that the grid would never go down and batteries were not worth the investment. Since Uri, the solar installers actively push batteries as a strategic investment and insurance against grid outages.

As such, while many utilities already have a potential abundance of data around rooftop solar DERs, their data is still limited on the newer installations with batteries. Our house, for example, has batteries and does not change what it pulls from the grid moment to moment simply because a cloud passes by. Significant factors that affect our flow to and from the grid include using the a/c, the oven, the dryer, or charging our electric vehicles. These are all predictable events in that they have a consistent draw, and as such their impact to the pull on the rooftop solar or batteries can be calculated.

What would make sense for all parties is to encourage DER potential customers to include battery storage systems in their purchase considerations. This provides the utilities and ERCOT with greater predictability of a system's usage, and provides the customers with the warm fuzzy feeling they're after post-Uri. With natural gas prices increasing and affecting electricity rates state-wide, there will be an increase in the adoption of solar. It's inevitable. I highly recommend taking steps to encourage battery adoption as well.

Potential steps could be:

- 1) Educational campaigns for end users.
- 2) Training real estate appraisers on how to include solar panels as an income producing asset on a house, and how to include battery backup as an additional bump in value. Let's face it, that training costs very little for the PUC and the added value on the home is absorbed by a house's buyer.
- 3) Potential financial incentives such as reducing the interconnection fee for an installation with batteries.
- 4) Encouraging the utilities to reduce delays in approving interconnection requests.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide you with these suggestions. I hope this document provides some useful options that I get to see in the near future. Have a great day!

Sandy Phillips

Homeowner, Round Rock