

Daniel Ridlinghafer statement to the Arizona Daily Star

“The biggest mistake we’ve made was using 1 financial institution for all financed solar projects. 75% of our business is financed, and I now realize that we unknowingly putting our company, and all our customers, at risk. For that mistake, and any other mistakes made, I apologize.

A few months ago, TOPCU imposed 2 changes that delayed hundreds of thousands of dollars to us by a magnitude of about 30 times. This would be like a person who gets paid every 2 weeks being forced to get paid once a year, with no notice. These changes were implemented overnight, back-to-back, and retroactively applied to projects already approved and in process. At that time, we were only slightly behind on a few solar projects.

Immediately after the 1st change, I called a meeting with the head of TOPCU’s Solar department to discuss my concerns that this would negatively affect our ability to service the customers that we’d brought to TOPCU in good faith. A week later I had a call with the CFO of TOPCU as well. Then, just weeks later, they imposed the 2nd and more drastic of the changes, and we’ve been struggling to survive ever since. Prior to TOPCU imposing these changes on us we were already plagued with record-high inflation, supply-chain issues, and staffing shortages. All that on top of the fact that Solar Installation is inherently difficult.

It's our desire to complete all our customers projects, but unless TOPCU is willing to work with us to achieve a favorable outcome for our customers, then I’m afraid the outcome looks grim for our company and customers.”

If you want to read/show my statement for your story, then I’m requesting that you take the time to show, or read, the entire statement instead of taking a piece of it out of context. If you feel this story is news-worthy, then please take the time to convey the entire statement. I made it as short as possible. It was twice as long before I condensed it down, as I know you have limited time to air this.

Although I wish, with all my heart, that my company was in the news for a more positive story, I appreciate you investigating this story on my customers’ behalf. I am praying for a positive outcome for everyone involved.