

**AUSTIN ENERGY
2022 BASE RATE REVIEW**

**§ BEFORE THE CITY OF AUSTIN
§ HEARING EXAMINER
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**SIERRA CLUB’S AND PUBLIC CITIZEN’S FIRST SET OF REQUESTS FOR
INFORMATION TO AUSTIN ENERGY**

Sierra Club and Public Citizen (the “Conservation Organizations”) submits this First Request for Information to Austin Energy (“Austin Energy,” “the utility,” or “you”) provide information and answer the attached questions under oath under Austin Energy’s 2022 Base Rate Review Procedural Guidelines Section B.3(a) and Section F. Please answer the questions and sub-questions in the order in which they are listed and in sufficient detail to provide a complete and accurate answer to the question. These question(s) are continuing in nature, and if there is a relevant change in circumstances, submit an amended answer, under oath, as a supplement to your original answer. Please state the name of the witness in this proceeding who will sponsor the answer to the question.

We request that you provide responses via electronic communication (e.g., email or file share) to the RFIs to the following Authorized Representatives as soon as possible, but no later than 14 days from service, or by June 1, 2021, so that the requested information may be reviewed before the party’s Position Statements are due in this case:

Joshua Smith
Matthew Miller
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DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise specified in each individual interrogatory or request, “you,” “your,” the “Company,” or “Austin Energy,” refers to Austin Energy, and its affiliates, directors, officers, employees, consultants, attorneys, and authorized agents.

“And” and “or” shall be construed either conjunctively or disjunctively as required by the context to bring within the scope of these interrogatories and requests for production of documents any information which might be deemed outside their scope by another construction.

“Any” means all, each and every example of the requested information.

“Communication” means any transmission or exchange of information between two or more persons, whether orally or in writing, and includes, without limitation, any conversation or discussion by means of letter, telephone, note, memorandum, telegraph, telex, telecopy, cable, email, or any other electronic or other medium.

“Control” means, without limitation, that a document is deemed to be in your control if you have the right to secure the document or a copy thereof from another person or public or private entity having actual possession thereof. If a document is responsive to a request, but is not in your possession or custody, identify the person with possession or custody. If any document was in your possession or subject to your control, and is no longer, state what disposition was made of it, by whom, the date on which such disposition was made, and why such disposition was made.

“Document” or “Documents” are used in their broadest sense to include written matter of any kind, regardless of its form, and to information recorded on any storage medium, whether in electrical, optical or electromagnetic form, and capable of reduction to writing by the use of computer hardware and software, and includes all copies, drafts, proofs, both originals and copies either (1) in the possession, custody or control of the Company regardless of where located, or (2) produced or generated by, known to or seen by the Company, but now in their possession, custody or control, regardless of where located whether or still in existence. Such “documents” shall include, but are not limited to, applications, permits, monitoring reports, computer printouts, contracts, leases, agreements, papers, photographs, tape recordings, transcripts, letters or other forms of correspondence, folders or similar containers, programs, telex, TWX and other teletype communications, memoranda, reports, studies, summaries, minutes, minute books, circulars, notes (whether typewritten, handwritten or otherwise), agenda, bulletins, notices, announcements, instructions, charts, tables, manuals, brochures, magazines, pamphlets, lists, logs, telegrams, drawings, sketches, plans, specifications, diagrams, drafts, books and records, formal records, notebooks, diaries, registers, analyses, projections, email correspondence or communications and other data compilations from which information can be obtained (including matter used in data processing) or translated, and any other printed, written, recorded, stenographic, computer-generated, computer-stored, or electronically stored matter, however and by whomever produced, prepared, reproduced, disseminated or made. For purposes of the production of “documents,” the term shall include copies of all documents being produced,

to the extent the copies are not identical to the original, thus requiring the production of copies that contain any markings, additions or deletions that make them different in any way from the original.

Under Rule 196.4 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, we request that any electronic or magnetic information (which is included in the definition of “document”) that is responsive to a request herein be produced via email, file share site, CD-ROM, or flashdrive in its native format with any formulae intact, and be produced with your response to these requests. If emails are responsive to these requests, please provide a searchable .pdf copy of the entire email string. Attachments to emails should be provided with the email in searchable .pdf form, unless it is stored in a different format, in which the attachment should be produced in its native format with formulae intact.

“Identify” means:

- a. With respect to a person, to state the person’s name, address and business relationship (e.g., “employee”) vis-à-vis the Company;
- b. With respect to a document, to state the nature of the document in sufficient detail for identification in a request for production, its date, its author, and to identify its custodian. If the information or document identified is recorded in electrical, optical or electromagnetic form, identification includes a description of the computer hardware or software required to reduce it to readable form.

“Person” means, without limitation, every natural person, corporate entity, partnership, association (formal or otherwise), joint venture, unit operation, cooperative, municipality, commission, governmental body or agency.

“Relating to” or “concerning” means and includes pertaining to, referring to, or having as a subject matter, directly or indirectly, expressly or implied, the subject matter of the specific request.

“Workpapers” are defined as original, electronic, machine-readable, unlocked, unlocked, in native format, and with formulae and links intact.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. The Definitions, Instructions, and Claim of Privilege set out in this Request for Information apply to these questions.
2. In answering these questions, furnish all information that is available to you, including information in the possession of your agents, employees, and representatives, all others from whom you may freely obtain it, and your attorneys and their investigators.
3. Please answer each question based upon your knowledge, information, or belief, and any answer that is based upon information or belief should state that it is given on that basis.

4. If you have possession, custody, or control (as defined by Tex. R. Civ. P. 192.7(b)) of the originals of these documents requested, please produce the originals or a complete copy of the originals and all copies that are different in any way from the original, whether by interlineation, receipt stamp, or notation.

5. If you do not have possession, custody, or control of the originals of the documents requested, please produce copies of the documents, however made, in your possession, custody, or control. If any document requested is not in your possession or subject to your control, please explain why not, and give the present location and custodian of any copy or summary of the document.

6. If any question appears confusing, please request clarification from the undersigned counsel.

7. In providing your responses, please start each response on a separate page and type, at the top of the page, the question that is being answered.

8. As part of the response to each question, please state, at the bottom of the answer, the name and job position of each person who participated in any way, other than providing clerical assistance, in the preparing of the answer. If the question has sub-parts, please identify the person or persons by sub-part. Please also state the name of the witness in this docket who will sponsor the answer to the question and who can vouch for the truth of the answer. If the question has sub-parts, please identify the witness or witnesses by sub-part.

9. Rather than waiting to provide all of the responses at the same time, please provide individual responses as each becomes available.

10. Wherever the response to a request for information consists of a statement that the requested information is already available to Sierra Club, please provide a detailed citation to the document that contains the information. The citation shall include the title of the document, relevant page number(s), and to the extent possible paragraph number(s) and/or chart(s)/table(s)/figure number(s).

11. In the event that any document referred to in response to any request for information has been destroyed, specify the date and the manner of such destruction, the reason for such destruction, the person authorizing the destruction and the custodian of the document at the time of its destruction.

12. These questions are continuing in nature. If there is a change in circumstances or facts or if you receive or generate additional information that changes your answer between the time of your original response and the time of the hearings, then you should submit, under oath, a supplemental response to your earlier answer.

13. If you consider any question to be unduly burdensome, or if the response would require the production of a voluminous amount of material, please call the undersigned counsel as soon as possible in order to discuss the situation and to try to resolve the problem. Likewise, if

you object to any of the questions on the grounds that the question seeks confidential information, or on any other grounds, please call the undersigned counsel as soon as possible.

14. If the response to any question is voluminous, please provide separately an index to the materials contained in the response.

15. If the information requested is included in previously furnished exhibits, workpapers, or responses to other discovery inquiries or otherwise, in hard copy or electronic format, please furnish specific references thereto, including Bates Stamp page citations and detailed cross-references.

16. Data should be provided in native electronic format including active EXCEL workbooks and all linked workbooks, with all formulas, cell references, links, etc., intact, functioning, and complete for all tables, figures, and attachments in the testimony.

17. To the extent that a question asks for the production of copyrighted material, it is sufficient to provide a listing of such material, indicating the title, publisher, author, edition, and page references relied on or otherwise relevant to the question.

18. Sierra Club reserves the right to serve supplemental, revised, or additional discovery requests as permitted in this proceeding.

PRIVILEGE

If you claim a privilege including, but not limited to, the attorney-client privilege or the work product doctrine, as grounds for not fully and completely responding to any request for information or request for production, describe the basis for your claim of privilege in sufficient detail so as to permit meaningful evaluation of the validity of the claim. With respect to documents for which a privilege is claimed, produce a "privilege log" that identifies the author, recipient, date and subject matter of the documents or interrogatory answers for which you are asserting a claim of privilege and any other information pertinent to the claim that would likewise enable evaluation of the validity of such claims.

Dated: May 18, 2022

Respectfully submitted,



Joshua Smith
Sierra Club Environmental Law Program
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Oakland, CA 94612
Tele: 415-977-5560
joshua.smith@sierraclub.org

Counsel for Sierra Club

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Joshua Smith, certify that a copy of the foregoing Sierra Club submission was served upon all parties of record in this proceeding on May 18, 2022, by First-class U.S. mail, hand delivery, and/or e-mail, as permitted by the presiding officer.



Joshua Smith
Sierra Club Environmental Law Program

EXHIBIT A

**AUSTIN ENERGY
2022 BASE RATE REVIEW**

**§ BEFORE THE CITY OF AUSTIN
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**SIERRA CLUB’S AND PUBLIC CITIZEN’S FIRST SET OF REQUESTS FOR
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1. Filing Package page 9 states that “If customer growth and sales trends continue, Austin Energy will be better able to maintain the proposed rates without the accompanying financial strain that currently impacts the utility.” Please provide all analyses produced by or for the company of the impact of customer and sales growth rates on Austin Energy's projected profit margin.
2. Filing Package page 9 states that “If customer growth and sales trends continue, Austin Energy will be better able to maintain the proposed rates without the accompanying financial strain that currently impacts the utility.” Does Austin Energy anticipate that the current rate increase proposal would alleviate the indicated financial strain even if the balance between fixed and variable billing determinants were maintained? Please explain why or why not.
3. Filing Package page 10 states that “the shift in residential energy sales has dramatically reduced the proportion of energy consumption in the higher tiers such that average base revenue per residential customer is shrinking.” Please provide all data and analyses relied upon by Austin Energy in drawing this conclusion. Please include historical residential energy sales data by tier over the past 10 years.
4. Filing package page 10 states that “low income customers enrolled in the Customer Assistance Program (CAP)...tend to consume electricity at a higher percentage in the higher-priced tiers.” Please provide all data and analyses relied upon by Austin Energy in drawing this conclusion. Please include all available historical residential energy sales data by tier and income level over the past 10 years.
5. Did Austin Energy consider or analyze alternatives to its proposal of “Reducing the number of Residential rate tiers from five to three, flattening the tiers, and increasing customer charge to better recover fixed costs”? *See* Filing Package page 15. Please provide all workpapers supporting Austin Energy's development of its proposed rate structure, and all analyses or alternative rate structures considered.
6. Austin Energy states that its proposed cost allocation “methodologies and practices are recognized by the American Public Power Association (APPA), the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), the National Rural

Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), and consistent with the Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA).” *See* Filing Package page 47. Please identify and provide studies or reports from each of the organizations identified supporting the methodologies and practices in question, and explain how each supports the proposed cost allocation. Please also explain how the proposal is consistent with the PURA.

7. Filing package page 60 states that “In the past, Austin Energy has reviewed a variety of allocation methods described in NARUC’s Cost of Service Manual to select the best method to reflect Austin Energy’s rationale for generation capacity. Ultimately, Austin Energy selected the ERCOT 12 Coincident Peak (ERCOT 12CP) methodology to allocate the cost of generation because this allocation methodology better aligns the relationship between the costs and the benefits that accrue from owning and operating its fleet of generation in the ERCOT market.” Please provide all studies, analyses, reports and presentations related to the consideration of allocation methods described in this quote. Please identify the specific costs and benefits that are “better aligned” by the selected approach, and provide all analyses showing this alignment relative to other approaches.
8. Please provide the data underlying Figure 7.2 in electronic format, and explain what is meant by “Summer Bill” with respect to this Figure. Please also provide monthly kWh sales per customer data for residential and commercial customers for each month between 2009 and 2021.
9. Please provide the data and analysis represented in each of the Figures in Sections 7.1 and 7.2 of the Filing Package in electronic format, with formulas intact.
10. Please provide all analysis produced by or for Austin Energy since 2012 on the relationship between variable or fixed energy costs and energy savings participation or outcomes. Please provide any analysis prepared by or for Austin Energy on the expected impact on energy efficiency participation of its proposed increase in the fixed portion of customer bills.
11. Please identify whether the estimated line loss rate “assumed to be 5.14 percent” as described on page 142 of the Filing Package represents an average or marginal line loss rate. Please provide all available analyses or reports related to the hourly marginal line loss rate for Austin Energy. Please also provide all available analyses of the impact of distributed energy on line losses for the Austin Energy system.
12. Please provide the hourly marginal emission rate for the Austin Energy system for 2021, or for the most recent year for which such data are available.

Dated this 18th day of May, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joshua Smith', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Joshua Smith
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Oakland, CA 94612
415-977-5560
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Joshua Smith, certify that a copy of the foregoing Sierra Club submission was served upon all parties of record in this proceeding on May 18, 2022, by electronic mail, as permitted by the presiding officer.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joshua Smith', is written above a horizontal line.

Joshua Smith
Sierra Club Environmental Law Program