



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Rocky Mountain Power Rate Increase Request

1 message

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Fri, Jan 24, 2014 at 12:01 PM

To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to comment as a private citizen about Rocky Mountain Power's rate increase request. The request includes a \$4.25 monthly fee for net-metering customers who generate their own power with solar panels or wind turbines. The power company is requesting this monthly fee because some power generating systems generate more power than the customer uses, and the excess power generated goes to the power company which credits the customer for excess generation at the full retail rate.

Last year we installed solar panels to conserve energy and to reduce our electrical costs after retirement. I am now retired, and our financial resources are limited.

Some of the claims that Rocky Mountain Power has made to justify their proposed monthly fee to net-metering customers are erroneous. Please consider the following:

- (1) Rocky Mountain Power does not need to build new transmission lines or upgrade their equipment to provide power to net-metering customers, and in fact, the power they receive from net-metering customers comes to them at virtually no cost.
- (2) On April 1 of each year all net-metering customers have their power generation balances reset to zero. Any excess power that they have generated at on that date is not credited to them by Rocky Mountain Power.
- (3) Rocky Mountain Power claims that the cost of electricity to net-metering customers is just under 2.6 cents per kilowatt. However, this does not include the cost to the customers to install their system. Solar panel systems in Utah usually cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000 to install, and that cost should be included to accurately determine the cost per kilowatt to the customer.

Certainly Rocky Mountain Power is justified in requesting a rate increase for all of their customers, but the cost of their proposed request would unfairly be borne by their net-metering customers.

Rocky Mountain Power claims that they encourage energy conservation, but their rate increase request would discourage the citizens of Utah to invest in alternative sources of energy.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Dinger