



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

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**re: Solar useage**

1 message


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**Ken/Marty Kay** <kay@easilink.com>  
To: PSC@utah.gov

Fri, May 23, 2014 at 8:49 AM

Dear Public Service Commission,  
Attached is my take on the public solar power vs RMP situation.  
Thank you for reading this and your consideration.  
Martha Kay  
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Vernal  
435-789-3081

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 **solar:UTpdf .pdf**  
35K

Friday, May 23, 2014

Dear Utah Public Service Commission,

We are one of the 2000 or so on grid homes in Utah. We spent our hard earned retirement money to purchase and install a 3K system on our home. We also had to purchase a special electrical meter in addition to the regular one. RMP and Utah provided a incentive which we utilized and appreciated. We could not have had solar otherwise. We have the perfect location for the panels and, of course, hoped to mitigate our future electric bills.

Yes, RMP purchases our excess electricity if we produce any but not at a straight across rate; it is at a reduced rate to what they charge their residential customers, i.e. us. In very simplified terms and obviously not using official figures (RMP uses kW and charges in cents and a link to the figures is available on their website): suppose we buy 200 watts at \$5 a watt (\$1000) and sell them 200w at \$4 a watt (\$800). My simplified math shows they made \$200 ( $\$5 - \$4 = \$1 \times 200 \text{ w}$ ) off our power. Yes, expenses come out of that \$200 "profit" but it also does out of our \$200 regular bill (\$1000 regular usage minus \$800 solar credit) as we buy power which includes line usage from RMP during the times we don't produce power from our panels. Of course these are greatly exaggerated figures but the principle is the same. A computer program does the calculations so they aren't paying someone to figure the solar billing costs by pencil and paper.

I know the differential is considerably smaller but then the sums multiplied by the number of net meter customers become much larger and costs of usage go down pretty much everywhere. And those expenses include line usage both ways, our benefit and their sale. I find it interesting that the argument is presented that it isn't fair that solar customers get to use the lines free or at a reduced rate. We spent money on an environmentally useful product which helps keep those who didn't invest thusly in power because we either don't use as much during daylight hours and/or we produce enough to add to what

RMP is sending out to their other customers thus lessening RMP's burden.

What would be the incentive to install solar, wind, or other alternative power sources if there isn't some sort of break? Just do it for the environment out of the goodness of our hearts? If that were the case we wouldn't have very many environmental problems because everyone would be so altruistic. Not so in the real world. I don't think we would do it again under those circumstances. As for shifting my burden to those not participating, why have they chosen not to participate in net metering? I don't like being told I am not paying my fair share (sound familiar?) because I get a very small break on my bill in comparison to my outlay by people who want the environment bettered but haven't made the investment in solar panels or other alternative power systems because \_\_\_\_\_ (insert your own excuse: "to expensive", "HOA won't allow", "don't want the bother", "don't like the look", "not completely reliable", etc.). I could pick many examples of "unfair burdens" from public transit to taxes to welfare to roads to insurance to schools, our phone land line, etc. where everyone shares the cost whether or not they avail themselves of the service, product, or program including those who do albeit maybe at a reduced cost thereby not paying "total" expenses.

Sometimes people should be rewarded, however small, for going the extra mile and doing the prudent thing when it ultimately benefits all. After all, RMP has many billing classifications designed to encourage customers to save energy and lower their bills such as "off peak energy credit", "time of day meter charge", and "peak summer energy charge" that customers may utilize. Doing so gives them a break at the expense of those who don't just like those who have solar panels.

Thank you.

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