

July 2014

Mr. Ron Allen - Chairman  
Public Service Commission  
Heber M. Wells Building  
160 East 300 South  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

UTAH PUBLIC  
SERVICE COMMISSION

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I am writing to share my response and opinion to the recent comment of Mr. Paul Murphy of Rocky Mountain Power concerning an added charge for solar generated power customers - (Salt Lake Tribune, May 25, 2014).

Mr. Murphy is looking at this issue from a totally different direction than he should. I suggest the following:

1. The infra-structure of Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) has been in place long before solar power became popular and affordable, and I would hope are paid for. He doesn't state where his data comes from. I can only assume the research was done by RMP. A third party analysis would have been a better and more unbiased choice.

2. Solar power doesn't put any drain on the grid. The grid is positively augmented because of "net metering" which puts power into the grid, thereby reducing power demands during peak times. This is electricity RMP does not have to generate. A win-win for both the customer and RMP. Non-solar customers are not affected and money savings for both solar power customers and RMP are realized. With less of a drain on RMP, power rates could actually drop for regular customers.

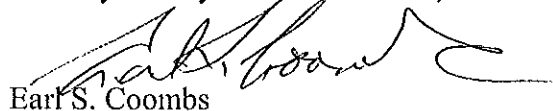
Using the renewable energy of the sun to generate electricity has long been a good idea, an idea RMP has embraced in the past. But now, they seem to be back peddling. It seems to me that RMP has a marvelous opportunity for positive public relations and positive marketing by partnering with solar companies and customers for a secure future. There are bright minds in both arenas that can make that partnership happen.

3. The surcharge of \$4.25 is not the complete issue. The issue is that of an unfair penalty, which appears arbitrary, levied toward solar generating systems regardless of how much power is used.

As a result, I urge The Public Service Commission to:

1. reject Rocky Mountain Power's request for any surcharge on solar customers
2. seek an unbiased, third party analysis so that fairness can be achieved.

Thank you for your consideration,



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