



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Docket 13-035-184

1 message

JAY VESTAL <jayvestal@msn.com>
To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>

Tue, May 20, 2014 at 12:22 PM

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing to express my objection to the Rocky Mountain Power proposal to impose a "net metering fee" for solar residential customers, of which I am one.

I have been involved in helping residential homeowners obtain solar for their homes as a volunteer through a program called "Salt Lake Community Solar". Through this 2012 effort, 64 homeowners were able to install solar PV systems of various sizes on their homes. The investment by each individual was significant, and the return on investment will only be realized over multiple years in most instances. A new Net Metering fee was not anticipated by any of us as we made our decisions to install.

Why install solar?

1. It's the right thing to do for Utah's citizens, especially given Salt Lake City's air quality.
2. It's the right thing to do to help address climate change. We must, individually, look for ways to help reduce the need for fossil fuel extraction-- leave the carbon in the ground.
3. It's the right thing to do as a faith statement in the care of Creation.

Rocky Mountain Power, taking a page from Edison Electric Institute's playbook, is not looking out for the best interests of the people of Utah, who, rather than being penalized with an additional fee, instead should be incentivized to install any renewable energy they can afford.

It is in our collective best interest to reduce energy use and generate as much energy as possible through renewables. Individuals want to participate in their energy future, as evidenced by the many rate payers, including me, who contribute to Rocky Mountain Power's "Blue Sky" Program, (for which RMP disingenuously arranges publicity and claims credit).

Rocky Mountain Power should not stand in the way of those who want to help create a renewable energy future.

Regards,

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P.S.-- Charging a flat fee for a net meter exacts an extra penalty on homeowners who have but a few solar panels and generate only a small portion of their utility use, relative to those few homeowners with enough panels to generate an excess of their usage. In my neighborhood, one individual has eight panels, generates 15% of his electricity, I have 13 panels and generate about 40% of my electricity, and another neighbor has 20 panels and generates excess energy each year. Yet, Rocky Mountain Power proposes that we all pay the same monthly fee. This makes no sense at all.