

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FILED

11/03/25

04:59 PM

Rulemaking 13-02-008 R1302008
(Filed February 13, 2013)

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Adopt Biomethane
Standards and Requirements, Pipeline Open Access
Rules, and Related Enforcement Provisions.

**DAIRY CARES REPLY COMMENTS ON
ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING
ORDERING RESPONSES TO INTERCONNECTION COST QUESTIONS**

Brian S. Biering
Biering & Brown, LLP
2600 Capitol Avenue, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95816
Telephone: (916) 717-7255
E-Mail: bbiering@b2energylaw.com

November 3, 2025

Attorneys for Dairy Cares

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Adopt Biomethane
Standards and Requirements, Pipeline Open Access
Rules, and Related Enforcement Provisions.

Rulemaking 13-02-008
(Filed February 13, 2013)

**DAIRY CARES REPLY COMMENTS ON
ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER’S RULING
ORDERING RESPONSES TO INTERCONNECTION COST QUESTIONS**

In accordance with the *Assigned Commissioner’s Ruling Ordering Responses to Interconnection Cost Questions*, dated September 23, 2013 (“ACR”), Dairy Cares¹ submits these reply comments in response to parties’ opening comments on the ACR on the question of whether the California Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) should allow additional opportunities for ratebasing interconnection costs. Dairy Cares generally opposes ratebasing interconnections costs and instead recommends that the Commission focus on opportunities for expanding the Biomethane Monetary Incentive (“BMI”) program.

4. How can the Commission lower interconnection costs?

In opening comments, several parties argue that the Commission should ratebase interconnection costs.² We disagree with allowing utilities to recover a broad array of interconnection costs from ratepayers. The utilities should only be allowed to recover interconnection costs when there is a clear nexus to system-level benefits, as contemplated in Section 784.2 of the Public Utilities Code. The interconnection customer should be responsible

¹ Dairy Cares represents California’s dairy sector, including dairy producer organizations, leading cooperatives, and major dairy processors. For more information about Dairy Cares, please visit www.dairycares.com.

² See opening comments of the Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas at pp. 4-5; Anaergia Services, LLC at p. 4; Bioenergy Association of California at p. 7; Waga Energy Inc. at p. 7.

for costs of items that solely serve the interests of the interconnection customer and that can be recouped through the sale of biogas. We acknowledge that pipeline biomethane projects in California can provide significant benefits to Californians. For example, the direct and co-benefits of dairy digester projects benefit local communities where the projects are located, in addition to mitigating the effects of methane emissions in California and elsewhere. However, Section 784.2 of the Public Utilities Code requires that the Commission find that there is a “direct benefit” to all gas ratepayers. For these reasons, we encourage the Commission to evaluate opportunities to expand the BMI program rather than providing new expansive opportunities for ratebasing interconnection costs. If the Commission does expand ratebasing investments, we recommend including strong cost controls and threshold requirements for establishing that the investments benefit the system broadly. We would also recommend evaluating those issues in a separate proceeding where the Commission can more clearly establish cost controls that govern future rate cases of the gas investor-owned utilities.

Dated: November 3, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Brian S. Biering
Biering & Brown, LLP
2600 Capitol Avenue, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95816
Telephone: (916) 717-7255
E-Mail: bbiering@b2energylaw.com

Attorneys for Dairy Cares