

January 22, 2014

Utah Public Service Commission:

I read [the article](#) “Rocky Mountain Power asks for 4% rate hike” in the Salt Lake Tribune (January 6, 2014), and was appalled to learn that the utility wants to impose additional fees on customers who “generate their own electrical power through alternative methods such as solar panels or wind turbines.” As one of those customers, I wish to submit the following comments for the Public Service Commission to consider.

My latest Rocky Mountain Power bill marked 3 years since I installed my [solar array](#). It has produced a total of 42,033 kWh of electricity, of which I have used 36,413 kWh to power my home and drive my Nissan LEAF electric car nearly 16,000 miles with zero-emissions. I have then “donated” the excess 5,620 kWh to Rocky Mountain Power to sell to my neighbors and likewise help reduce their carbon footprint. To put those numbers into perspective, I will include on page 2 of this document an infographic that shows my solar array’s daily averages to date.

I see **no justification** for Rocky Mountain Power to propose charging me an additional monthly fee “to offset the fixed cost of supplying service [...] as well as receiving the extra electricity.” How is the cost of “supplying service” through my meter at night any greater than for homes without solar? What additional expense does the utility incur when “receiving the extra electricity” from my array during the day? The sole expense to them beyond connecting any other home to their grid was swapping my meter for a dual-readout model. The kWh I have donated to their grid more than paid for that piece of equipment long ago.

Surely the Public Service Commission is aware that in other states utilities have to pay homeowners with solar for any excess power they generate. True, they reimburse them at a lower rate than they charge to sell electricity, because the power is intermittent, but if other companies can compensate — rather than charge— such homeowners, I fail to see why Rocky Mountain Power cannot do the same.

That is the change that the Public Service Commission should impose upon Rocky Mountain Power, rather than what they are proposing. In the interim, I am happy and willing to simply donate my surplus zero-emission electrons to the grid for the good of my community, our state, the country, and the planet. But I most certainly object to being charged *extra* for making that *donation*.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mark D Larsen

Ivins, Utah

www.casteyanqui.com/ev/solar/

