

**AUSTIN ENERGY'S
2022 BASE RATE REVIEW**

§ **BEFORE THE CITY OF AUSTIN**
§
§ **IMPARTIAL HEARING EXAMINER**

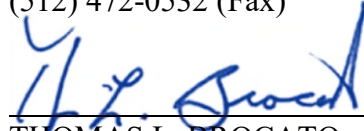
**AUSTIN ENERGY'S RESPONSE TO PAUL ROBBINS'
THIRD REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

Austin Energy files this Response to Paul Robbins' ("P. Robbins") Third Request for Information ("RFI") submitted on June 8, 2022.¹ Pursuant to the 2022 Austin Energy Base Rate Review Procedural Guidelines § F(2)(f)(1), this Response is timely filed.

Respectfully submitted,

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**ATTORNEYS FOR THE CITY OF AUSTIN
D/B/A AUSTIN ENERGY**

¹ Paul Robbins' Third Request for Information was submitted to the Rate Review Administrator after 12:00 pm on June 7, 2022, so it is considered submitted the following business day, on June 8, 2022.

P. Robbins 3-1: A. In an earlier query, I asked:

Please provide the names, positions, and salaries (including benefits) for the Austin Energy staff working on the Customer Assistance Program.

The answer was incomplete, and I am asking it again.

The intention here is to understand the total administrative costs of operating the Customer Assistance Program. While the salaries were provided, some of the employees listed only worked part time on CAP. I need to know the percentage estimate of time each of these employees worked on CAP.

Also, medical benefits provided to me for these employees were not quantified and the abbreviations for them were not defined. Also, unemployment, federal taxes paid by employers, and pension benefits do not appear to have been included.

So I need this information added to answer.

Again, spreadsheet format is requested.

Note: My original query was completely understandable, and this question should not count against my quota.

B. I also request the detailed overhead budget for CAP (office expenses, advertising, utilities, contractors [e.g., Solix], audits, etc.) for the last 3 years.

Spreadsheet format is requested.

ANSWER:

A. The percentage of time each employee worked on the CAP program is provided in Attachment P. Robbins 3-1A, tab "PR 3-1A Time Spent."

The insurance benefits, federal taxes paid by employers, and pension benefits for each employee are provided in aggregate in Attachment P. Robbins 3-1A, tab "PR 3-1A Benefits." Unemployment benefits are not applicable for this group of employees. Definitions for acronyms can be found in tab "PR 3-1A Acronyms."

B. See Attachment P. Robbins 3-1B.

Prepared by: GM / NK

Sponsored by: Mark Dombroski

Attachment P. Robbins 3-1A
(provided in Native Excel Format)

Attachment P. Robbins 3-1B
(provided in Native Excel Format)

P. Robbins 3-2: Explain why CAP administration is included in base rates instead of the Community Benefits Fund.

ANSWER: CAP administration costs are included in base rates because their recovery is excluded from the CAP charge, which is part of the Community Benefits Fund. Appendix F, F-24, page 482 states:

“The Customer Assistance Program (CAP) funds projects that help qualifying low-income and other disadvantaged residential customers through bill discounts, payment assistance (Plus 1), arrearage management (available only for customers receiving the CAP discount), and weatherization services. Funding for CAP is provided through the CAP component of the Community Benefit Charge and unexpended and re-appropriated funds.” (Emphasis added)

This same tariff language also appears in Austin Energy's current tariffs.

Prepared by: RM / DG

Sponsored by: Jerry Galvan

P. Robbins 3-3: The Customer Assistance Program has two methods to enlist participation, automatic enrollment and income qualification. An independent contractor administers both of them.

Provide the per customer and aggregate cost for each of these enrollment methods for the last 3 years.

ANSWER: Austin Energy does not have a separate cost calculation for the two methods. The total customer assistance enrollment contract costs and average cost per customer are provided below:

	Customer Assistance Enrollment Services Contract Amount	Per Customer Cost Enrollment
FY 2019	\$1,023,800	\$30.03
FY 2020	\$1,123,800	\$31.03
FY 2021	\$1,123,800	\$27.68
FY 2022 (YTD)	\$1,123,800	\$26.56

Prepared by: DG

Sponsored by: Jerry Galvan

P. Robbins 3-4: Provide the amount and percentage of CAP administrative funding that comes from other City departments (e.g., Water, Watershed Protection).

ANSWER: Austin Energy filed an objection on June 21, 2022 to P. Robbins 3-4.

Prepared by: TD

Sponsored by: Thomas Brocato

P. Robbins 3-5: In an earlier query, I asked:

Please provide the storage losses (also known as round trip efficiency) for the Austin SHINES battery storage project in fiscal year 2021. Such losses might include charging and discharging inefficiencies, lighting, heating, cooling, and security.

I was indeed provided with the losses. However, I specifically referenced "round trip efficiency" in my question. This has to include not only the losses, but the original electricity that was provided to the battery system.

I now request the volume of the original electricity that was provided to the battery system for losses to occur in 2021.

Note: My original query was completely understandable, and this question should not count against my quota.

ANSWER:

Battery Storage Losses & Efficiency for FY 2021			
Charge (MWh)	Discharge (MWh)	Losses (MWh)	Efficiency
457	271	186	59.3%

Prepared by: AD

Sponsored by: Thomas Pierpoint

P. Robbins 3-6: I have looked at Tab 3.1.1.1 in the original rate case filing several times. It appears to me that CAP will increase to include a \$25 monthly fee waiver for in-city customers, up from the current fee waiver of \$10.

I request a quantification of any increases in CAP expected or implied in this rate case, both in specific benefits to participants, and the aggregate increase in the annual CAP budget, should this occur.

ANSWER: Please see the bottom half of Schedule H-5.2.1. This quantifies the estimated CAP benefit under the proposed rates as well as the proposed impact on the CAP pass-through charge (although the CAP pass-through charge is not being set in this proceeding).

Prepared by: GR

Sponsored by: Grant Rabon