

STATE OF IOWA
BEFORE THE IOWA UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:)	
)	DOCKET NO. RPU-2019-0001
)	
INTERSTATE POWER AND LIGHT)	
REQUEST FOR RATE INCREASE)	
)	
)	DIRECT TESTIMONY
)	

DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF
KERRI JOHANSEN

On Behalf of

Environmental Law & Policy Center and
Iowa Environmental Council

August 1, 2019

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 **Q. Please state your name, business name and address, and role in this proceeding.**

3 A. My name is Kerri R. Johannsen. I am the Energy Program Director with the Iowa
4 Environmental Council, located at 505 Fifth Ave, Suite 850, in Des Moines, Iowa. I
5 appear here in my capacity as a witness on behalf of the Environmental Law and Policy
6 Center and the Iowa Environmental Council (collectively “ELPC and IEC”).

7 **Q. Please describe your background.**

8 A. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter,
9 Minnesota and a Masters in Public Policy in Science, Technology, and Environmental
10 Policy from the Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of
11 Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I have been working in the energy policy arena
12 since 2007. I have worked for the Iowa Environmental Council (IEC) since 2016. The
13 Iowa Environmental Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, member-based corporation that
14 works to advance public policies that provide a safe, healthy environment and sustainable
15 future for all Iowans. In my capacity at IEC, I have worked primarily on renewable
16 energy and energy efficiency cases before the Iowa Utilities Board (“Board”) and
17 renewable energy and energy efficiency legislation at the Iowa Legislature.
18 Between 2007 and 2008 I worked to develop the Energy Title of the 2008 Farm Bill as
19 part of the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee Staff. From 2008-2010 I was employed
20 by the Iowa Office of Energy Independence first as an emergency management specialist
21 and data analyst and later as administrator of the Iowa Power Fund, evaluating cutting-
22 edge energy projects for state funding. Between 2010 and 2016, I worked as a legislative
23 liaison and policy specialist with the Iowa Utilities Board. My work included leadership

1 of the Environmental Plan and Budget dockets, serving as Co-Chair of the Board's
2 environmental team during development and implementation of the Clean Power Plan,
3 and managing all state legislative activities for the Board. I also served as the Board's
4 representative and lead staff during emergencies and natural disasters impacting utility
5 service and infrastructure and recovery from such disasters.

6 **Q. Have you testified with the Iowa Utilities Board before?**

7 A. Yes. I provided testimony regarding MidAmerican Energy Company's (MidAmerican's)
8 energy efficiency plan in Docket No. EEP-2018-0002, Interstate Power and Light's
9 (IPL's) efficiency plan in Docket No. EEP-2018-0003, MidAmerican's Wind XII
10 proposal in Docket No. RPU-2018-0003, and IPL's Beyond Solar program proposal in
11 Docket Nos. AEP-2017-0060, TF-2017-0289, and RN-2017-0002. In addition, I have
12 drafted or assisted in drafting our organization's comments and joint comments in various
13 dockets before the IUB, including RMU-2018-0100, RMU-2016-0018, TF-2016-0290,
14 TF-2016-0294 and others.

15 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

16 A. The purpose of my testimony is to give a brief overview of the testimony submitted by
17 the witnesses sponsored by ELPC and IEC, to comment and make recommendations
18 regarding the three new renewable programs IPL has proposed, and to provide analysis
19 and context regarding the impact of IPL's proposed changes to Rider RTS and Rider
20 EECR as they apply to customers with distributed generation.

21 **Q. Please provide a brief overview of the testimony submitted by the other witnesses**
22 **sponsored by ELPC and IEC in this Docket.**

- 1 A. 1) Will Kenworthy provides recommendations regarding the proposed community solar,
2 renewable partners, and customer-hosted renewables programs.
- 3 2) Karl Rábago addresses issues of rate design, proposed renewable energy programs,
4 rebates for electric vehicle charging, return on equity, and collection of trade
5 association dues.
- 6 3) Uday Varadarajan provides an economic analysis of IPL's current fossil generating
7 fleet and provides recommendations for how to manage uneconomic units.
- 8 4) Curt Volkmann provides analysis and recommendations regarding IPL's proposed
9 distribution system capital investments and process for managing grid modernization.

10 **Q. Do you support IPL's attempt to offer customers more renewable energy program**
11 **offerings?**

12 A. I am encouraged to see IPL's community solar programs proposed in this Docket. The
13 community solar proposal could, given a few important changes, fill a gap in IPL's
14 renewable energy program offerings for customers. Although I appreciate IPL's attempts
15 to create additional new renewable offerings for customers, I have concerns about the
16 intent and proposed structure of the customer-hosted renewables and renewable energy
17 partner programs.

18 **Q. What are your concerns about IPL's new renewable energy program offerings?**

19 A. I have two major concerns about IPL's new renewable energy program offerings. First, it
20 is critical for the Board to ensure that IPL's new offerings are not structured to give IPL
21 an unfair competitive advantage compared to private solar businesses and investors.
22 Iowa has a robust private market for solar with small businesses employing over 850

1 Iowans across the state.¹ These businesses compete for projects, operating under the rate
2 parameters that have been set by the Board in order to provide goods and services to
3 Iowans. On the other hand, IPL is a government-designated monopoly operator. Iowans
4 do not have a choice of power provider, per Iowa law, so it is critical that utilities are
5 regulated to avoid monopoly encroachment into competitive areas that should be driven
6 by markets. If structured incorrectly, distributed renewable projects owned by utilities
7 could allow the company to push out competition at the expense of ratepayers while
8 damaging the private solar market. IPL does not address or propose steps to mitigate its
9 market power advantage anywhere in its filing in this proceeding.

10 The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that solar installer will be the fastest-growing job
11 category between 2016 and 2026.² Recent data show that 86% of solar jobs are in the
12 customer-owned solar sector and only 14% are in utility-scale solar nationwide.³ If Iowa
13 wants to maintain and grow our solar workforce, it is critical that the Board ensures the
14 monopoly utility companies are not allowed an unfair advantage at the expense of the
15 private market. Again, there are no proposals in the Company's application to address
16 this issue.

17 My second major concern is that IPL has created multiple methodologies for valuing
18 distributed generation in this docket. None of these methodologies are particularly

¹ The Solar Foundation, Solar Jobs Census 2018, Iowa fact sheet, *available at* <https://www.thesolarfoundation.org/solar-jobs-census/factsheet-2018-ia/> (accessed on 7/24/2019).

² Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Fastest Growing Occupations* (for years 2016-2026), *available at* <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/fastest-growing.htm> (accessed on 7/24/2019).

³ The Solar Foundation, *Solar Jobs Census 2018, page 6*, *available at* <https://www.thesolarfoundation.org/national/> (accessed on 7/24/2019).

1 accurate or logical and there is no consistency in the value they assign to distributed
2 generation. This wide array of compensation methods is confusing for customers, unfair
3 for competitive market actors, and a detriment to non-participating customers because the
4 complexity of the various rates makes it harder to account for where costs and benefits
5 accrue. This leads to less accountability. The testimony of ELPC/IEC Witness Karl
6 Rábago proposes the development of a methodology for ensuring consistency across
7 programs. I recommend the Board follow his recommendation to set a value of solar and
8 require competitive projects to fairly compare the programs to private options.

9 **Q. What types of unfair practices could occur when an unconstrained utility enters a**
10 **competitive market space?**

11 A. Unfair practices a monopoly could exercise include:

- 12 1) The cross-subsidization of utility-owned solar options through allocation to all
13 customers of direct costs and/or soft costs like engineering, customer service,
14 marketing, and other utility staff time toward program and project implementation.
15 Competitive market participants are not able to use these types of cross-subsidies.
16 Instead, the direct and indirect costs of these programs should be allocated directly to
17 the participating customers so they are subject to the full cost of the program and can
18 make a fair comparison with market-based solar offerings.
- 19 2) Assigning a higher avoided cost rate to utility-owned distributed generation than is
20 assigned to non-utility-owned generation and/or offering more favorable contract
21 terms such as a longer contract. If valued appropriately, utility and customer-owned
22 generation should be assigned the same avoided cost rate and other contract terms
23 should be equivalent. This is a quite basic “level playing field issue.”

- 1 3) Giving utility projects unfair advantages in the interconnection process. This could
2 include using data about the utility's distribution system and capacity that is not
3 available to the public in order to inform the marketing and design of projects,
4 moving utility projects ahead of customer projects in the study or interconnection
5 queue, or charging the costs of necessary distribution system upgrades for utility-
6 owned projects to all customers while charging those costs directly to customers
7 interconnecting their own systems.
- 8 4) Using confidential customer information, such as billing and usage, or customer
9 service contacts from customers inquiring about solar to market utility products and
10 programs.

11 **Q. Are there safeguards the Board could require to mitigate the risks of IPL's**
12 **proposed programs from encroaching on the private market?**

13 A. Yes. To avoid monopoly encroachment into the private market, utility programs should
14 be focused on markets that are not otherwise well-served by the private market such as
15 low-income customers, multi-family housing, and areas that have shading or other
16 physical barriers to distributed generation (DG) installation. The utility should be
17 assigned an affirmative obligation to demonstrate that competitive market opportunities
18 do not exist or are not ready to address the customer need that the utility seeks to serve
19 with its monopoly solution.

20 These issues could also be partially addressed by requiring IPL to adopt criteria for siting
21 non-wires alternatives (NWAs) and to use those criteria to target sites, similar to what is
22 described and recommended in the testimony of ELPC/IEC Witness Curt Volkmann. The
23 Board could also delay implementation of the customer hosted renewables and renewable

1 partners programs until completion of an Integrated Distribution Planning (IDP) process
2 also recommended by Witness Volkmann. Such an analysis and/or planning process
3 would allow the utility to focus its own DG investments in high-value grid locations that
4 would provide benefits for all ratepayers. If a private customer is interested in installing
5 DG at a less beneficial location, they could do so but other ratepayers would not be
6 funding the project or paying the costs of any needed upgrades, which would be the
7 responsibility of the customer doing the installation. Requiring utility DG to be directed
8 toward the most beneficial grid locations would mitigate unfair competition and ensure
9 benefits for all ratepayers. The Company must identify the highest marginal cost
10 locations in its grid and target its distributed energy resource (including distributed
11 generation) projects at those locations.

12 **Q. Please provide background on the ELPC and IEC's involvement in the development**
13 **of IPL's Community Solar proposal.**

14 A. On June 28, 2017, IPL filed their proposed Beyond Solar program in Docket Nos. AEP-
15 2017-0060, TF 2017-0286, and RN-2017-0002. The Iowa Environmental Council,
16 Environmental Law and Policy Center, and Sierra Club intervened in the dockets. Board
17 staff and IPL as well as the Office of Consumer Advocate, ELPC, IEC, and the Sierra
18 Club (collectively, the Parties) participated in a workshop on August 3, 2017. On
19 September 19, 2017, IPL, with the consent of the parties, filed a *Joint Motion to Stay*
20 *Procedural Schedule in Docket Nos. AEP-2017-0060, TF-2017-0286, and RN-2017-0002*
21 which requested a 120-day stay. The parties at that time stated the reason for the stay
22 was the need for continued discussion about the Beyond Solar Program. Specifically,
23 IPL agreed to withdraw the existing Dubuque solar project as part of the program and to

1 focus on a new resource and that IPL would explore creating a more traditional
2 community solar program structure. On January 18, 2018, with the consent of the other
3 parties, IPL filed a Joint Motion for Additional Time. In its February 21st Order
4 approving the motion, the Board set a deadline of June 28, 2018, for the parties to have
5 either reached agreement or to move forward in a contested case proceeding. On June 28,
6 2018, with the consent of the parties, IPL filed a Motion to Close Docket Nos. *AEP-*
7 *2017-0060, TF-2017-0286, and RN-2017-0002 Without Prejudice*, stating that progress
8 had been made but that a filing would be premature. On July 11, 2019, the Board
9 approved IPL's Motion. ELPC and IEC continued to participate in discussions with IPL,
10 OCA, and others to work to improve the program with the final discussion occurring on
11 January 31, 2019.

12 The Beyond Solar program had a number of serious issues including a lack of
13 additionality and a failure to share the economic benefits of the renewable projects with
14 customers. Beyond Solar was a simple "green pricing" program to be marketed to high-
15 income customers and not a truly new offering or community solar program. IPL's
16 proposed Community Solar (Rider CSP) offering is a meaningful improvement compared
17 to the Beyond Solar proposal and is the only credible community solar offering that has
18 been presented by an investor-owned utility in Iowa to date. We appreciate that IPL
19 considered stakeholder feedback in the process and its proposal has improved as a result.
20 However, ELPC and IEC continue to take issue with several elements of the program as
21 proposed. These are criticisms we raised in the stakeholder process that were not
22 addressed by IPL in its proposal, and so we raise them again here.

23 **Q. What are your concerns with the Community Solar program?**

1 A. First, the program lacks robust access for low-income customers. Although IPL
2 references donations of shares in the program, there are ways to structure the program
3 from the start that will allow customers of all income levels access. The testimony of
4 ELPC and IEC witness Will Kenworthy addresses these options in more detail. This
5 access and tailoring to allow participation by low-income customers is also relevant in
6 ensuring that this utility product is tailored to markets not already served by the private
7 sector.

8 Residential customers must have a robust opportunity to participate in IPL's program.
9 IPL has proposed reserving 25% of the first 1 MW and 10% of each subsequent MW of
10 capacity for residential customers for the first 6 months that a facility is open for
11 subscriptions. These set-asides will be held for 6 months and if not subscribed will be
12 made available to other customer classes. Unless backed by effective marketing, the six-
13 month window is just window dressing. IPL's tariff also limits a single entity's
14 ownership share to 60% of a facility. I am concerned that this structure is biased toward
15 the participation of large customers and provides inadequate opportunities for residential
16 customers. I recommend allowing no more than 40% of any project be subscribed by a
17 single customer and that the set-aside for residential customers be kept in place a
18 minimum of 1 year from the initial offering.

19 Finally, I disagree with IPL's methodology for determining the credit rate for Rider CSP.
20 First, the rate includes only embedded demand and energy costs and specifically excludes
21 transmission costs. Avoided transmission costs are a key piece of the value of distributed
22 generation, including smaller-scale community solar. This issue is covered in more detail
23 in the testimony of Witness Kenworthy.

1 The compensation structure for this program – the embedded cost model – is not
2 consistent with already-established methodologies for valuing distributed generation or
3 the other methodologies created in this docket. For now, I believe that using the
4 embedded cost rate including transmission is an acceptable methodology for determining
5 the compensation rate under Rider CSP and this may be the appropriate structure for
6 valuing utility-owned distributed generation. However, I find that the methodology for
7 valuing solar and prioritizing NWAs laid out by EPLC/IEC Witnesses Rábago and
8 Volkmann is superior and the Board should in the future use that methodology.

9 **Q. Is IPL’s proposed Customer-Hosted Renewables (CHR) Program is a good offering**
10 **for customers?**

11 A. Although the CHR program could in theory offer benefits to both participating and non-
12 participating customers, the structure as proposed by IPL is not well-justified. It creates
13 yet another valuation for distributed generation, there is a lack of focus on maximizing
14 benefits for customers as a whole, and there are inadequate protections in place to ensure
15 the program does not compete unfairly with the free market by taking up roof space that
16 could be developed privately.

17 IPL proposes, under this program, to lease rooftops and ground space from non-
18 residential General Service and Large General Service customers to site solar and/or
19 storage projects. Compensation for solar is set at the Cost of New Entry (CONE) in
20 MISO adjusted for the capacity value of the resource. Compensation for storage is based
21 on a comparable rate for leasing land for a current IPL storage project. The program
22 limits system size to correspond with a hosting customer’s actual firm demand while

1 sending all energy produced to the distribution system. There are several problems with
2 the Company's proposal.

3 First, limiting system size/lease payments to correspond with a customer's firm demand
4 is not logical when all energy produced will be delivered to the distribution system. IPL
5 should be targeting sites for customer-hosted renewables in locations where solar and
6 storage (or any other distributed energy resource) can provide maximum grid benefits.
7 Targeting should be determined using non-wires alternatives criteria or the IDP process
8 similar to that discussed by Witness Volkmann. The size of the facility that is needed for
9 grid purposes may or may not be the same as the host customer's firm demand, so that
10 demand is not a reasonable metric.

11 There is a fundamental lack of connection between CONE and the cost of leasing roof or
12 ground space for solar. The lease payments for solar proposed to be offered by IPL may
13 exceed the market rate because they are based on CONE rather than any specific
14 comparable lease rate. Above-market lease payments mean that all IPL customers will be
15 paying too much for the solar resource and IPL will be creating unfair competition with
16 private solar developers.

17 I appreciate IPL's recognition that CONE is a useful marker for the capacity value of
18 distributed solar resources. In fact, I would suggest that this type of valuation be applied
19 to the capacity value of solar wherever appropriate. However, IPL relies on other
20 methods for setting the capacity value of distributed resources in its other proposals and
21 tariffs and uses CONE to inappropriately set the lease rate for this program.

1 **Q. What do you recommend with regard to IPL's proposed Customer Hosted**
2 **Renewables program?**

3 A. My recommendations follow those of Witnesses Kenworthy, Volkmann, and Rábago. If
4 the Board approves this program it should require that any and all investments have a net
5 benefit to all ratepayers and fit the grid suitability criteria as laid out by Witness
6 Volkmann. The Board must also be willing to conduct strict oversight to ensure IPL is
7 not engaging in unfair competition. If these conditions cannot be met, the Board should
8 reject this program as anti-competitive and unfairly advantageous to IPL.

9 **Q. Is IPL's proposed Renewable Energy Partners Program is a good offering for**
10 **customers?**

11 A. Potentially. Many businesses have adopted sustainability goals and Iowa should be a
12 place friendly to attraction of such businesses. It is beneficial for these businesses to
13 have options for meeting their goals. However, it is important that the Board ensure this
14 program does not displace the private solar market or receive an unfair advantage in the
15 ways discussed earlier in my testimony and in the testimony of Will Kenworthy. One
16 item that is especially concerning is IPL's plan to allow meter aggregation for customers
17 under this program. I am not opposed to meter aggregation in principle. However, the
18 company does not typically allow meter aggregation for net metering customers under
19 non-utility programs. Instead, a facility must be behind the meter at the location where
20 the energy is being used. IPL should not be able to offer superior contract terms for utility
21 programs that they do not offer to customers utilizing the private market to build and
22 operate their renewable energy project. Meter aggregation in this program is reasonable if
23 meter aggregation is also made available for customers under the net metering tariff.

1 My second concern is the proposed structure for passing along the economic benefit of
2 the energy produced to the participating customer. Under the Company proposal, the
3 customer is obligated to “pay the cost of the dedicated renewable resource, as agreed
4 upon in the contract...” (Revised tariff sheet No. 76 in TF-2019-0018). This is
5 appropriate to avoid cost-shifting to other customers. However, it does not appear that the
6 proposed program appropriately values the customer’s generation and does not pass that
7 value along to the customer. ELPC and IEC Witness Kenworthy addresses the tax
8 treatment of the projects in his testimony. The customer receives no value for energy that
9 is generated in excess of their actual demand in a 60-minute period. The tariff states that
10 “any excess generation above a Customer's load for a given 60-minute interval will be
11 provided to non-participating Customers at no cost” (Revised tariff sheet No. 76 in TF-
12 2019-0018). While it is appropriate that IPL not receive a windfall by selling the excess
13 energy to other customers, the electricity being provided by the customer-funded project
14 is providing value in the way of energy, capacity, and avoided fuel and transmission costs
15 when it serves other customers and IPL’s proposal effectively reduces those benefits to
16 zero from a bill credit perspective. It is also not clear why IPL is creating yet another way
17 to value distributed generation with this program instead of using one of the other pre-
18 established valuations to ensure fair treatment and a fair competitive landscape. If solar
19 and other DG is valued appropriately and participating customers are paying all
20 applicable costs, then any theoretical risk to ratepayers and the company is mitigated.

21 **Q. What do you recommend with regard to the Renewable Energy Partner Program**
22 **proposed by IPL?**

1 A. My recommendation mirrors that of Witnesses Kenworthy, Volkmann, and Rábago. If
2 the Board approves this program, it also must allow private market actors to offer virtual
3 PPAs that include meter aggregation. In addition, the Board should undergo a process to
4 set a rate that is logical and based on actual benefits that solar provides. Finally, it is
5 critical that the Board review any contracts executed under this program to ensure that
6 IPL is not engaging in unfair competitive practices and that other ratepayers are not
7 subsidizing these projects.

8 **Q. Please describe IPL’s proposed changes to Rider RTS and Rider EECR and the**
9 **potential impacts of those changes for DG customers.**

10 A. IPL has proposed to alter Rider RTS to apply to all kWh of energy consumed by the
11 customer, whether self-generated or delivered by IPL or base kW of the customer’s
12 demand but only based upon a group average calculation. (*See* Revised Tariff Sheet No.
13 86 in TF-2019-0018). IPL also proposes to change Rider EECR to cause it to apply to
14 “all kilo-Watt hours consumed by the customer and delivered by the Company” (Revised
15 Tariff Sheet No. 60 in TF-2019-0018) and intends to interpret the language in the same
16 way.

17 IPL estimates that the Rider RTS changes will impact DG customers taking service under
18 the net metering (NM) and Alternate Energy Production (AEP) tariffs by increasing their
19 bills by \$9.98 per month for residential customers and \$54.86 per month for general
20 service customers.⁴ IPL estimates that the Rider EECR changes will impact these same
21 customers by increasing monthly residential bills by \$1.83 per month, General Service

⁴ IPL Response to ELPC/IEC DR 65, attached as ELPC/IEC Johannsen Direct Exhibit 1.

1 (GS) customers by \$13.16 per month, and Large General Service (LGS) customers by
 2 \$82.68 per month. Table 1 below summarizes the total impact to residential, GS, and
 3 LGS DG customers from these two changes.

4 **Table 1 – DG Customer Impact from Proposed Changes to Rider RTS and Rider EECR⁵**

Customer Class	Monthly bill Increase
Residential	\$11.81
General Service	\$68.02
Large General Service	\$82.68 ⁶

5 These proposed changes to Rider RTS and Rider EECR will negatively impact existing
 6 and future distributed generation customers and are inconsistent with Iowa statute and the
 7 goals of the net metering pilot tariffs required in Docket No. NOI-2014-0001. The
 8 proposed changes also ignore the Iowa Legislature’s rejection of new, punitive rate
 9 structures for distributed generation as evidenced by the failure of HF 669 to advance in
 10 the 2019 Legislative Session. ELPC/IEC Witness Rábago describes additional reasons
 11 why the Board should reject these tariff changes and I adopt his analysis as well.

12 **Q. Are IPL’s proposed tariff changes in conflict with the goals of the net metering pilot**
 13 **projects?**

14 A. Yes. The Board’s October 30, 2016, Order in Docket No. NOI-2014-0001 stated that
 15 “given the current status of DG development and net metering in Iowa, additional

⁵ Source: ELPC/IEC Johannsen Direct Exhibit 1 and IPL Response to ELPC/IEC DR 66 attached as ELPC/IEC Johannsen Direct Exhibit 2.

⁶ In response to discovery requests, IPL stated that the change to Rider RTS will not impact LGS customers so the \$82.68 is only the estimated increase in charges under Rider EECR. ELPC and IEC have additional discovery pending to determine whether it is appropriate to assume the changes to Rider RTS will not impact LGS customers.

1 information is required before any permanent policy or rule changes are made.”⁷ The
2 Order further stated:

3 A pilot approach...provides an opportunity to make changes on a limited basis
4 in order to determine the impacts that those changes might have on the utility
5 and its customers prior to making these changes permanent.⁸

6 IPL’s proposed changes to Rider RTS and Rider EECR are not limited, but rather are
7 significant and permanent changes to IPL’s net metering policy that would significantly
8 reduce the value of net metered energy. The changes are being proposed outside of the
9 pilots and without consideration of any data gathered through the pilots.

10 Furthermore, the changes are directly counter to another portion of the Board’s October
11 30, 2016 Order, where the “Board encourage[d] all utilities (municipal, rural electric
12 cooperatives, and investor-owned), but particularly the investor-owned utilities (IPL and
13 MidAmerican), to consider implementing pilot projects that will *expand* renewable DG in
14 Iowa.”⁹ The pilots were intended to expand DG; the proposed reductions in the value of
15 net metered energy will have the opposite effect and discourage DG adoption by
16 increasing the payback period for solar installations, undermining project economics and
17 viability.

18 Finally, even as the pilot projects come to a close in the Spring of 2020, it is critical that
19 any changes are thoughtful, receive full vetting, and take into account the data that the
20 utilities have taken the time to gather and report and the Board to collect. It would be a

⁷ IUB Order Regarding Policy Statement, Rate Design Presentations, and Net-Metering Generation Pilots in NOI-2014-0001 at p. 7 (issued Oct. 30, 2016).

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Ibid* at p. 9.

1 waste of resources to undertake pilot projects and fail to consider the data gathered before
2 making a decision about permanent changes.

3 **Q. What other concerns do you have about these changes and their impact on DG**
4 **customers?**

5 A. Requiring DG customers to pay for transmission of energy that never reaches the
6 transmission system or for not using energy that used the transmission system is
7 unreasonable and unfair. When a customer-owned solar facility is generating energy, any
8 excess electricity will flow to the nearest point where it can be used—the nearest
9 unserved load. If the customer is drawing power when the solar is producing, the
10 electricity will serve on-site load, but never impact the bulk transmission system except
11 as a reduction in demand. Any “excess” electricity not consumed by the customer will be
12 used by neighbors through the distribution system, and will never reach the transmission
13 system. Distributed generation customers are, therefore, not using the transmission
14 system to carry energy and certainly not using it when they are producing solar to offset
15 their own energy use. It is not appropriate to charge transmission costs for the kWh
16 customer-generators who are not purchasing from the utility.

17 IPL claims that metering technology is not relevant to how customers will be assessed the
18 increased charges.¹⁰ At the same time, IPL states that it is not able to track how much
19 power is consumed on-site by customers using their own generation. As stated by IPL,
20 “the observed amount of electricity captured by IPL’s electric retail bi-directional meter
21 only captures generation in excess of what has already been consumed by customer

¹⁰ ELPC/IEC Johannsen Direct Exhibits 1 and 2.

1 load.”¹¹ Given the stated inability of IPL to measure customer production behind the
2 meter, it is difficult to see how they could determine “kilo Watt hours (energy) consumed
3 by the customer” as specified in the proposed change to Rider-RTS and Rider EECR.
4 There are many reasons why the Board should reject these proposed additional charges.
5 The apparent inability of IPL to meter customer consumption to ensure fair charges is a
6 clear disqualification for approval of this charge.

7 **Q. Are the changes to net metering proposed by IPL consistent with public policy**
8 **enacted by the Iowa Legislature?**

9 A. No. These changes are at odds with current Iowa statute related to the promotion of
10 renewable sources of generation, bans on discrimination against customers based on their
11 use of renewables, and the failure just months ago of legislation to impose new fees on
12 solar customers.

13 Iowa Code Section 476.58A states, “it is the intent of the general assembly to encourage
14 the development of renewable electric power generation. It is also the intent of the
15 general assembly to encourage the use of renewable power to meet local electric
16 needs...” The changes proposed by IPL are not consistent with this statute as they will
17 damage the economics of customer-owned renewable generation in IPL’s service
18 territory rather than encouraging “the use of renewable power to meet local electric
19 needs.”

20 These changes also conflict with the Iowa statute prohibiting discrimination based on a
21 customer’s use of renewable generation. Iowa Code Section 476.21 states:

¹¹ IPL Response to OCA-DR-418, attached as ELPC/IEC Johannsen Direct Exhibit 3.

1
2 A corporation or cooperative association providing electrical or gas service
3 shall not consider the use of renewable energy sources by a customer as a basis
4 for establishing discriminatory rates or charges for any commodity sold to the
5 customer or discontinue services or subject the customer to any other prejudice
6 or disadvantage based on the customer's use or intended use of renewable
7 energy sources.
8

9 The changes proposed by IPL to Rider RTS and Rider EECR constitute unjust and
10 unlawful discrimination based on the customer's use of renewable energy. Treating
11 customers with renewable generation differently than customers reducing their energy
12 use in some other way is discriminatory and inconsistent with Section 476.21.

13 Finally, the Iowa Legislature in 2019 considered legislation (SF 583/HF 669) that would
14 have changed the structure of net metering in Iowa, reducing the portion of a customer's
15 bill that could be off-set by customer-owned generation. This bill was adopted by the
16 Iowa Senate with a carve-out for biofuels producers and facilities larger than 1 MW. It
17 was not brought up for a vote in the Iowa House. Thirteen Republicans cosponsored two
18 different amendments – one that would have exempted agricultural producers from the
19 new structure and another that struck all of the language in the bill and replaced it with a
20 Value of Solar study. The introduction of these amendments and the failure of the bill to
21 advance is a clear indicator that there is no consensus among Iowa lawmakers for
22 implementing new charges on solar customers that will increase costs and payback
23 periods and damage the industry. The Board should not move forward in a direction that
24 was rejected by the Iowa Legislature only months ago.

25 **Q. What do you recommend with regard to Rider RTS and Rider EECR?**

1 A. I recommend that the Board reject IPL's proposed changes to Rider RTS and Rider EEC
2 and leave the application of those riders in place as currently structured.

3 **Q. Does this conclude your Direct testimony?**

4 A. Yes.

AFFADAVIT OF
KERRI R. JOHANNSEN

STATE OF IOWA)
COUNTY OF POLK)

ss.

I, Kerri R. Johannsen, being first duly sworn on oath, state that I am the same Kerri R. Johannsen identified in the testimony being filed with this affidavit, that I have caused the testimony to be prepared and am familiar with its contents, and that the testimony is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief as of the date of this affidavit.

/s/ Kerri R. Johannsen
Kerri Johannsen

Subscribed and sworn before me the 26th day of July, 2019.

/s/ Brenda Lea Schoen
Notary Public in and for the State of Iowa