

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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| Beverly Jones Heydinger | Chair |
| John Tuma | Commissioner |
| Nancy Lange | Commissioner |
| Daniel Lipschultz | Commissioner |
| Matt Schuerger | Commissioner |

**In the Matter of A Complaint of
Larry Fagen Against Minnesota
Valley Cooperative Light and
Power Association**

May 17, 2016

**SAM VILLELLA’S COMMENTS
ON MINNESOTA VALLEY
COOPERATIVE LIGHT AND
POWER ASSOCIATION’S NET
METERING PROGRAM**

Docket No. E-123/CG-16-241

COMMENTS OF SAM VILLELLA

I am a Connexus customer with a current solar array. I am very interested in expanding my system. I do not believe I would be subject to fees for an expansion, but after speaking with my cooperative I am afraid they may subject me to fees if I do so. Minnesota Statute § 216B.164, subd. 3 applies to all systems “installed” after July 1, 2015. So systems that have been installed prior to this date and that have only been added onto should not be subject to additional fees.

In this case, Larry Fagen had his system installed before the July 1 deadline and so his system should not be treated as a new installation. His system was only expanded. This should not make it an entirely new system for the purposes of the statute, allowing utilities to assess a fee for the entire system.

I urge the Commission to rule on this issue so that my utility and I can have some guidance on whether this new legislation applies to expanded systems.

On all other issues I also support Larry’s position. Cooperatives should not be allowed to require customers to engage in the new rollover provisions. The statute is clear that it is at the customer’s election and it shouldn’t even apply to Larry, because he only expanded his system after July 1, 2015.

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Sam Villella

