

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

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

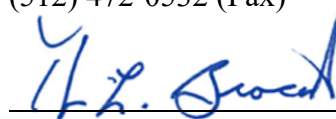
**AUSTIN ENERGY'S RESPONSE TO PAUL ROBBINS'  
FOURTH REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

Austin Energy files this Response to Paul Robbins' ("P. Robbins") Fourth Request for Information ("RFI") submitted on June 8, 2022. 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**

P. Robbins 4-1: Provide monthly data for fiscal year 2020 by rate class, for the following:

Kilowatt hour sales;

Number of customers;

Total revenues.

Spreadsheet format is requested.

ANSWER:

Please refer to Attachment P. Robbins 4-1. Due to the limited number of customers in the Primary High Load Factor and Transmission classes, the class information cannot be released. The data for these classes are included in the total amounts.

Attachment P. Robbins 4-1

Prepared by: MG

Sponsored by: Monica Gonzalez

**Attachment P. Robbins 4-1**  
(provided in Native Excel Format)

- P. Robbins 4-2: All AE customer classes pay an equivalent Regulatory Charge which recovers dollar-for-dollar Austin Energy's share of managing, using and maintaining the ERCOT-wide transmission grid, as well as other regulatory fees and charges. These ERCOT fees are based on Austin Energy's share of summer peak demand -- about 4% of the statewide total - based on 4 CP.
- A. For FY 2019, 2020, 2021, and the test year, how much have regulatory charges been reduced on a value and percentage basis due to residential and commercial consumer efforts to reduce summer peak demand as a result of energy efficiency, demand response and local solar development resulting from Austin Energy-sponsored programs, such as those supported by the EES?
- B. For these same years, how much have these regulatory charges been reduced due to efforts of larger industrial customers to reduce 4 CP and summer peak demand?

ANSWER:

The premise of the question is incorrect. Austin Energy pays each transmission provider based on the provider's approved rate multiplied by the average of Austin Energy's demand at the time of the ERCOT peak for each summer month. Austin Energy's summer peak percentage is irrelevant to the calculation of the monthly charge.

- A. Any reduction in regulatory costs attributed to local solar development is captured as part of the Value of Solar Rate. Regulatory Charge savings are therefore directed to the individual PV customer rather than a system savings. Regulatory cost reductions are bundled into the energy efficiency program cost effectiveness tests and reported in the executive summary table of the Customer Energy Solutions Progress Report that can be found at the following link:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Faustinenergy.com%2Fwcm%2Fconnect%2Fd7c6edfe-e950-4eeb-878a-988ec452e356%2FFY21-CES-Progress-Report.pdf%3FMOD%3DAJPERES%26CVID%3Do4HqqsN&data=05%7C01%7CJohn.Oberwortmann%40austinenergy.com%7Cb9309fc8b91c408dc95f08da4efc1d52%7C482dc10d91804c99816e70ee2557afd5%7C0%7C0%7C637909141976087088%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=mqugzMFpEJCb5TFsA81LsloPUBYM8vqsd2Zf%2FZxC4M%3D&reserved=0.>

The estimated avoided costs Austin Energy calculated for demand response are included in the table below. This does not include thermal energy storage or legacy water heater timer load reduction.

Year	Total Demand Response Avoided Energy and Demand Cost
2019	\$3,599,570
2020	\$1,481,248
2021	\$1,901,184

B. Austin Energy does not track information on projects that customers complete outside of our Customer Energy Solutions programs. Any reductions from large industrial customers that participate in Austin Energy programs would be included in the Response to P. Robbins 4-2A.

Prepared by: SQC / TH

Sponsored by: Richard G  nec  

P. Robbins 4-3: For FY 2019, 2020, 2021, and the test year, provide the names, positions, and salaries (including benefits) for the Austin Energy staff working on the Austin Energy Green Building program. If some of these employees are only working part-time on this program, provide estimates of the percentage of time for them. Regarding benefits, these include medical benefits, unemployment, federal taxes paid by employers, and pension benefits. If the type of benefit is abbreviated in the information, define what the abbreviations mean.

Spreadsheet format is requested.

ANSWER: Please refer to Attachment P. Robbins 4-3, tabs "2019," "2020," and "2021" for the names, positions, and salaries of the employees working on the Austin Energy Green Building program. All employees listed worked full time on this program. Refer to tab "Benefits" for aggregated insurance, federal taxes paid by employers, and pension benefit amounts. Unemployment benefits are not applicable for this group of employees. Any acronyms are spelled out in each tab.

Attachment P. Robbins 4-3

Prepared by: GM

Sponsored by: Mark Dombroski

**Attachment P. Robbins 4-3**  
(provided in Native Excel Format)

P. Robbins 4-4: For the Continuous Service Program (CSP) that allows apartment managers to temporarily transfer service into their names instead of disconnecting them, provide the following information for FY 2019, 2020, and 2021, and the test year.

The number of CSP customers by month that participated;  
The kwh of these CSP customers by month that participated;  
The revenue of these CSP customers by month that participated.

Also detail how many CSP customers were participating in the Customer Assistance Program by month and the aggregate discounts that they received by month.

ANSWER: There are currently 2,358 participants in the Continuous Service Program (CSP). The number of participants are not tracked over time. However, Austin Energy is able to identify the number of participants at any given time, essentially a snapshot of participants currently active.

Austin Energy does not track the data requested for participants in the program. The number of participants, provided above, identifies the number of owners of multi-family residences that are participating in the program, not the number of accounts, meaning the sum of individual residences, covered by the program.

Prepared by: JG / JHO

Sponsored by: Jerry Galvan



P. Robbins 4-5: In an earlier query (Robbins 2-1) I requested the following:

1. Austin Energy has made the statement that it must collect a larger percentage of its Residential revenue from monthly fees because average Residential consumption is falling due to energy efficiency.

In 2020, AE provided me with statistics to prove this, included here as Attachment A.

I am asking to receive a copy of such statistics or their most recent update as part of official discovery. Spreadsheet format is requested.

Also, provide the following clarifications on the statistics' context.

- A. It would appear that the statistics that I received in 2020 included monthly consumption during construction of the project. Is this the case?
- B. If it is the case that the statistics included consumption during construction, provide revised statistics that delete consumption during construction.
- C. Provide the raw data used in the summary statistics provided to the extent that privacy redactions allow.
- D. Clarify if the statistics that AE is providing designate which Residential units are provided cooling and/or heating from a centralized HVAC system (such as occur in downtown condo high rise buildings). If the answer is yes, designate which bills are relevant to this condition in the raw data that is requested.

I am appending this query to add part E.

- E. Provide in the raw customer data or summary if Multifamily units in this study were participating in the Continuous Service Program, the number of units (in aggregate) in the CSP by month or year (to the extent the information is available), and the consumption of units (in aggregate) in the CSP by month or year (to the extent that information is available).

ANSWER: Participation in the Continuous Service Program (CSP) was not included in the report parameters. As such, the number of units in the CSP is not available as part of the report provided in Response to P. Robbins 2-1.

Prepared by: JL

Sponsored by: Elaine Veselka