



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

proposed net meter power customer fee

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I have just read the article, "Net metering power customers may see fee" in the Deseret News (Jan 8th) about a proposed fee to be charged Rocky Mountain Power customers who have gone to great expense to install alternative energy production systems to provide electricity for their homes. Once upon a time it seemed Rocky Mountain Power wanted to encourage people to invest in alternative energy (solar and wind) and provided a few incentive programs. We applied for these incentives before we installed our 4.59kW solar system. We weren't one of the fortunate ones to receive some of the incentive money.

We installed our system anyway. We had several reasons for going to this considerable expense, which will take some years to recoup our costs: desire to control rising electricity costs, environmental concerns (remember our great inversion air? We did something about it), and power grid concerns (check out the National Geographic article published July 2010). Rocky Mt. Power has put on a great face saying it is concerned about these things too, but their actions in proposing this fee tells me what they are really concerned about is padding their bottom line.

Remember, Rocky Mt. Power, we are feeding electricity we produce into your power grid. If enough people went "alternative," it would prevent you from having to build new, expensive power plants to supply the growing energy need of your customers. We foot the bill for building this little power plant on our roof. Remember customers, this keeps your costs down too, or at least it should. Remember Rocky Mt. Power's mantra to conserve and use less so it would keep costs down? This is precisely what we are doing and now they want to penalize us for it. They just can't stand to see us pay them less money. How hypocritical can it get?

It is not true we have not invested in the power company's infrastructure. Every customer has! We all pay flat fees that I thought were supposed to cover these infrastructure costs. If the power company has to credit those who net meter at higher rates, isn't that partly their fault for inventing these onerous summer, and now, winter tiers? We put energy into the power grid, and we did it at our own expense. We still buy electricity from the power company, just less of it now. So?

This is just another fee to slap onto customers to get more money from them. I urge the Utah Public Service Commission to reject this proposed fee.

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