

February 1, 2014

Utah Public Service Commission:

I submitted comments earlier to this docket, but wish to add a few more to refute Rocky Mountain Power's rationale for proposing extra charges for solar homeowners.

The truth of the matter is that RMP is an active member of [EEI](#), a conglomerate of utility companies tied-at-the-hip with [ALEC](#), and thus trying to push through a [fossil fuel industry agenda](#) to punish, suppress, and discourage rooftop solar in various states —just like they recently did [in Arizona](#). Consider, for example, the biased and misleading petroganda in [this new ad](#). Given that a significant number of our state senators and representatives are [members of ALEC](#), including the president of the senate, the speaker of the house, and the majority leaders of both houses, RMP is evidently confident that they can carry out that agenda in Utah —no matter the will of the people.

But there is much more to this story than RMP, EEI, and ALEC are addressing. Yes, my solar home is connected to the grid, and at night I use the same wires, transformers, poles, etc., that my neighbors use. And RMP might have an argument that I need to pay my “fair share” for that grid along with those neighbors. But it is a purposely lopsided argument!

The truth is that I use those wires, transformers, and poles *much* less than those neighbors while generating my *own* kWh in the day. And the epitome of hypocrisy is that RMP then turns around and *sells* my extra kWh to those neighbors. Thus the bills those customers are paying to RMP for *my* electricity is already subsidizing the wires, transformers, and poles that carry it from my home to theirs. *Why* should I pay for that infrastructure a second time?

RMP also glosses over the fact that I already *do* pay a monthly charge, just like everyone else, which includes a “Basic Charge,” a “Minimum Charge,” a “Home Electric Lifeline Program,” a “Municipal Energy Sales/use Tax,” and —of course— sales tax.

Moreover, by referring to only wires, transformers and poles, RMP is conveniently forgetting that —unlike other consumers— I am *saving* them the costs of fuel (coal, natural gas, oil), and of transporting and storing those combustibles, not to mention the wear-and-tear, maintenance, repairs, and replacements for furnaces, boilers, steam generators, piping, CO2 scrubbers, and all manner of other equipment —*only* necessary to generate electricity with dirty fossil fuels.

And in the bigger picture, we solar owners are forging the renewable energy path that the RMP should have started down *long* ago. The more of us who install solar, the *less* they need to build more polluting fossil fuel plants and pay the government piper for their escalating carbon footprint. Yet they want those of us who are producing *zero* emissions to pay for *their* carbon tax? Unconscionable!

Ironically, I could agree to pay an extra charge **\*IF\*** RMP did not *zero out* the extra kWh on my bills at the end of March every year, and instead let me carry that tally forward year-after-year and apply it to help pay for that charge. But... no. The way it is set up now, in March RMP simply pockets those extra

kWh for *free*, says “thanks a lot, sucker,” sells them to my neighbors, and *then* demands that I pay an extra charge! Consider [this infographic](#) to see the kWh I have... ahem... “donated” for *free* to RMP since installing my array. Shame on them!

And I could also agree to pay an extra charge **\*IF\*** it constituted a payment plan to purchase from RMP a [Li-Ion battery ESS](#) to store my extra kWh in the day and then power my home with them at night. Indeed, if RMP would get on board with the new [vehicle-to-grid technology](#), I could already use my Nissan LEAF electric car for that very purpose! That way, my use of RMP’s wires, transformers, and poles would be absolutely minimal.

And I could also agree to pay an extra charge **\*IF\*** RMP *exclusively earmarked* those funds to build power plants that use hydro, geothermal, wind (like in [Milford](#)), or solar (like in [Ivanpah](#)), and close down their dirty fossil fuel plants. I cannot express enough how appalled I am that they would want to charge me, a solar homeowner, so that they can continue to do “business as usual” instead, with their dirty, polluting fossil fuels. It adds insult to injury.

It is a sad state of affairs that, with Utah’s air quality growing exponentially worse with each passing year, RMP’s proposal is fossil foolish. They should be rewarding —not punishing— solar home owners for helping *them* clean up their act. It’s a *clean* job, but somebody’s got to do it.

Thank you for allowing us citizens a voice in these decisions. You will receive the necessary 11 hard copies of this statement in the near future.

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