

DOCKETED

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*Comment Received From: Brady Van Engelen
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**Comments on IEPR Commission Workshops on Assessing the
Future Role for Microgrids in CA**

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



October 13, 2020

The Honorable Janea Scott, Vice-Chair
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Docket 20-IEPR-04 -- Comments on IEPR Commission Workshops on
Assessing the Future Role for Microgrids in CA

Dear Vice-Chair Scott,

Bloom Energy (Bloom) appreciates the California Energy Commission's ("Commission") leadership in recognizing the role that microgrids play in the State's energy future. In addition to our comments provided on July 30, 2020, we wanted to provide more recent direct examples of how our microgrid installations aided the state during the period of rolling blackouts.

Bloom Energy has 265MW of clean and reliable power installed across 500 sites. In the face of record-breaking temperatures and devastating wildfires, California communities were affected by the state's first rolling blackouts in more than a decade. Using our fuel cell technology during the period of rolling blackouts, we were able to prevent roughly 270,000 additional people from losing power.

We surveyed our customers with excess power to understand if they would be willing to export it to the grid, in the hopes to shore up the grid and provide a vital solution to those in need. With the generous support and unwavering commitment from customers, partners, and civic leaders, we were able to take megawatts of that excess power generation and return it to the grid to keep the lights on for vulnerable populations across California already grappling with the ill-effects of a pandemic. The exported supply from customers participating in this initiative – who voluntarily opted to forgo any potential sales of electricity back to the grid – were made available in most cases within 10 to 12 hours. In times of crisis, we know that every little bit helps. That is why in one case, we pulled forward the powering on of a new customer early, in the midst of the rolling blackouts, to take additional load off of the grid.

Bloom Energy is grateful to be able to do our part to help reduce congestion on the grid during these most unusual times and we'd be remiss not to extend our most heartfelt thanks for the generosity of our customers who answered the call to help the State, resulting in enough power back to the grid for nearly 15,000 homes. We thank the Commission for the opportunity to provide comments on a state microgrid policy and reiterate that microgrids can and should be a key part of California's energy future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brady Van Engelen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brady Van Engelen
Policy Manager, Bloom Energy