

From: [James Stuckey Weber \(jamesnw@gmail.com\)](mailto:jamesnw@gmail.com)
To: [Borum, Bradley](#)
Subject: NIPSCO IRP
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Dear Mr. Borum-

I am writing to comment on the Integrated Resource Plan for the Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO). I am grateful that NIPSCO is taking steps to shut down coal burning plants and they have increased the amount of energy generated by wind and solar to their customers.

For the sake of our environment, I believe NIPSCO should pursue the fastest and most cost-effective path to decarbonization of their electric grid. One cost effective way to decarbonize the grid is to develop more friendly policies for homeowners for all forms of customer-owned distributed energy resources (DERs). NIPSCO's current rates are anti-competitive and anti-consumer, and make it difficult for people like me to have fair access to the grid. Fairer pricing for grid access will increase the affordability of customer owned DERs.

When properly accounted for in resource planning, DERs can decrease peak demand, improve resilience, and more efficiently use existing infrastructure to meet growing local demand as customers electrify appliances at homes and businesses. The benefits of these investments are most broadly shared when the resources are coordinated in virtual power plants (VPPs). VPPs are now being used in Texas and I believe they show great promise for increasing the resilience of the grid.

As NIPSCO finalizes their Integrated Resource Plan I request that you advocate for the rights of the citizens of Northern Indiana to maximize the use of DERs and to be fairly compensated for our investments.

Thank you,
James Stuckey Weber
1405 Ashton Ct, Goshen IN 46526
574-538-4152