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**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY**

December 29, 2016

Carol M. Stonefield  
Chief Principal Research Analyst  
Legislative Counsel Bureau  
401 S. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Ms. Stonefield,

Pursuant to the request received from Senator Settelmeyer and members of the Sunset Subcommittee of the Legislative Commission, a report summarizing the activities and recommendations of the New Energy Industry Task Force (Task Force) is hereby provided.

Following the Subcommittee's vote to recommend continuation of the Task Force and subsequent issuance of Executive Order 2016-04 by the Governor in February 2016, the Task Force reconvened and met a total of four times between March and September 2016. Each of the three Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) established to assist the Task Force in its work in each of the three policy areas identified in the Executive Order also met on a more frequent basis in between. In total, the Task Force and TACs held 23 public meetings to examine the issues thoroughly and inclusively.

The Task Force and TACs were asked to provide recommendations on the best energy policies for Nevada's future and to specifically address policies that achieve the following:

- Encourage the development of clean energy sources and integrate renewable energy technologies into Nevada's energy sector;
- Foster the creation of a modern, resilient, and cost-effective energy grid; and
- Support distributed generation and storage, with a specific focus on rooftop solar and net metering.

The TACs were directed at the first meeting to focus on policies that required legislation in order for the Task Force to provide recommendations by the June 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Branch bill draft request (BDR) deadline. The TACs each voted on a series of legislative recommendations that were subsequently presented to the Task Force for a vote. The resulting Task Force recommendations for BDRs were presented after the second Task Force meeting of May 26, 2016, and are also included in the final list of recommendations enclosed.

Throughout the Task Force and TAC meetings, the goals and objectives outlined in the Governors' Accord for a New Energy Future as well as Nevada's Strategic Planning Framework were continually referenced as guiding documents to provide direction as discussions ensued on the policy directives in the Executive Order. During the TAC meetings, presentations were given by a

number of experts representing the renewable energy industry, utilities, environmental advocates, consumers, businesses, residents and federal and state regulators on a diversity of issues related to the policy focus areas of each TAC. All meeting materials including notices/agendas, presentations and meeting minutes have been made available to the public on the Governor's Office of Energy website at [www.energy.nv.gov](http://www.energy.nv.gov). Additionally, meetings were live streamed whenever possible to maintain transparency and provide public access to the process.

There was extensive public comment and media coverage during the term of the Task Force. Enclosed for reference are Appendices A and B, which include a summary of public comment provided at each Task Force meeting along with a list of media coverage, respectively.

The final recommendations approved by the Task Force are listed below, with more detailed background information also enclosed for reference. Recommendations are categorized by those requiring legislation and those that can be addressed through policy.

#### Recommendations Requiring Legislation:

1. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to require a utility to offer net metering to customer-generators in a manner consistent with systems under NRS Chapter 704 as it existed before the enactment of Senate Bill 374 by the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature and notwithstanding any statute, rule, or determination of any kind by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) to the contrary; provided that the customer-generator had an installed approved system or active Net Energy Metering (NEM) application on or before December 31, 2015. For purpose of these sections, "active NEM application" means a completed net metering application time-stamped by the utility on or before December 31, 2015 that has not expired. The grandfathered systems will be subject to the size of the solar system approved or outlined in the active application, will last for 20 continuous years, and remain with the home.
2. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to amend the Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process, as set out in NRS 704.736, et seq., including the following revisions:
  - Establish preference in NRS 704.746 for measures to reduce demand and increase supply that provide the greatest economic and environmental benefits and the greatest opportunity for the creation of new jobs in the state.
  - Establish preference in NRS 704.746 for measures that diversify energy portfolios and reduce fuel-price and carbon-price risk.
3. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to amend the IRP process, as set out in NRS 704.746, to provide for a broader pre-filing process and greater inclusion of all stakeholders.
4. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to promote energy efficiency policies which would specifically support legislation expressly giving the PUCN the authority, but not the mandate, to institute decoupling if found to be in the public interest.

5. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to enable Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) as outlined in Senate Bill 150 of the 2015 legislative session.
6. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to delete the following energy statutes:
  - NRS 704.701 through NRS 704.731~~2~~ which deals with converting oil power plants to coal.
  - NRS 704.7823, which deals with reverse polymerization of tires.
7. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to constrain the amount of energy produced from fossil fuel sources (including, but not limited to, coal and natural gas) that is used to produce electricity that is consumed by electricity customers of electric utilities in Nevada that, in the most recently completed calendar year or in any other calendar year within the 7 calendar years immediately preceding the most recently completed calendar year, had a gross operating revenue of \$250,000,000, or more, in this State, and NRS 704B providers of new electric service in the State of Nevada to 60% of the total energy purchased or produced (total system energy) by 2026, with extended goals of 55% by 2033 and 50% by 2040. Furthermore, a specific preference shall be established for new clean electricity sources (i.e. renewable energy sources such as geothermal and solar) within the State of Nevada that provide the greatest economic benefits, environmental benefits, and opportunity for the creation of new jobs in this State.

If, for any calendar year, a provider is unable to comply with the percentage limit for the calendar year through the generation of electricity from its own in-state renewable energy systems and if the Commission determines that, for the calendar year, there is not or will not be a sufficient supply of electricity or a reliable supply of electricity made available to the provider pursuant to renewable energy contracts with just and reasonable terms and conditions, the Commission shall exempt the provider, for that calendar year, from its percentage limit or from any appropriate portion thereof, as determined by the Commission.

8. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a funding bill to incentivize one or more demonstration project(s) that integrate distributed energy resources (DER) into Nevada's electric grid using DER resources compatible with a Nevada energy provider's data platform, security, operations and control, communication systems, and interconnection requirements. Distributed energy resources in this context include but would not be limited to energy storage, electric vehicles, renewable generation and other clean energy resources as well as the integration of such resources into microgrids and/or larger systems.
9. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill that would, for any entities currently providing power to Nevadans, or that may provide such services in the future:

- Provide for no less than 5% of utility DSM spending, over a three-year horizon, be directed to help low-income Nevadans become more energy efficient;
  - Direct the PUCN to utilize the Utility Cost Test in lieu of the Total Resource Cost Test, their current practice;
  - Evaluate the utility's DSM programs' cost-effectiveness as a whole, so that the entire portfolio passes the Utility Cost Test without individual programs having to meet that standard;
  - Recover the costs of these programs in a non-bypassable charge that must be assessed by all utility providers. <sup>3</sup>
10. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the recommendation on PACE programs be expanded to include battery storage systems.
11. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to require all energy codes (IECC) adopted after June 1, 2017 to have three performance paths: (1) Prescriptive; (2) Performance; (3) Alternative Compliance.
- After July 1, 2018 all jurisdictions in Nevada must have adopted the three performance paths if they have not adopted a new IECC since the effective date of the bill;
  - Both performance and Alternative Compliance-based paths must use a "net score" that takes into account energy producing features that have been installed on a home via the Dynamic Scoring matrix.
12. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill that would define "energy storage" technologies in NRS, and require that energy storage be considered in utilities' generation, transmission, and distribution planning processes.
13. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to direct the PUCN to study and where appropriate, implement cost-effective energy storage procurement targets to serve all electric customers so that Nevada may unlock opportunities to utilize cost-effective energy storage on the electric grid. The bill would include targets for storage interconnected to each point of the grid – customer-connected, distribution-connected, and transmission-connected. Further, storage procurement targets should increase over time to ensure that lessons learned from earlier procurement inform subsequent procurement.
14. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to give one agency or joint agencies specific authority to adopt regulations to oversee the development of distributed resources. The authority to address consumer complaints regarding business practices in the delivery of distributed generation would be consolidated within one agency and regulations would be developed with input from stakeholders.
15. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to direct the PUCN to create a Value of Distributed Solar structured around quantifying the known and measurable impacts both positive and negative internal, and external if appropriate, to the utility of the following benefits and costs:

- i. Avoided Energy
- ii. Line Losses
- iii. Avoided Generation Capacity
- iv. Ancillary Services
- v. Transmission/Distribution Capacity
- vi. Avoided CO<sub>2</sub> Emission costs
- vii. Voltage Support
- viii. Avoided Criteria Pollutants costs
- ix. Fuel Hedging/Diversity<sup>4</sup>
- x. Environmental costs
- xi. Utility Administration costs
- xii. Utility Integration costs
- xiii. Participant Bill Savings

16. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to direct the PUCN to ensure that customers investing in distributed energy resources be reasonably certain that future changes in policy and rate design will not significantly lessen the economics of their distributed energy resource investments.
17. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to authorize a reasonable minimum bill structure as a compromise interim measure (until the PUCN has a final decision in the Value of Solar Dockets for both Sierra Pacific and NV Power) to resurrect the residential and small commercial solar market in Nevada. The bill would reinstate retail rate net metering and restore solar DG customers to their prior rate classes. In return, solar customers would pay a minimum bill not to exceed \$25 per month to ensure a minimum customer contribution from all ratepayers and to reduce the potential impacts of customer cross-subsidization.
18. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to authorize the PUCN to adopt appropriate guidelines to implement community solar (also called Shared Solar, Community Solar Gardens, Solar Gardens) with a focus on expanding solar access to communities of color and low income neighborhoods.
19. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to authorize the use of uncommitted Renewable Generations funding to promote the implementation of new technologies, battery storage projects, low income residential solar, and community solar gardens as determined in a stakeholder process.
20. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to incentivize Next Generation Communities (NextGen). The bill would create NextGen communities that are comprised of solely new solar-home and complimented with either large-scale and/or small-scale residential battery storage or a combination of both. The bill would require an investor-owned utility to offer new net metering to customer-generators within a NextGen community in a manner consistent with systems under NRS Chapter 704 as it existed before the enactment of Senate Bill 374 by the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature and notwithstanding any statute, rule, or determination of any kind by the PUCN

to the contrary for a period of five (5) consecutive years. These customers would be grandfathered for 20 years and the rate would run with the home.

#### Policy Recommendations:

1. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) reconvene the Clean Power Plan Technical Advisory Group, including all stakeholders (including municipalities and electric cooperatives as appropriate<sup>1</sup>), to assist NDEP in the development of a state plan for compliance with the Clean Power Plan that is in the best interests of Nevada citizens and businesses, including exploring Nevada's voluntary participation in the Clean Energy Incentive Program (CEIP).
2. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that NDEP develop a state implementation plan that enables Nevada to trade compliance instruments with other states for the benefit of Nevada customers.
3. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the Governor's Office of Energy continues working collaboratively with western states on regional energy issues that maximize opportunities to advance the development of Nevada's renewable resources, reduce air pollution, and lower costs for consumers.
4. The New Energy Industry Task Force recognizes that electric vehicles pose issues associated with gas tax revenue and recommends that the PUCN work with the Governor's Office of Energy, the Nevada Department of Transportation and the regulated utilities to develop a state plan and programs to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles, including recommending any legislative changes needed.
5. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the Governor's Office of Energy work with the Nevada Department of Transportation to propose financial incentives to stimulate the purchase of electric vehicles, if appropriate.
6. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the State of Nevada, through the Governor's Office of Energy and other state agencies, commit to work with the Administration, Department of Defense and various Federal Agencies in partnership on the Section 368 corridor designation process to address renewable energy development and transmission corridor land use requirements, growth priorities, and long-term energy planning needs.
7. The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the Governor's Office of Energy, the Nevada Division of Minerals and the Nevada Mining Association explore the possibility of utilizing existing closed or closing mining sites to expand domestic renewable resources such as geothermal.

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<sup>1</sup> Municipal utilities and cooperatives in Nevada do not own fossil generation and thus have no Clean Power Plan obligation.

The New Energy Industry Task Force has proven to be a useful forum to bring together consumers, providers, regulators and all interested stakeholders to hold collaborative discussions on the best policies for Nevada's energy future. Many of the energy issues discussed have proven to be very complex, and while there are no simple solutions, the Task Force has developed these recommendations after careful analysis to ensure Nevada's future as a leader in clean and renewable energy. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the Subcommittee would like any further information.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angie Dykema". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Angie" being more prominent than the last name "Dykema".

Angie Dykema

Enclosures: New Energy Industry Task Force Final Recommendations  
Appendix A- NEITF Public Comment Summary  
Appendix B- NEITF Media Coverage

# NEW ENERGY INDUSTRY TASK FORCE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

## Recommendations for Legislation from May 26<sup>th</sup> Task Force Meeting:

1. **Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force (Task Force) recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to require a utility to offer net metering to customer-generators in a manner consistent with systems under NRS Chapter 704 as it existed before the enactment of Senate Bill 374 by the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature and notwithstanding any statute, rule, or determination of any kind by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) to the contrary; provided that the customer-generator had an installed approved system or active Net Energy Metering (NEM) application on or before December 31, 2015. For purpose of these sections, "active NEM application" means a completed net metering application time-stamped by the utility on or before December 31, 2015 that has not expired. The grandfathered systems will be subject to the size of the solar system approved or outlined in the active application, will last for 20 continuous years, and remain with the home.

**Background:** The NEM program at NV Energy currently has 208.9 megawatts (MW) of installed capacity, provided by 23,737 customers in northern and southern Nevada. The PUCN's NEM decision has changed reimbursement rates for these customers who made a financial commitment through owned or leased systems. Grandfathering these customers under the original terms of the NEM program for 20 years will provide a reasonable amount of time to recoup the investment of these systems. In addition, the 208.9 MW is short of the NEM goal to install 235 MW of capacity within the state. Utilizing a size cap would be difficult to manage administratively under any grandfathering program so an application date should be used to eliminate a lengthy queue. Establishing December 31, 2015 as the application cut-off date would allow a maximum of 273.3 MW of installed capacity for NEM Phase 1. This date will provide flexibility for expected attrition of projects and reach the target of 235 MW.

**Conclusion:** The original recommendation brought to the Task Force by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Distributed Generation and Storage included a term of 25 years; however, the Task Force agreed that existing customer-generators should be grandfathered at the prior net metering rates for a term of 20 years.

**Vote:** 9 in favor; 1 opposed; 1 abstained

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Distributed Generation and Storage and has been adopted into Bill Draft Request (BDR) 58-168 by the Governor's Office.



2. **Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to amend the Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process, as set out in NRS 704.736, et seq., including the following revisions:
- Establish preference in NRS 704.746 for measures to reduce demand and increase supply that provide the greatest economic and environmental benefits and the greatest opportunity for the creation of new jobs in the state.
  - Establish preference in NRS 704.746 for measures that diversify energy portfolios and reduce fuel-price and carbon-price risk.

**Background:** This recommendation would establish clear legislative direction for the PUCN to adequately evaluate the costs and benefits of clean energy sources. While NRS 704.746 allows the PUCN to give preference to measures that provide the greatest economic and environmental benefits to the State, the primary focus has been on the "least cost" plan as measured by the present worth of revenue requirements. Some believe this focus on "least cost" undervalues economic and environmental benefits of clean energy sources, does not adequately assess fuel price risk and carbon price risk of over-reliance on natural gas fired generation, and does not diversify energy portfolios.

**Conclusion:** The Task Force believes this recommendation would require the PUCN to give preference for measures that provide the greatest economic and environmental benefits, the greatest opportunity for the creation of new jobs in the state, diversify energy portfolios and reduce fuel and carbon-price risk, and help to position Nevada to lead the nation as a producer and consumer of clean and renewable energy by amending NRS 704.746 Section 5 as follows:

5. The Commission ~~may~~ *[shall]* give preference to the measures and sources of supply set forth in paragraph (c) of subsection 4 that:

- (a) Provide the greatest economic and environmental benefits to the State;
- (b) Are consistent with the provisions of this section;
- (c) Provide levels of service that are adequate and reliable; and
- (d) Provide the greatest opportunity for the creation of new jobs in this State-; *[and*  
*(e) Diversify electricity supply portfolios, reduce customer exposure to the price volatility of fossil fuels and potential costs of carbon.]*

**Vote:** 7 in favor; 1 opposed; 3 abstained

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Clean Energy Sources and has been adopted into BDR 58-167 by the Governor's Office of Energy.

3. **Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to amend the IRP process, as set out in NRS 704.746, to provide for a broader pre-filing process and greater inclusion of all stakeholders.

**Background:** Current regulations in NAC 704.952 require that at least four months before the anticipated date for filing the resource plan, the utility shall meet with staff and the personnel of the Bureau of Consumer Protection (BCP) to provide an overview of the anticipated filing.

**Conclusion:** The Task Force agreed that in order to allow for a more open and transparent planning process, the pre-filing process should be expanded to include greater participation by all interested persons. In order to accomplish this expansion, language from NAC 704.952(5) and (6) could be integrated into NRS 704.746(1), and include language that the utility shall meet with “staff, the personnel of the Bureau of Consumer Protection and all other ‘interested persons’ to provide an overview of the anticipated filing”. PUCN staff would also be required to provide requisite notice to the public of the planning meetings to ensure all interested persons shall have timely notice.

**Vote:** Task Force approved unanimously (with 1 abstention)

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Clean Energy Sources. It has been combined with recommendation #2 above into BDR 58-167 by the Governor’s Office of Energy.

4. **Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to promote energy efficiency policies which would specifically support legislation expressly giving the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) the authority, but not the mandate, to institute decoupling if found to be in the public interest.

**Background:** During a previous investigatory docket held by the PUCN on decoupling, there was support for some form of this regulatory tool, including support from PUCN Staff, the Bureau of Consumer Protection, Sierra Club, and NCARE. The TAC on Clean Energy Sources brought this recommendation to the Task Force after discussion at one of its meetings that the stated barrier to implementation was simply that the PUCN lacked legislative authority to implement this ratemaking mechanism. This recommendation merely clears this hurdle and allows the PUCN to look at decoupling as a ratemaking mechanism.

**Conclusion:** The Task Force agreed to recommend providing this clear legislative authority to allow the PUCN to consider decoupling without making any recommendations on the merits of decoupling.

**Vote:** 6 in favor; 1 opposed; 4 abstained

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Clean Energy Sources.

5. **Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to support legislation enabling Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) as outlined in Senate Bill 150 of the 2015 legislative session.

**Background:** PACE is a clean energy financing program that uses an existing special improvement district statute, NRS 271, et seq., to leverage private sector financing for renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements on private property, facilitating an increase in property values and saving consumers money by reducing energy costs. This private sector financing is secured by a lien on the improved private property that will be superior to any mortgage held against the property.

**Conclusion:** The Task Force agreed that this financing program would provide additional opportunities for clean energy development. This enabling legislation will support municipal energy development plans, private property improvements and allow another avenue for Nevadans at all income levels to take advantage of renewable energy and energy efficiency opportunities.

**Vote:** Task Force approved unanimously (with 1 abstention)

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Clean Energy Sources and has been adopted into BDR 22-233 by the Governor's Office of Energy.

6. **Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to delete the following energy statutes:
- Eliminate NRS 704.701 through NRS 704.731, which deals with converting oil power plants to coal.
  - Eliminate NRS 704.7823, which deals with reverse polymerization of tires.

**Background:** This recommendation simply eliminates a number of obsolete statutes governing energy. The first set of statutes, NRS 704.701 through 704.731, enacted in 1983, include provisions that would permit converting oil power plants to coal plants. This series of statutes describe the transfer of rates from and credits for these gas and oil plants when converted to coal plants. However, this rate and credit program has become obsolete for a number of reasons, including the fact that such plants do not currently exist for conversion purposes, and coal plants themselves are currently being phased out pursuant to SB 123.

The second statute, NRS 704.7823, was enacted to permit a technology for 'reverse polymerization' of tires used to create energy to partially count toward Nevada's Renewable Portfolio Standard with a .7 kWh multiplier for energy generated through this process. However, the entities seeking to obtain RPS credit for this technology were never actually developed in Nevada. Since this technology has never been used in Nevada, the CES TAC recommended deleting this industry specific RPS credit. Additionally, in order for Nevada to position itself on an equal footing with other western states regarding RPS tracking/trading, it is important to remove compliance exceptions

from Nevada statutes. The Nevada Legislature has already removed the multipliers for solar and this statutory deletion would serve as additional clean-up of the RPS statutes.

**Conclusion:** The Task Force agreed that these statutes are no longer relevant and should be deleted.

**Vote:** Task Force approved unanimously (with 1 abstention)

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Clean Energy Sources.

Recommendations for Legislation from July 27<sup>th</sup> Task Force Meeting:

7. **Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature establish a bill which shall constrain the amount of energy produced from fossil fuel sources (including, but not limited to, coal and natural gas) that is used to produce electricity that is consumed by electricity customers of electric utilities in Nevada that, in the most recently completed calendar year or in any other calendar year within the 7 calendar years immediately preceding the most recently completed calendar year, had a gross operating revenue of \$250,000,000, or more, in this State, and NRS 704B providers of new electric service in the State of Nevada to 60% of the total energy purchased or produced (total system energy) by 2026, with extended goals of 55% by 2033 and 50% by 2040. Furthermore, a specific preference shall be established for new clean electricity sources (i.e. renewable energy sources such as geothermal and solar) within the State of Nevada that provide the greatest economic benefits, environmental benefits, and opportunity for the creation of new jobs in this State.

If, for any calendar year, a provider is unable to comply with the percentage limit for the calendar year through the generation of electricity from its own in-state renewable energy systems and if the Commission determines that, for the calendar year, there is not or will not be a sufficient supply of electricity or a reliable supply of electricity made available to the provider pursuant to renewable energy contracts with just and reasonable terms and conditions, the Commission shall exempt the provider, for that calendar year, from its percentage limit or from any appropriate portion thereof, as determined by the Commission.

**Background:** The Governors' Accord for a New Energy Future, Nevada's Strategic Planning Framework, and Executive Order 2016-04 clearly define the need to diversify Nevada's energy portfolio and expand renewable energy for the benefit of Nevadans. Current planning (per approved Integrated Resource Plans filed by public utilities in the State) for Nevada's electric resource supply will lead to a substantial dependency on natural gas by 2035 with limited expansion of Nevada's renewable energy resources. Renewable energy resources have become viable and cost-effective and provide economic, health, and environmental benefits to Nevadans.

**Conclusion:** The Task Force agreed on this recommendation as a strategic plan to satisfy these goals for the State and provide a foundation for further advancement, while accounting for impacts to the ratepayer, reliability of the electrical grid system, and maximizing the benefits to Nevadans.

**Vote:** 6 in favor; 2 opposed; 1 abstained

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Clean Energy Sources.

#### Recommendations for Legislation from September 27<sup>th</sup> Task Force Meeting:

8. **Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a funding bill to incentivize one or more demonstration project(s) that integrate distributed energy resources (DER) into Nevada's electric grid using DER resources compatible with a Nevada energy provider's data platform, security, operations and control, communication systems, and interconnection requirements. Distributed energy resources in this context include but would not be limited to energy storage, electric vehicles, renewable generation and other clean energy resources as well as the integration of such resources into microgrids and/or larger systems.

**Background:** Distributed energy technology continues to evolve and become more competitive in price. As these technologies shift and change, the ability to integrate them seamlessly into the existing Nevada grid becomes more challenging. Pilot projects will assist Nevada's energy providers to better understand these challenges and help them plan and enhance their systems to more appropriately accommodate these resources going forward.

**Conclusion:** The Task Force agreed this recommendation would be a good use of Renewable Generations funds or another source which could be identified by the Legislature to support the integration of distributed generation and storage technologies into Nevada's energy sector.

**Vote:** Task Force approved unanimously (with 1 abstention)

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Grid Modernization.

9. **Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill that would, for any entities currently providing power to Nevadans, or that may provide such services in the future:
- Provide for no less than 5% of utility DSM spending, over a three-year horizon, be directed to help low-income Nevadans become more energy efficient;

- Direct the PUCN to utilize the Utility Cost Test in lieu of the Total Resource Cost Test, their current practice;
- Evaluate the utility's DSM programs' cost-effectiveness as a whole, so that the entire portfolio passes the Utility Cost Test without individual programs having to meet that standard;
- Recover the costs of these programs in a non-bypassable charge that must be assessed by all utility providers.

**Background:** There is currently a program in Nevada that helps a limited number of low-income Nevadans pay their energy bills when they are unable to do so on their own; however, there are very few resources made available to helping low-income customers become more energy efficient in order to lower their energy bills outright. Thus, low income customers pay a much higher percentage of their available income on energy bills, limiting their ability to buy other goods and services.

Furthermore, the current test used by the PUCN to evaluate efficiency programs has not appeared conducive to implementing utility energy efficiency programs targeted toward lower-income Nevadans for the following two reasons:

- 1) The PUCN currently uses the "Total Resource Cost Test" (TRC) to evaluate the cost effectiveness of energy efficiency programs. This test is deemed by some utility analysts to not fairly compare a utility's cost of supplying energy with the cost of its saving energy. By not providing a "level playing field" to compare the costs of supply-side resources to the cost of Demand-Side Management (DSM) programs, the PUCN's current policy encourages more energy production than would likely be the case under a different, and more levelized method of analysis.

This recommendation directs the PUCN to use the Utility Cost Test (UTC), a policy already in place in Utah, New Mexico, and other states, that compares only the utility's cost of saving energy against its cost of supplying energy. This comparison of supply-side versus DSM expenditures could help offset the need for more costly supply-side resources and future power plant construction, benefiting all ratepayers.

- 2) Under Nevada's policy currently, each individual energy efficiency program must meet the TRC cost test. In an example presented to the TAC on Clean Energy Sources of New Mexico's legislation, utility energy efficiency programs can be aggregated together to analyze their costs and benefits, so that an entire portfolio of energy efficiency programs are being evaluated for their cost-effectiveness. This opportunity to aggregate program costs and benefits together for evaluation as a portfolio enables more programs for low income utility customers.

The Clean Energy Sources TAC noted, in recommending to dedicate no less than 5% of a utility's total energy efficiency program expenditures to low-income customer programs (evaluated on a 3-year basis), that low-income customers have

been paying the surcharge on utility bills for energy efficiency programs without having energy efficiency programs available to them.

By enabling low-income Nevadans to access energy efficiency programs, and save on their utility bills, advocates expect additional positive economic effects from this policy as these low-income customers will have additional income to spend outside of their utility bills.

To facilitate a level playing field in the contingency of retail competition being implemented in Nevada, the recovery of the costs of these energy efficiency programs would be accomplished through a non-bypassable surcharge that must be assessed by all utility providers, both those currently in the Nevada energy market and those which may become providers under a restructured energy market scenario.

**Conclusion:** The majority of the Task Force agreed this recommendation would help to promote energy efficiency programs for low-income Nevadans without raising current rates, as it does not represent an increase in the total DSM budget but is simply a carve-out directed at supporting low-income Nevadans to become more energy efficient.

**Vote:** 7 in favor; 2 opposed; 1 abstained

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Clean Energy Sources.

- 10. Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the recommendation on PACE programs be expanded to include battery storage systems.

**Background:** As the Task Force recommended the Legislature revisit PACE-enabling legislation, broadening definitions to include battery storage technologies will expand the impact of programs while supporting storage technologies.

**Conclusion:** The Task Force agreed that including battery storage technologies into the definition of PACE would expand the impact and support storage.

**Vote:** Task Force approved unanimously (with 1 abstention)

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Distributed Generation and Storage.

- 11. Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to require all energy codes (IECC) adopted after June 1, 2017 to have three performance paths: (1) Prescriptive; (2) Performance; (3) Alternative Compliance.

- After July 1, 2018 all jurisdictions in Nevada must have adopted the three performance paths if they have not adopted a new IECC since the effective date of the bill;
- Both performance and Alternative Compliance-based paths must use a “net score” that takes into account energy producing features that have been installed on a home via the Dynamic Scoring matrix.

**Background:** Currently, Nevada mandates adoption of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and there have been challenges with prescriptive green building programs. The IECC has become more prescriptive and energy savings returns on each dollar spent on code compliance is diminishing. The one-size-fits all approach of prescriptive requirements for new residential construction does not fit with many of the performance drivers for Nevada’s climate. Aligning regulations with performance will allow for market driven compliance and the use of installed energy producing and storing features would be accounted for in the rating of the home. Adding an Alternative Compliance path for new construction will allow builders to meet the same bottom line efficiency scores through utilization of distributed generation and storage.

**Conclusion:** The Task Force agreed that allowing for an alternative IECC compliance method would help to support distributed generation and storage.

**Vote:** Task Force approved unanimously (with 1 abstention)

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Distributed Generation and Storage.

**12. Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill that would define "energy storage" technologies in NRS, and require that energy storage be considered in utilities’ generation, transmission, and distribution planning processes.

**Background:** There remains uncertainty in what exactly constitutes energy storage technologies, and how energy storage technologies should be included in utility planning processes. This proposal would establish a definition and allow energy storage to be more fully considered as an option to traditional grid investments in generation, transmission, and distribution. Examples of storage definitions in legislation from other states were provided by the TAC on Distributed Generation and Storage for reference.

**Conclusion:** The Task force concluded that defining “energy storage” in NRS and including it during planning processes would assist in utilizing the benefits of storage projects.

**Vote:** Task Force approved unanimously (with 1 abstention)



**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Distributed Generation and Storage.

- 13. Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to direct the PUCN to study and where appropriate, implement cost-effective energy storage procurement targets to serve all electric customers so that Nevada may unlock opportunities to utilize cost-effective energy storage on the electric grid. The bill would include targets for storage interconnected to each point of the grid – customer-connected, distribution-connected, and transmission-connected. Further, storage procurement targets should increase over time to ensure that lessons learned from earlier procurement inform subsequent procurement.

**Background:** The TACs on Distributed Generation and Storage and Grid Modernization, and the Task Force, heard multiple presentations on how energy storage on the electric grid can increase grid efficiency, integrate renewable energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, offset the need for costly grid investments, improve grid resiliency, and increase energy independence. However, significant barriers to deploying energy storage were identified in the many legacy grid procedures and tariffs that do not contemplate the use of energy storage on the electric grid. Specifically, utility planning, valuation, operations, procurement, interconnection, and rate design do not systematically incorporate energy storage. By demonstrating a commitment to utilize energy storage, storage procurement targets will shape grid processes that fully incorporate energy storage and thus will allow the state to uncover opportunities where storage is a more cost-effective investment than traditional grid infrastructure.

This recommendation would require storage procurement targets for utilities be set for each point of the grid – transmission, distribution, and customer-located – to ensure that utility processes impacting each point of the grid are updated to include storage. Procurement targets would increase over time to allow for lessons learned to inform future procurement. In the recommendation provided by the TAC on Distributed Generation and Storage, a small amount of storage procurement would occur by 2019, a larger amount by 2021, and a substantial amount by 2023. The PUCN would oversee the utilities’ storage procurement activities, including reviewing biannual compliance reports to be filed by utilities on their progress towards achieving their storage procurement targets.

To ensure that no additional costs would be incurred by Nevadans as a result of the state adopting storage procurement targets, this recommendation proposes the procurement of *cost-effective* energy storage so that there is only upside for Nevadans. If, after thorough investigation including a request for offers, utilities cannot find cost-effective opportunities for energy storage on the grid, then utilities could defer their storage procurement.

**Conclusion:** The original recommendation brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Distributed Generation and Storage was to update NRS Chapter 704 to include energy

storage procurement targets starting no later than 2020; however, the Task Force did not think that mandated storage targets were appropriate unless the PUCN could study and show the cost-effectiveness of interconnecting these technologies, and that any targets established by the PUCN be reviewed at future Legislative sessions. Thus, the Task Force agreed that the recommendation should be for the PUCN to study and implement procurement targets only where appropriate and cost-effective, and that there should not be a deadline for targets to start by 2020.

**Vote:** Task Force approved unanimously (with 1 abstention)

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Distributed Generation & Storage.

- 14. Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to give one agency or joint agencies specific authority to adopt regulations to oversee the development of distributed resources. The authority to address consumer complaints regarding business practices in the delivery of distributed generation would be consolidated within one agency and regulations would be developed with input from stakeholders.

**Background:** Distributed generation is and likely will continue to be a growing source of electricity for the State. The authority to regulate this growing industry has been piecemeal and focused on encouraging the initial development of distributed resources. The use of Net Metering was initially only offered to 100 customers in northern and southern Nevada, and has grown substantially since that initial legislation.

Nevada consumers currently do not have a centralized agency to file complaints regarding the distributed generation industry. Complaints are often received by the PUCN, BCP, Contractors Board, NV Energy, and others. This lack of clarity on oversight has created confusion for customers seeking to make complaints. The Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA) has established an advisory Business Code to promote transparency, good faith, and understanding in the solar energy industry.

**Conclusion:** The Task Force agreed that authority to regulate this emerging industry should be added to a single agency without characterizing distributed generation providers as public utilities. Any new regulations should be developed through a stakeholder process to avoid duplication, inform consumers, and coordinate education outreach campaigns. Any expertise currently utilized in regulating aspects of the distributed generation industry should continue with one agency serving as the clearinghouse for initial complaints and consumer education.

**Vote:** Task Force approved unanimously (with 1 abstention)

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Distributed Generation and Storage.

**15. Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to direct the PUCN to create a Value of Distributed Solar structured around quantifying the known and measurable impacts both positive and negative internal, and external if appropriate, to the utility of the following benefits and costs:

- i. Avoided Energy
- ii. Line Losses
- iii. Avoided Generation Capacity
- iv. Ancillary Services
- v. Transmission/Distribution Capacity
- vi. Avoided CO<sub>2</sub> Emission costs
- vii. Voltage Support
- viii. Avoided Criteria Pollutants costs
- ix. Fuel Hedging/Diversity
- x. Environmental costs
- xi. Utility Administration costs
- xii. Utility Integration costs
- xiii. Participant Bill Savings

**Background:** Net Metering has been based on the exchange of energy at the retail rate with a focus on increasing the number of customers participating in the program. As distributed generation has grown to a larger share of energy generation in the State, this recommendation calls for a more specific and permanent method of quantifying the net benefits and costs of distributed energy resources to be established. While the PUCN has begun evaluating these costs and benefits when evaluating all resources (including distributed generation) in Sierra Pacific's current General Rate Case, this recommendation would make such evaluation a requirement for both Sierra Pacific and Nevada Power.

**Conclusion:** The Task Force concluded that this specific direction would help the PUCN determine the full value of solar. The original recommendation brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Distributed Generation and Storage included language to quantify the known and measurable impacts both positive and negative internal to the utility; however, the majority of the Task Force agreed that the recommendation should also include external impacts beyond those only internal to the utility.

**Vote:** 4 in favor; 2 opposed; 1 abstention

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Distributed Generation and Storage.

**16. Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to direct the PUCN to ensure that customers investing in

distributed energy resources be reasonably certain that future changes in policy and rate design will not significantly lessen the economics of their distributed energy resource investments.

**Background:** The potential for sharp changes in policy and rate design makes customers and developers that offer distributed energy resources to customers hesitant to invest in distributed energy resources. Many distributed energy resource investments are long-term investments, for which customers will not breakeven for 10 to 20 years. If there is a risk that partway through the investment payback period policy changes will make their investments uneconomical, then customers will be less likely to invest in distributed resources. For example, uncertainty of excess energy compensation rates for solar has, in part, resulted in a drastic drop-off of new distributed generation customers. Power purchase agreements (PPAs) establish compensation rates (often for periods of 20 or 25 years) and facilitate financing for capital investment. Similar long-term agreements could be put in place for distributed generation customers. One way to accomplish this could be to create annual tranches of distributed energy resources for which residential and small commercial customers are guaranteed the rate structure or compensation rate set by the PUCN.

**Conclusion:** Although the Task Force discussion included reference to the fact that even utility-scale developers with fixed-rate PPAs are subject to risk since market prices still fluctuate and they are also subject to performance guarantees and delivery requirements, the recommendation was approved by the majority of members.

**Vote:** 5 in favor; 2 opposed; 1 abstention

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Distributed Generation and Storage.

- 17. Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to authorize a reasonable minimum bill structure as a compromise interim measure (until the PUCN has a final decision in the Value of Solar Dockets for both Sierra Pacific and Nevada Power) to resurrect the residential and small commercial solar market in Nevada. The bill would reinstate retail rate net metering and restore solar distributed generation customers to their prior rate classes. In return, solar customers would pay a minimum bill not to exceed \$25 per month to ensure a minimum customer contribution from all ratepayers and to reduce the potential impacts of customer cross-subsidization.

**Background:** Minimum bills are charges that set a billing threshold under which a customer's monthly bill cannot be further reduced through the application of net metering credits or consumption reductions. Minimum bills differ from other bill mechanisms such as customer charges and demand charges in that they are designed to only impact a limited segment of utility customers, leaving rates and charges for customers who regularly exceed the minimum bill unaltered. Minimum bills are common practice in a

range of industries including water, sewage, and telecom. A number of other investor-owned utilities, municipal utilities, and states have either implemented or are actively exploring implementing minimum bill mechanisms. Policies that have been implemented range from \$10 per month for California's largest investor-owned utilities (PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E) up to \$25 per month in Hawaii. These states have some of the most robust solar markets in the United States, suggesting that minimum bills, as implemented, are not fundamentally incompatible with solar market development.

**Conclusion:** The Task Force concluded that this proposal could provide a good interim solution until the PUCN determines a full value of solar through the IRPs and Rate Cases for Sierra Pacific and Nevada Power. There were some concerns raised that this would continue a cost shift on other ratepayers.

**Vote:** 6 in favor; 1 opposed; 1 abstention

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Distributed Generation & Storage.

- 18. Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to authorize the PUCN to adopt appropriate guidelines to implement community solar (also called Shared Solar, Community Solar Gardens, Solar Gardens) with a focus on expanding solar access to communities of color and low income neighborhoods.

**Background:** A majority of Americans face physical barriers that keep them from installing solar on their own rooftop. A report from the National Renewable Energy Lab and Navigant Consulting found that 73-78 percent of homes cannot host solar due to tree shading, orientation or other factors. Moreover, 52 percent of residents nationwide live in multi-unit buildings or homes with shared roofs. Renters have difficulty participating in rooftop solar even if their home is suitable. The sheer diversity of ways in which tenants receive and pay for their electricity makes solar participation complex. Some pay their own utility bills, some share a meter and split payments with other renters, and in other cases the landlord pays for utilities and passes a portion of those costs on to the tenant. In all of these cases, there is a fundamental disconnect between the entity that would benefit most from the utility bill savings of solar (the tenant) and the entity who would need to make or approve the solar investment (the property owner).

These issues are particularly pronounced for low-income households, which are more likely to live in multifamily housing, have unsuitable roofs or rent their homes. Community solar addresses these barriers by allowing consumers to subscribe to a local clean energy project and receive credit on their utility bills for their portion of the clean power produced. Fourteen states and the District of Columbia have community solar policies in place, and many more are considering programs to expand consumer access to clean energy

**Conclusion:** The Task Force concluded that there have been relatively few community solar projects developed and more flexibility should be given to communities to develop these projects.

**Vote:** Task Force approved unanimously (with 1 abstention)

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Distributed Generation and Storage.

- 19. Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to authorize the use of uncommitted Renewable Generations funding to promote the implementation of new technologies, battery storage projects, low income residential solar, and community solar gardens as determined in a stakeholder process.

**Background:** The Renewable Generations program was created in 2003 and modified in subsequent legislative sessions. The program provides incentives to offset installation costs for solar, wind, and hydro distributed generation systems. The program's target is to incentivize the connection of distributed generation systems which total 250 MW. Funding for the program is derived from a volumetric charge on all NV Energy ratepayers. If the volumetric rate does not change, current projections show a surplus of \$38.2 million in the Renewable Generations program which could be reprogramed after the 250 MW goal is met.

**Conclusion:** The Task Force agreed that since this would not be an additional charge to ratepayers but simply a reallocation of an existing charge already on customer bills, these funds should be used to help the deployment of new and emerging technologies

**Vote:** Task Force approved unanimously (with 1 abstention)

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Distributed Generation and Storage.

- 20. Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the 2017 Legislature consider a bill to incentivize Next Generation Communities (NextGen). The bill would create NextGen communities that are comprised of solely new solar-home and complimented with either large-scale and/or small-scale residential battery storage or a combination of both. The bill would require an investor-owned utility to offer new net metering to customer-generators within a NextGen community in a manner consistent with systems under NRS Chapter 704 as it existed before the enactment of Senate Bill 374 by the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature and notwithstanding any statute, rule, or determination of any kind by the PUCN to the contrary for a period of five (5) consecutive years. These customers would be grandfathered for 20 years and the rate would run with the home.

**Background:** NextGen communities are defined to be an all-solar community and comprised of 20 solar-homes or more with the solar technology that is incorporated into the building envelope shortly after the construction of the home and uses large and/or small-scale battery technology.

The NextGen community would automatically qualify for rebates used to offset a certain percentage of the batteries' cost as determined by a stakeholder process. Funding for the battery rebate program shall come from the RenewableGenerations Program, and funding shall be determined by a stakeholder process for each solar community. The NEM applicant will certify that it is part of a NextGen community in the application process with the utility.

The utility shall petition the PUCN for cost recovery of utility-scale batteries. The PUCN shall have 120 days to examine, approve, deny or modify the utility's petition. Prior to the conclusion of five consecutive years, the PUCN shall review the relevant data to determine the cost savings, if any. The PUCN's analysis shall continue to promote net metering customer-generators in a NextGen community and shall take into account the value of solar and include, but not be limited to: Avoided Energy, Line Losses, Avoided Generation Capacity, Ancillary Services, Transmission/Distribution Capacity, Avoided CO2 Emission costs, Voltage Support, Avoided Criteria Pollutants costs, Fuel Hedging/Diversity, Environmental costs, Utility Administration costs, Utility Integration costs, and Participant Bill Savings.

Benefits of the proposal, as identified by the TAC on Distributed Generation and Storage, include the following:

- Transitions an already-evolving grid into a more reliable, resilient and innovative grid;
- Enables new solar home communities to serve a dual function, and provide redispatching function to neighboring communities during outages and/or peak hours;
- Add fuel and generation diversity to a state that is largely relying a single fuel, natural gas, for future generation;
- Continues to facilitate new platforms for new technologies and innovation;
- Reignites an industry that has largely been killed off (e.g., 15 applications for NEM); and
- Increases consumer choice and gets people back to work.

**Conclusion:** The Task Force agreed that an incentive would be appropriate because it would not be a large pool of customers and would help to support distributed generation and storage.

**Vote:** 6 in favor; 1 opposed; 1 abstention

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Distributed Generation and Storage.

Policy Recommendations from September 27<sup>th</sup> Task Force meeting:

1. **Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) reconvene the Clean Power Plan Technical Advisory Group, including all stakeholders (municipalities and electric cooperatives as appropriate<sup>1</sup>), to assist NDEP in the development of a state plan for compliance with the Clean Power Plan that is in the best interests of Nevada citizens and businesses, including exploring Nevada's voluntary participation in the Clean Energy Incentive Program (CEIP).

**Background:** In February, NDEP convened a group of stakeholder experts to comprise, on a volunteer basis, the Nevada Clean Power Plan Technical Advisory Group (NVCPP-TAG) to assist NDEP in developing a state plan, assist with public meetings and provide input on planning from a number of segments of the community. The NVCPP-TAG met once prior to the US Supreme Court's stay of the CPP, and started important planning work, including discussions of the CEIP, which could provide additional economic opportunities. Nevada was in a very good position to meet interim and final CPP goals prior to the stay, and the continued work of the NVCPP-TAG will not only allow the State to be proactive in its planning for CPP compliance, but continue to move the state toward the clean energy goals set out by the Governors' Accord for a New Energy Future and Nevada's Strategic Framework.

**Conclusion:** The Task Force agreed that the NDEP should reconvene the NVCPP-TAG to continue planning work while the courts address the legal challenges so that if the rule is overturned, Nevada will be ready. While the requirements for Nevada to meet the Clean Power Plan are straightforward and attainable, there could be some development opportunities for Nevada to work with neighboring states on meeting their requirements.

**Vote:** Task Force approved unanimously (with 1 abstention)

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Clean Energy Sources.

2. **Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that NDEP develop a state implementation plan that enables Nevada to trade compliance instruments with other states for the benefit of Nevada customers.

**Background:** Despite the stay of the CPP, many states continue to work on their plans because they feel it is a prudent step in preparation for final court determinations upholding the rule. The majority of Western states, for example, are still planning, in part, because they want to continue to work on a model for carbon trading.

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<sup>1</sup> Municipal utilities and cooperatives in Nevada do not own fossil generation and thus have no Clean Power Plan obligation.



**Conclusion:** The Task Force agreed that Nevada should continue work on its state plan under the CPP to stay in step with its Western neighbors and be proactive in its energy policy and carbon reduction goals, and that a state implementation plan should enable Nevada to be in a position to trade with neighboring states, whether it be a rate- or mass-based plan.

**Vote:** Task Force approved unanimously (with 1 abstention)

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Clean Energy Sources.

3. **Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the Governor's Office of Energy continues working collaboratively with western states on regional energy issues that maximize opportunities to advance the development of Nevada's renewable resources, reduce air pollution, and lower costs for consumers.

**Background:** This recommendation came from the Clean Energy Sources TAC following both a policy proposal work session and a presentation by California Independent System Operator's ("CAISO") Stacey Crowley, Vice President Regional and Federal Affairs and Phillip Pettingill, Regional Integration CAISO. As Nevada's neighboring states increase their demand for clean and renewable energy as a result of state and federal policies and regulations, there is an opportunity for Nevada to be part of an increasingly regional market which would enable Nevada to export more of its clean and renewable energy resources.

**Conclusion:** The Task Force agreed that Nevada utility customers could benefit from interstate cooperation and participation in regional energy and carbon markets that result in the lowest cost of compliance. This recommendation mirrors the broad energy goals set out by the Governors' Accord for a New Energy Future and Nevada's Strategic Framework to become the nation's leading producer of clean and renewable energy.

**Vote:** Task Force approved unanimously (with 1 abstention)

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Clean Energy Sources.

4. **Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recognizes that electric vehicles pose issues associated with gas tax revenue and recommends that the PUCN work with the Governor's Office of Energy, the Nevada Department of Transportation and the regulated utilities to develop a state plan and programs to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles, including recommending any legislative changes needed.

**Background:** This recommendation recognizes that there is a public interest in expanded use of EV's, and that it supports the goals of the Governors' Accord for a New Energy Future and Nevada's Strategic Framework. This would establish transportation electrification as a state goal and encourage greater utility involvement in expanding the deployment of electric vehicles. Additionally, discussions in the Clean Energy Sources TAC recognized that tailpipe exhaust from Internal Combustion Engines now comprises a significant portion of Nevada's carbon emissions, which can be reduced by using electricity as a fuel. The Clean Energy Sources TAC heard studies specifically addressing pollution from vehicles in Clark and Washoe counties that indicated electric vehicles substantially reduce emissions of carcinogenic Volatile Organic Compounds and Nitrous Oxide, both of which are ozone precursors, a topic of increasing importance to both counties. The Clean Energy Sources TAC also heard economic analysis that indicated that by reducing the importation of gasoline into Nevada, EVs offer an avenue to create jobs and boost Nevada's economic output. As such, this recommendation directs the PUCN and the Office of Energy to work with the regulated utilities to develop plans and programs that will accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles in Nevada by the end of 2017.

An electric vehicle plan may include investments in or customer rebates for charging infrastructure, in a manner that stimulates competition and customer choice in charging infrastructure; appropriate tariffs for both consumer electric vehicles and heavy duty electric vehicles; consumer or midstream vehicle incentives; and a plan to market the benefits of electric vehicles. The PUCN would review any submitted plan to determine if it is reasonable and will benefit all of its customers and review how costs of the implementation of the plan shall be recovered. Similar legislation passed earlier in 2016 in Utah and Oregon.

**Conclusion:** The Task Force agreed that the State should work towards the establishment of statewide goals to accelerate the adoption of EVs, but that these goals need to be combined with evaluation of how to replace gas tax revenues supporting road construction.

**Vote:** Task Force approved unanimously (with 1 abstention)

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Clean Energy Sources.

5. **Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the Governor's Office of Energy work with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) to propose financial incentives to stimulate the purchase of electric vehicles, if appropriate.

**Background:** Experience from other states shows that a modest financial incentive, either as a tax credit or point of sale rebate, has a significant impact on increasing EV sales. Nevada could create a state sales tax rebate, with a cap, for example at a maximum

of \$2,500 per vehicle. Based on 2015 Nevada EV sales, and assuming this would increase sales an additional 50% on average, the cost to the state could be approximately \$2.25 million per year. In order to limit this ongoing cost impact, the tax credit or point of sale rebate program could have a sunset provision, for example be in effect for four years between 2017-2020, and/or be capped at a certain number of EV's entering the market. Increasing the adoption of EV's falls squarely within the Governors' Accord for a New Energy Future and Strategic Framework, and in particular works in synergy with the completion of an "electric highway" system to serve the entire state. It aligns with the goals of the Accord's call to encourage clean transportation options by supporting automakers' and fueling companies' market expansion for these new vehicles to lessen dependence on petroleum and reduce pollution. By supporting needed incentives Nevada will encourage expanded use of these new technologies. It also supports the Strategic Framework goals, specifically, 7.2.3 which seeks to reduce carbon emissions to a level at or below accepted federal standards, and, currently, one of Nevada's most significant sources of carbon emissions is tailpipe emissions.

**Conclusion:** The Task Force concluded that the Governor's Office of Energy and NDOT should continue to collaborate to propose appropriate incentives for electric vehicles.

**Vote:** Task Force approved unanimously (with 1 abstention)

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Clean Energy Sources.

6. **Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the State of Nevada, through the Governor's Office of Energy and other state agencies, commit to work with the Administration, Department of Defense and various Federal Agencies in partnership on the Section 368 corridor designation process to address renewable energy development and transmission corridor land use requirements, growth priorities, and long-term energy planning needs.

**Background:** The State of Nevada is aware that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (FS), with technical input from the Department of Energy (DOE), will be responsible for potential (re)designation and revision of Section 368 energy corridors and for the incorporation of those designated energy corridors into land use plans. As Nevada seeks to expand the development and use of clean renewable energy resources, the construction and maintenance of a robust and well connected electricity transmission infrastructure has become critically important and represents a key energy policy priority for the State. The high percentage of federal land under various agency jurisdictions in Nevada also requires close state and federal cooperation on all matters which can impact large-scale clean energy project development and implementation.

**Conclusion:** The Task Force agreed that the State of Nevada should continue to work collaboratively with state and federal agencies on energy corridors.

**Vote:** Task Force approved unanimously (with 1 abstention)

**Notes:** This recommendation was brought to the Task Force by the TAC on Grid Modernization.

7. **Recommendation:** The New Energy Industry Task Force recommends that the Governor's Office of Energy, the Nevada Division of Minerals and the Nevada Mining Association explore the possibility of utilizing existing closed or closing mining sites to expand domestic renewable resources such as geothermal.

**Background:** A proposal was brought to the Task Force for consideration at the final meeting on September 27, 2016 to highlight the wealth of geothermal in Nevada and the importance of developing domestic resources and utilizing existing mining sites that are closed or closing, to ensure national security. The Task Force discussed how resources like geothermal are sited based on resource location, and that often there is a similarity to the geologic features found in mining sites.

**Conclusion:** The original proposal was to expand geothermal energy projects using existing mining resources and to develop a plan of action to bring closed or closing mines into renewable resource development; however, because the details of such a plan were not presented, the Task Force recommended that the idea be explored in more detail.

**Vote:** Task Force approved unanimously (with 1 abstention)

**Notes:** This proposal was brought to the Task Force for consideration by Senator Spearman.

**TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

Angie	Dykema	Governor's Office of Energy
Kathryn	Arbeit	First Solar
Josh	Nordquist	Ormat
Beth	O'Brien	Pattern
Jeremy	Susac	Sunstreet
Starla	Lacy	NV Energy
Kyle	Davis	Davis Strategies
Danny	Thompson	AFL-CIO
Tom	Ewing	GSL Electric
Matt	Tuma	Governor's Office of Economic Development
Patricia	Spearman	NV Legislature
James	Oscarson	NV Legislature

**TAC – CLEAN ENERGY SOURCES**

Kyle	Davis	Davis Strategies
Jennifer	Taylor	Clean Energy Project
Dave	Emme	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Anne-Marie	Cuneo	Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
Bob	Johnston	Western Resource Advocates
Dennis	Laybourn	Newmont Mining Corporation
Tom	Polikalis	Southwest Energy Efficiency Project
Josh	Nordquist	Ormat
Kathryn	Arbeit	First Solar
Lisa	Briggs	Sempra
Joe	Johnson	Sierra Club
Starla	Lacey	NV Energy

**TAC – GRID MODERNIZATION**

Starla	Lacey	NV Energy
Rebecca	Wagner	Wagner Strategies
John	Candelaria	Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
Shahzad	Lateef	NV Energy
Chris	Tomchuck	Valley Electric Association
Hank	James	Nevada Rural Electric Association

**TAC – DISTRIBUTED GENERATION & STORAGE**

Jeremy	Susac	SunStreet Energy Group
Matt	Tuma	Governor's Office of Economic Development
Bo	Balzar	Bombard Electric
Jason	Geddes	Washoe County School District
Sarah	Van Cleve	Tesla
Marco	Velotta	City of Las Vegas
Tom	Ewing	GSL Electric
Dale	Stransky	Bureau of Consumer Protection
Jessica	Scott	Vote Solar
Adam	Kramer	Switch
Bobby	Hollis	Facebook
Jack	McGinley	NV Energy

## **APPENDIX A**

### **NEW ENERGY INDUSTRY TASK FORCE - PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY**

#### **March 22, 2016 Meeting:**

A total of 17 people provided public comment at this meeting. Many expressed gratitude and commended Governor Sandoval for reconvening the New Energy Industry Task Force. There were some who expressed concern regarding the time of day these meetings were held since it made it difficult for concerned citizens to attend; however, the transparent process and accessibility of these meetings was appreciated by most.

The main topic discussed was the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) decision regarding net metering. Of those who participated in public comment, approximately two-thirds expressed concern regarding the solar industry in Nevada after the PUCN's decision. The consensus among these was that this decision was responsible for essentially decimating the solar industry in Nevada, ruining the state's reputation, and costing the state thousands of jobs. Among those who commented were both small business owners and homeowners with roof top solar. The small business owners described the loss of jobs and income for the companies, while the homeowners with rooftop solar discussed the future increase to their energy bills and loss of equity on their homes. The majority thought the solution would be to draft balanced and appropriate energy policy that makes net metering customers whole again, is fair to all other utility customers, and encourages the growth of Nevada's economy once again. There was one participant who was happy with the PUCN's decision regarding net metering since in his opinion, it put a stop to outside companies making money off of Nevada. He stated that he would like the state to focus on creating jobs for Nevadans and economic sustainable growth.

The Clean Power Plan (CPP) was the other focus of comments at this meeting. Of those who participated in public comment, approximately one-third thought it was important to meet Nevada's energy needs with clean energy and reduce carbon emissions in compliance with the CPP.

Almost a quarter of those who participated in public comment expressed their desire to prioritize access to clean energy for low-income households and communities comprised of minorities, and just over one-third noted interest in seeing Nevada build a strong economy and become a leader in the nation in clean energy.

### **May 26, 2016 Meeting:**

A total of 17 people provided public comment at this meeting. The majority of public comment was regarding net metering and specifically grandfathering. All comments were in favor of grandfathering; however, many voiced opposition to the 20 year limitation and expressed that the decision seemed to have been based on solar rooftop customers with leased systems and did not take into consideration the customers who owned their systems. Many also referenced the new analysis on costs and benefits of rooftop solar energy in Nevada published by NRDC and SolarCity. Participants referenced the study's findings that instead of costing the state of Nevada \$16 million dollars per year, rooftop solar generation is providing \$7 million dollars in net benefits per year across the state. Many also referred to the Brookings' Institute recently released paper which discusses the benefits of rooftop solar in the United States. Participants encouraged the Task Force to consider the peer review data found in these studies to make a well-founded decision.

Public comment was also provided regarding fossil fuels and the fact that natural gas is not an infinite resource. A statement was made regarding the water shortage in Nevada, stating that energy production is the second largest water consumer and therefore promoting energy efficiency and the use of clean energy through new policy and incentives will help alleviate this problem. Many participants asked for a diversification of the state's economy in order to keep jobs in state and make Nevada the global leader in renewable energy and sustainability.

One participants spoke in favor of increasing the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) as a means to develop the clean energy industry in Nevada.

### **July 27, 2016 Meeting:**

A total of 33 people provided public comment at this meeting. About a quarter of the public comment focused on the grandfathering of net metering customers, and about a quarter of comments addressed the RPS issue and the majority of these comments expressed desire for a goal of 100% clean energy. Some of the public comment was regarding national security and the fact that solar and other clean energy technologies make the country safer because of decreased dependency on the fossil fuels. Another concern that was voiced mentioned outreach to people of color and who live in low income communities. Many comments wanted to promote community solar projects, green banks, energy efficiency, sustainable energy, and an increase in incentives for all of these technologies. In turn, they stated, this would create jobs, advance technology, and reduce energy demands.

Other members of the public referenced the goals in the Governor's Accord for a New Energy Future and the Nevada's Strategic Planning Framework and mentioned increasing the number of



jobs in renewable energy technology and positioning Nevada as the nation's leading producer and consumer of clean and renewable energy.

**September 27, 2016 Meeting:**

At total of 17 people provided public comment at this meeting. Many of those who participated in public comment once again commended Governor Sandoval for re-convening the New Energy Industry Task Force and mentioned satisfaction with the outcome and transparency of the process. The majority expressed their support of the solar industry and encouraged the promotion of clean energy production in Nevada. About a quarter of the public comments were supportive of the Clean Power Plan and a push to eliminate coal plants. About a quarter of participants discussed the importance of making solar and energy efficiency measures available to low income communities. Others discussed the connection between renewable energy and national security and encouraging Nevada to become a leader in reducing foreign oil. Public comment was also provided regarding electric vehicles; these participants encouraged the acceleration and growth of the electric vehicle market and infrastructure in Nevada.

## APPENDIX B

### NEW ENERGY INDUSTRY TASK FORCE – MEDIA COVERAGE

#### *Public News Service* (September 30) **Nevada Solar Advocates Laud Task-Force**

##### **Recommendations**

Solar advocates are praising recommendations just released by Gov. Brian Sandoval's New Energy Industry Task Force which propose that customers be allowed to sell excess solar electricity back to the grid at reasonable rates, in exchange for a small baseline fee on their bills. Advocates said this was a big win for the solar community - particularly in light of a Public Utilities Commission decision in December 2015 which halted net metering - effectively shutting down the small-scale solar industry in Nevada and resulting in thousands of layoffs.

<http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2016-09-29/consumer-issues/nevada-solar-advocates-laud-task-force-recommendations/a54250-1>

#### *Solar Industry Magazine* (September 30) **Solar Advocates Applaud Nevada Task Force**

##### **Recommendations**

Earlier this week, Nevada's New Energy Industry Task Force passed a number of recommendations that would promote solar in the state. In February, Gov. Brian Sandoval, R-Nev., reconvened the task force amid the infamous changes to Nevada's net energy metering (NEM) rules and charged the group with addressing myriad energy issues and coming up with policy proposals for the state. The task force, which consists of Nevada energy stakeholders, has submitted its recommendations to Sandoval for review.

<http://solarindustrymag.com/solar-advocates-applaud-nevada-task-force-recommendations>

#### *PV Magazine* (September 29) **Nevada: Governor's Task Force Recommends Bringing Back Net Metering**

On Tuesday, the New Energy Industry Task Force assembled by Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval voted to approve earlier draft recommendations which include a call for bringing back net metering, along with a minimum bill of up to \$25 per month, as an interim measure "to resurrect the residential and small commercial solar market in Nevada".

<https://pv-magazine-usa.com/2016/09/29/nevada-governors-task-force-recommends-bringing-back-net-metering/>

#### *KKOH* (September 28) **Clean Energy Project Commending the Governor**

The Clean Energy Project is commending Governor Brian Sandoval and his New Energy Industry Task Force, which Tuesday made a series of legislative and regulatory recommendations to implement clean energy policies in 2017.

<http://www.kkoh.com/2016/09/28/clean-energy-project-commending-the-governor/>

#### *(Las Vegas Sun)* (September 27) **Energy Panel Looks At How To Better Promote Electric Cars In Nevada**

Gov. Brian Sandoval's energy committee wants Nevada to speed up the promotion of electric cars and to consider the possibility of giving rebates to those who purchase such vehicles. Electric cars would reduce the air pollution in Clark and Washoe counties and there were estimates there would be 5 million of these vehicles on the road in the next few years. But the

committee also recognized the electric car would reduce the gasoline tax revenue that is coming to the state and local governments to build and maintain highways and roads.

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2016/sep/27/energy-panel-looks-at-how-to-better-promote-electr/>

*Microgrid Knowledge* (September 23) **Nevada Task Force to Consider Legislation on Microgrids**

A Nevada gubernatorial task force, which is looking at ways to make the grid more clean and resilient, will consider proposing microgrid legislation next week. The Nevada New Energy Industry Task Force is scheduled to discuss possible legislation for microgrid and distributed energy pilot projects at its September 27 meeting.

<https://microgridknowledge.com/legislation-on-microgrids/>

*Las Vegas Review Journal* (September 21) **Tesla Gigafactory Expected to Produce Batteries Late This Year**

The New Energy Industry Task Force, re-established by Gov. Brian Sandoval to review green energy policy issues, is considering a recommendation that Nevada's utility, NV Energy, procure energy storage products to offset the need for new grid infrastructure by 2020. The Legislature is likely to consider a similar policy when it convenes next year.

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/business/economic-development/tesla-gigafactory-expected-produce-batteries-late-year>

*Public News Service* (September 20) **Military Expert Visits Nevada, Links National Security to Climate Change**

A nationally recognized expert on military affairs is speaking to veterans and policymakers this week across Nevada about the link between climate change and national security. The Governor's New Energy Industry Task Force is expected to come out with its recommendations soon, and Gunn applauds such state-based efforts.

<http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2016-09-20/climate-change-air-quality/military-expert-visits-nevada-links-national-security-to-climate-change/a54113-1>

*GreenTech Media* (September 15) **How the Solar Industry Can Learn From Local Communities to Expand Access and Diversity**

Access to solar energy has historically been limited to those who could afford to pay or easily finance rooftop systems. This access issue has left a void in the solar industry's market share and constituency that has been used to undermine progressive solar policies time and time again. With the nation's largest solar industry gathering happening in Las Vegas this week, in a state whose solar policies faced just such a fate, the industry has an opportunity -- and an imperative -- to look closely at that void and start developing strategies to address it. In the process, it can rewrite the industry's narrative around inclusion and equity.

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/how-the-solar-industry-can-learn-from-local-communities-to-expand-access>

*PV Tech* (September 15) **SolarCity Praises Agreement to Grandfather 32,000 Nevada Solar Customers Under Favorable Rates**

After an agreement settled by SolarCity, Nevada utility NV Energy and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) staff set the stage for 32,000 Nevada solar customers to be grandfathered

under older and more favorable solar rates, SolarCity praised the deal as a major step in bringing viable solar back to the state.

<http://www.pv-tech.org/news/solarcity-praises-agreement-to-grandfather-32000-nevada-solar-customers-und>

*Solar Industry* (September 14) **Agreement Reached on Nevada's Solar Net-Metering Debacle**  
NV Energy, SolarCity, the Bureau of Consumer Protection and the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) have finally come to an agreement on grandfathering in solar customers to the state's previous net energy metering (NEM) rates.

<http://solarindustrymag.com/agreement-reached-on-nevadas-solar-net-metering-debacle>

*Utility Dive* (September 14) **NV Energy Strikes Solar Grandfathering Deal With SolarCity, Regulatory Staff**

Late last year, Nevada put in place a new net metering policy for rooftop solar that lowered the rate paid for solar power exported back to the grid to the wholesale rate, rather than the retail rate.

<http://www.utilitydive.com/news/nv-energy-strikes-solar-grandfathering-deal-with-solarcity-regulatory-staf/426201/>

*Bloomberg Markets* (September 13) **Nevada To Rule On Buffet's Utility Deal With SolarCity**  
Nevada regulators are set to decide this week on a settlement between Berkshire Hathaway Inc.'s utility, SolarCity Corp. and the state's consumer advocate to roll back rate increases for customers who installed rooftop solar systems prior to this year. The three-member Nevada Public Utilities Commission has scheduled a vote on the deal for Sept. 16, according to a posting on the commission's website. Berkshire's NV Energy Inc. and SolarCity submitted Monday a proposal to regulators that would shield more than 32,000 rooftop solar customers from increases that took effect in January. The agreement also included commission staff and the state's Bureau of Consumer Protection.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-09-13/nevada-set-to-decide-on-buffett-s-utility-deal-with-solarcity>

*Green Tech Media* (September 12) **The Five Paths to Resolving the Solar Debacle in Nevada**  
Perhaps you are at Solar Power International in Las Vegas right now, wondering what's the latest in the effort to fix the Nevada solar debacle? If so, here's your cheat sheet. There are five venues where the ongoing and untenable situation for rooftop solar in Nevada can be resolved.

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/the-five-paths-to-resolving-the-solar-debacle-in-nevada>

*KOH* (July 29) **Gov Task Force Recommends Solar Bills**

"Vote Solar" and other renewable energy supporters are applauding Governor Sandoval and the New Energy Industry Task Force, for recommending a suite of bills that will help spur solar energy development in Nevada.

<http://www.kkoh.com/2016/07/29/gov-task-force-recommends-solar-bills/>

*PV Magazine* (July 28) **Group Applauds Governor Sandoval's Action To Support Clean Energy**

Vote Solar and other renewable energy supporters today applauded Governor Sandoval and the New Energy Industry Task Force, chaired by Office of Energy Director Angie Dykema, for recommending a suite of bills that will help spur solar energy development in Nevada.

[http://www.pv-magazine.com/services/press-releases/details/beitrag/groups-applaud-governor-sandovals-action-to-support-clean-energy\\_100025605/#axzz4G7oDWK4d](http://www.pv-magazine.com/services/press-releases/details/beitrag/groups-applaud-governor-sandovals-action-to-support-clean-energy_100025605/#axzz4G7oDWK4d)

***Green Tech Media* (July 28) NV Energy Seeks To Grandfather Net Metering Customers**

NV Energy filed with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada on Wednesday to grandfather net metering rates for rooftop solar customers who installed their systems or had approved applications to interconnect before 2016. Those customers would be allowed to remain on the retail net metering rate for 20 years.

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/nv-energy-seeks-to-grandfather-net-metering-customers>

***Las Vegas Review Journal* (July 27) NV Energy Files To Grandfather In Some Rooftop Solar Customers**

NV Energy on Wednesday filed with state utility regulators to grandfather eligible private net metering customers who installed systems or who had approved applications pending by Dec. 31, 2015, in under the original more generous rates. The proposal filed with the Nevada Public Utilities Commission would protect this group of rooftop solar customers for 20 years. The proposal is similar to a bill draft request proposed for submission to the 2017 Legislature by Gov. Brian Sandoval's New Energy Industry Task Force. But PUC action could come more quickly than waiting for the Legislature to act.

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/business/energy/nv-energy-files-grandfather-some-rooftop-solar-customers>

***Las Vegas Sun* (July 5) Nevada's Solar Regression Appalls Overseas Champion Of Renewable Energy**

Nevada isn't the only place in the world focused on the use of renewable energy and also the disposal of highly radioactive waste. I recently attended an energy summit in Sweden where European officials and academics gathered to discuss both of those issues in a conference directed at "Ethics in Decisions on Energy."

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2016/jul/05/nevadas-solar-regression-appalls-overseas-champion/>

***PR Newswire* (July 1) Statement from SolarCity Chief Policy Officer Jon Wellinghoff on the Recommendation of the Chair of the Distributed Generation & Storage Technical Advisory Committee of the Nevada New Energy Industry Task Force**

SolarCity Corporation (Nasdaq: SCTY) Chief Policy Officer Jon Wellinghoff made the following statement on the recommendation of the Chair of the Distributed Generation and Storage Technical Advisory Committee to the Governor's New Energy Industry Task Force: "We thank Chairman Jeremy Susac for his proposal to extend net metering, and applaud his leadership in proposing tangible solutions to bring solar back to Nevada. As the Chairman acknowledged, under the new rates the solar industry is 'drowning' and is unable to do business in the state. We're grateful the Task Force recognized the urgent need to grandfather existing net metering consumers, and we look forward to seeing future proposals that protect consumer choice and allow Nevada to regain its rightful place as a clean energy leader."

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/statement-from-solarcity-chief-policy-officer-jon-wellinghoff-on-NEITF-recommendation>

**KNPR (June 15) The End Of Renewable Portfolio Standards In Nevada?**

One after another, disgruntled citizens took the mic at the May 26 meeting of Governor Brian Sandoval's renewable energy task force, filling an hour with their complaints and questions about the public utilities commission's recent decision to hike electricity rates for rooftop-solar customers. Would the task force embrace the recommendation, made by a subcommittee charged with studying distributed generation, that NV Energy grandfather in customers who signed up for rooftop solar before the rate hike? (Ultimately, the answer was yes ... but only for 20 years instead of the recommended 25.)

But if all public eyes were on rooftop solar, the attention of the environmental community was trained on another issue: the state's renewable portfolio standard, or RPS, as insiders call it.

<http://knpr.org/dc-blog/end-renewable-portfolio-standards-nevada>

**RGJ (June 9) One View: Renewable Energy Must Be A Priority For Nevada**

The governor established a New Energy Industry Task Force in February. They have recently sent him a few T-ball suggestions for future energy regulations in Nevada. Depressingly, renewable energies do not seem to be a priority.

<http://www.rgj.com/story/opinion/voices/2016/06/08/one-view-renewable-energy-must-priority-nevada/85627194/>

**Las Vegas Sun (June 7) Reid Rips Energy Task Force For Not Proposing Net Metering Fix**

Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid criticized a state task force for not proposing legislation to reinstate net metering, a policy whereby solar customers received credits for sending excess electricity back to the grid, where it could then be delivered to other NV Energy customers. Its decision not to recommend such a proposal to Gov. Brian Sandoval "reinforces the belief that Nevada has a stodgy commitment to shielding Nevada's energy utility from competition," Reid said in a letter dated June 2 and emailed Monday to New Energy Industry Task Force members.

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2016/jun/07/reid-rips-energy-task-force-no-net-metering-fix/>

**Las Vegas Review Journal (June 7) Reid Backs Grandfathering In Of Existing Rooftop Solar Customers**

U.S. Sen. Harry Reid has told a state energy task force that he was pleased to see a recommendation to grandfather in existing Nevada rooftop solar customers under more favorable rates, but expressed disappointment that the panel has not proposed a way to restore the industry going forward.

In a June 2 letter to Angela Dykema, director of the Nevada Governor's Office of Energy and chairwoman of the New Energy Industry Task Force, Reid said: "The failure to advance a proposal for bringing rooftop solar back reinforces the belief that Nevada has a stodgy commitment to shielding Nevada's energy utility from competition."

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/business/energy/reid-backs-grandfathering-existing-rooftop-solar-customers>

**Las Vegas Sun (May 27) Where Sandoval's Energy Task Force Stands On Renewable, Solar**

For Nevada's energy sector, the legislative session started early. Representatives from the energy industry and lawmakers on an energy task force Thursday recommended several pieces of legislation that ranged from eliminating outdated statutes to grandfathering pre-2016 rooftop solar customers under prior rates. It asked the governor to reconsider the way regulators plan for the future. And it sought to give regulators more leeway in how NV Energy is incentivized. These were some of the ideas that the New Energy Industry Task Force asked Gov. Brian Sandoval to consider in the next two months, as he mulls over what proposals he wants to forward to the Legislature.

<http://lasvegassun.com/news/2016/may/27/where-sandovals-energy-task-force-stands-solar/>

#### ***Solar Industry* (May 27) Another Step Forward: Nevada Task Force Oks Grandfathering**

On Thursday, Nevada's New Energy Industry Task Force passed a motion recommending to grandfather in existing rooftop solar customers under previous net energy metering (NEM) rules for 20 years. The vote comes shortly after a technical committee [approved](#) a similar motion and sent it to the full task force for consideration.

<http://solarindustrymag.com/another-step-forward-nevada-task-force-oks-grandfathering-proposal-for-solar-nem>

#### ***Utility Dive* (May 26) Nevada Task Force Recommends Net Metering Grandfathering Provision**

Nevada has been in the national spotlight for a controversial decision regarding rooftop solar. As a result of the backlash, Gov. Sandoval is seeking to reshape Nevada's image into one more friendly to renewable energy development.

<http://www.utilitydive.com/news/nevada-task-force-recommends-net-metering-grandfathering-provision/419927/>

#### ***Las Vegas Review Journal* (May 24) Sandoval, SunRun Agree To Dismiss Public Records Case**

Gov. Brian Sandoval and the CEO of the rooftop solar company Sunrun have agreed to dismiss a public records court case after meeting Tuesday and agreeing instead to focus on the future of solar energy in Nevada. "I welcome Governor Sandoval's offer to have an open dialogue about the importance of bringing residential rooftop solar back to Nevada and look forward to working with the New Energy Industry Task Force about the role residential rooftop solar industry can and should play in Nevada's clean energy future," SunRun CEO Lynn Jurich said.

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/business/energy/sandoval-sunrun-agree-dismiss-public-records-case>

#### ***Utility Dive* (May 19) Nevada Governor's Task Force Committee Recommends Grandfathering Rooftop Solar Customers**

Nevada's Technical Advisory Committee on Distributed Generation and Storage on Wednesday passed a resolution calling on regulators to grandfather existing rooftop solar customers into the state's previous solar rules for 25 years. The resolution would apply to residential customers who submitted solar applications before Dec. 31, 2015. The advisory group is part of Gov. Brian Sandoval's New Energy Industry Task Force, a group of utility, industry, solar and environmental interests that was set up earlier this year to address state energy issues after months of contentious debate over rooftop solar incentives.



<http://www.utilitydive.com/news/nevada-governors-task-force-committee-recommends-grandfathering-rooftop-so/419527/>

**RGJ (May 19) NV Rooftop Grandfathering Could Be Headed To Legislature**

The hopes of residential rooftop solar customers hoping for a more favorable rate rollback could be in the hands of Nevada lawmakers next year. A Nevada energy task force will be considering such a move after the Technical Advisory Committee on Distributed Generation and Storage recommended on Wednesday that early adopters who applied for residential solar by Dec. 31, 2015 be grandfathered in under the old rates for rooftop solar for an additional 25 years.

<http://www.rgj.com/story/money/business/2016/05/18/nevada-new-energy-industry-task-force-rooftop-solar-grandfathering/84544966/>

**Solar Industry (May 19) A New Sign Of Hope For Nevada's Existing Solar Customers?**

On Wednesday, the Technical Advisory Committee on Distributed Generation, part of Nevada's New Energy Industry Task Force, approved a motion recommending that existing rooftop solar customers in the state be able to again receive more generous rates under previous net energy metering (NEM) rules.

<http://solarindustrymag.com/a-new-sign-of-hope-for-nevadas-existing-solar-customers>

**Washington Times (May 18) Nevada Panel Takes First Steps Towards Solar Grandfathering**

A Nevada panel took a first step Wednesday toward securing more favorable rates for the state's early-adopter rooftop customers - a concept that some lawmakers have said they support after outcry over a recent rate hike. Members of the Technical Advisory Committee on Distributed Generation and Storage voted to recommend that Nevada "grandfather" customers who applied to go solar by Dec. 31, 2015. That means allowing customers to revert back to the more generous rate structure in place before the Public Utilities Commission increased rates in December.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/may/18/nevada-may-take-first-steps-toward-solar-grandfath/>

**DESMOG (May 8) "We Were Booming and Now We're Dead" — How Nevada's Solar Industry Bright Spot Turned Dark**

It was a decision by the Public Utility Commission of Nevada (PUCN) in December that delivered a fatal blow to rooftop solar in the sunniest state in the U.S. By removing a key incentive for rooftop solar customers – net metering – the PUC made it prohibitively expensive for existing and future solar customers to use solar panels to generate part or all of their electricity needs. And it turned electricity-generating rooftop panels from a net-plus for homeowners to a technological albatross, at least for the near future.

<http://www.desmogblog.com/2016/05/09/we-were-booming-and-now-we-re-dead-how-nevada-s-solar-industry-bright-spot-turned-dark>

**Las Vegas Sun (April 27) Here's How To Restore Nevada's Place In The Sun**

As the debate over rooftop solar pits ordinary homeowners and even world-famous billionaires against each other, it's all too easy to get sidetracked by the theatrics and lose sight of the important stakes — not just in Nevada, but across the nation. Depending on your perspective, this important, complex and technical debate boils down to either entrenched utility monopolies



trying to block clean-energy competitors or well-heeled environmentalists expecting their neighbors to subsidize their green lifestyles.

<http://lasvegassun.com/news/2016/apr/14/heres-how-to-restore-nevadas-place-in-the-sun/>

*Vegas Seven* (April 19) **Energy Choice Initiative Seeks Power For The People**

A constitutional battle is brewing in Nevada between the solar industry and the state's monopolistic electric utility, [NV Energy](#), and Reno attorney Matt Griffin is leading the charge. Griffin helped formulate the Energy Choice Initiative, a ballot measure that would amend the state's constitution and give residents and businesses freedom to choose their electricity supplier by 2023. Backers must gather 55,000 voter signatures to put the measure on the 2016 and 2018 general election ballots. If the measure passes, Nevada would become one of the West's first states to allow retail energy choice, which will lower electricity costs, create jobs and support renewable energy technologies, Griffin asserts.

<http://vegasseven.com/2016/04/19/energy-choice-initiative-seeks-power-people/>

*Las Vegas Sun* (March 23) **Sandoval aide: Nevada's clean energy reputation is damaged**

A controversial decision increasing costs for rooftop solar customers loomed over the first meeting of a task force charged with recommending a long-term plan for clean energy in Nevada. Convened at the request of Gov. Brian Sandoval, the panel of energy executives, administration officials and lawmakers could offer possible legislation to encourage a modern electric grid. But one of the timeliest concerns facing the task force is how the state should move forward in the wake of a Public Utilities Commission decision that increased bills for solar customers.

<http://lasvegassun.com/news/2016/mar/22/sandoval-aide-nevadas-clean-energy-reputation-is-d/>

*Public News Service* (March 23) **Solar Advocates Optimistic after Energy Task Force Meeting**

Solar advocates are giving the governor's New Energy Industry Task Force generally positive reviews after it met Tuesday for the first time in years. About 80 people attended the meeting, which was held simultaneously in Carson City and by teleconference in Las Vegas. Many speakers condemned the Nevada Public Utilities Commission's decision to change the rules on net metering late last year, which resulted in massive layoffs in the rooftop solar industry.

<http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2016-03-23/climate-change-air-quality/solar-advocates-optimistic-after-energy-task-force-meeting/a50995-1>

*VegasInc* (March 23) **Rooftop solar fees become dominant issue for Nevada energy task force**

With Gov. Brian Sandoval's administration eager to move past damaging publicity from a regulatory decision to increase bills for Nevada rooftop solar customers, the possibility of amending that decision was a key issue during an energy task force meeting Tuesday. Convened at Sandoval's request, the New Energy Industry Task Force created a subcommittee to examine the issue before the group's next meeting in May. The subcommittee includes a wide variety of governmental, economic and industry interests, with members that include a representative from Vote Solar, Tesla, NV Energy, data company Switch, a state economic development official and the office of Nevada's consumer advocate.

<http://vegaseven.com/business/2016/mar/23/rooftop-solar-fees-become-dominant-issue-for-nevad/>

*Las Vegas Review-Journal* (March 21) **Leaders agree task force is best way to move Nevada ahead on green energy**

Nevada environmental and economic leaders said Monday that a task force reconstituted by Gov. Brian Sandoval is a great opportunity to move the state forward on green energy development, from solar and geothermal to wind power. Speakers on a telephone conference call said an expanded focus on renewables, a major resource in Nevada, will generate both economic and environmental benefits. The comments came ahead of the first meeting Tuesday of Sandoval's New Energy Industry Task Force.

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/business/energy/leaders-agree-task-force-best-way-move-nevada-ahead-green-energy>

*Las Vegas Sun* (March 20) **On Tuesday, Nevada can start determining its energy future**

Nevada lawmakers were wondering last month whether to kill Gov. Brian Sandoval's 5-year-old New Energy Industry Task Force, and we are certainly grateful that his office said, Hey, not so fast. Indeed, as we have editorialized over and over, never has there been a more important time for the governor to step up and, in a display of bold leadership, help take Nevada into a new era of energy production, one that moves beyond fossil fuels and turns enthusiastically toward renewable sources of power. Fortunately, Sandoval is reconvening the task force Tuesday with renewed instructions to "examine, review and provide policy recommendations on several existing and emerging issues related to new and renewable energy."

<http://lasvegassun.com/news/2016/mar/20/on-tuesday-nevada-can-start-determining-its-energy/>

*PV Tech* (February 25) **Nevada governor brings back New Energy Industry Taskforce**

Nevada governor Brian Sandoval signed off on an executive order on Tuesday that will reconvene the New Energy Industry Task Force to assist the governor's Office of Energy on new measures to support the development of renewable energy and distributed energy resources in Nevada. Sandoval said: "There are few more critical issues to Nevada's future than clean and renewable energy. Not only does this sector drive many economic development opportunities, but it also helps us improve the quality of life for many Nevadans by helping keep our air clean, water fresh, and allows us to explore our unlimited potential in the wealth of renewables Nevada has to offer."

<http://www.pv-tech.org/news/nevada-governor-brings-back-new-energy-industry-taskforce>

*Las Vegas Review Journal* (February 23) **Sandoval reactivates renewable energy task force**

Gov. Brian Sandoval signed an executive order Tuesday reactivating a task force to advise the administration on ways to promote and distribute renewable energy resources in Nevada, including rooftop solar. The move comes amid consumer backlash over a decision by the state Public Utilities Commission to reduce bill credits rooftop solar customers receive for selling excess power back to NV Energy, a concept known as net metering. New rates approved by the PUC earlier this month also include a higher monthly fixed service charge.

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/business/energy/sandoval-reactivates-renewable-energy-task-force>

*Las Vegas Sun* (February 22) **Governor revives New Energy Industry Task Force**

Gov. Brian Sandoval has revived the New Energy Industry Task Force to encourage development of clean energy sources and find ways to improve rooftop solar energy. The nine-member task force has not met since 2013, and a legislative subcommittee considered recommending it be abolished. The governor, in his executive order Tuesday, said the task force should recommend promoting renewable energy technologies and find ways to develop an energy grid for the sharing of electricity. Angela Dykema, director of the Governor's Office of Energy, will be the revived group's chairwoman.

<http://lasvegassun.com/news/2016/feb/23/governor-revives-new-energy-industry-task-force/>

*Solar Industry* (February 22) **Nevada Governor Reconvenes Energy Industry Task Force**

In the wake of the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada's (PUCN) latest controversial net-metering decision, and after coming under fire from the solar industry himself, Gov. Brian Sandoval, R-Nev., has signed an executive order reconvening the New Energy Industry Task Force to advise the Governor's Office of Energy on ways to promote the development of renewable energy and distributed energy resources in the state.

<http://solarindustrymag.com/nevada-governor-reconvenes-new-energy-industry-task-force>

*Las Vegas Review Journal* (February 9) **Existing task force to be directed to make policy recommendations on energy**

State lawmakers looking at eliminating outdated or nonfunctional boards and commissions were told Tuesday that Gov. Brian Sandoval is preparing to direct an existing task force to make policy recommendations on a variety of energy issues including rooftop solar. The Sunset Subcommittee of the Legislative Commission is reviewing the possible termination, modification, consolidation or continued operation of the New Energy Industry Task Force. Dale Erquiaga, chief strategy officer for Sandoval, told the panel that the task force will be directed to examine, review and provide policy recommendations on several existing and emerging issues related to new and renewable energy.

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/business/energy/existing-task-force-be-directed-make-policy-recommendations-energy>