

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION GUIDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR POWER FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City Council of North Little Rock, Arkansas (“ the City”) is the policy and rate-making authority for the North Little Rock Electric Department (“NLRED”); and

WHEREAS, the City has a long history of renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives that have resulted in decreased electric consumption and an energy portfolio that is over 15% renewable – one of the highest in the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that solar power electric generating units (“Solar Power Facilities”) are an environmentally responsible source of electricity that naturally increases production when energy is needed most; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that the cost of Solar Power Facilities is declining and that NLRED customers are increasingly seeking solar power options; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that unpredictable and rapidly changing production from unconstrained Solar Power Facilities can jeopardize the reliability of NLRED’s distribution system; and

WHEREAS, the City seeks to establish guidelines for NLRED to pursue low-cost solar power options for interested customers, without imposing additional costs on customers who are not interested in solar power.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1: That NLRED shall not connect, or allow to be connected, a Solar Power Facility to the NLRED distribution system that could disrupt the reliable delivery of electricity to any customer.

- (a) No customer shall connect a Solar Power Facility to the NLRED distribution system without installing reasonable safeguards to protect the safety of NLRED employees and the integrity of the distribution system.
- (b) No customer shall connect a Solar Power Facility to the NLRED distribution system that, under normal circumstances, will create more energy than is consumed by the customer.

SECTION 2: That NLRED shall explore and pursue low-cost solar power projects for customers who are interested in solar power. NLRED shall not explore or pursue solar power projects that increase costs to customers who are not interested in solar power. Examples of permissible actions include:

- (a) Community-based Solar Power Facilities that allow customers to subscribe to, and share in, the economic and environmental attributes of solar power.
- (b) Fair and equitable implementation of City ordinances designed to facilitate the connection of net-metered and distributed generation Solar Power Facilities at customer expense.
- (c) Coordination of utility-scale projects with other necessary parties, such as the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (“MISO”), Entergy Arkansas, Inc., the North Little Rock Planning Commission, SERC, and others.

SECTION 3: That NLRED shall afford customers a fair and equitable opportunity to invest in Solar Power Facilities.

- (a) No person or entity may connect a Solar Power Facility to the NLRED distribution system unless that person or entity is a customer of NLRED.
- (b) No person or entity may subscribe to an NLRED community-based Solar Power Facility unless that person or entity is a customer of NLRED.
- (c) No customer may connect a Solar Power Facility to the NLRED distribution system in a size or manner that would diminish the ability of another customer to connect a Solar Power Facility to the NLRED distribution system.
- (d) Customers may only connect Solar Power Facilities on the load side of an existing metered service.
- (e) NLRED shall afford all customers a fair and equal right to subscribe to community-based Solar Power Facilities.

SECTION 4: That customers of NLRED shall not be required to involuntarily pay an increase in electric rates attributable to the cost of solar power.

- (a) NLRED shall not bear the cost of a customer’s Solar Power Facility.
- (b) NLRED shall limit the size of community-based Solar Power Facilities to that which NLRED reasonably believes will be fully subscribed within three (3) years. No subsequent community-based Solar Power Facility will be

constructed until NLRED customers have subscribed to 70% of the capacity of all previously constructed community-based Solar Power Facilities.

SECTION 5: That NLRED shall ensure that the principles stated in this Resolution shall be narrated on the NLRED website.

SECTION 6: That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

PASSED:

APPROVED:

Mayor Joe A. Smith

SPONSOR:

ATTEST:

Mayor Joe A. Smith *JAS*

Diane Whitbey, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

C. Jason Carter, City Attorney

PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY/b

FILED	<u>11:35</u>	A.M.	_____	P.M.
By	<u>City Clerk Jason Carter</u>			
DATE	<u>10/20/15</u>			
Diane Whitbey, City Clerk and Collector North Little Rock, Arkansas				
RECEIVED BY	<u>DA</u>			