



Docket# 13-035-0841

1 message

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To: psc@utah.gov

Tue, Jul 8, 2014 at 10:12 AM

Dear Commissioners,

As a resident of Utah and a long time supporter of the Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) Blue Sky Program, I am sufficiently disappointed by the RMP rate request currently awaiting consideration by the Public Service Commission that I have discontinued my monthly Blue Sky contribution. As an alternative I have installed sufficient solar panels to offset about 50% of my monthly electricity consumption.

The University of Utah is promoting solar with a program, U Community Solar, that substantially reduces installation costs. I couldn't pass up the opportunity.

We need to reduce the use of fossil fuels in energy production. These fuels are major contributors to the problems of air pollution and global warming. This is especially important in areas like the Wasatch Front where poor air quality has become a serious contributor to the degradation of the quality of life and to personal health issues.

RMP produces 65% of its power with coal. There isn't another fuel that contributes more to air pollution or climate change.

As I began following the PSC Docket Number: 13-035-184 I was distressed to realize that the support that RMP makes to improve the environment is really in name only. In support of the proposed rate increases RMP is requesting that the PSC approve massive expenditures on emission controls that will extend the life of existing coal fired plants and, with the exception of a tiny 2 megawatt solar plant paid for largely by customer contributions to its Blue Sky program, has no plans for company owned renewable energy sources for the next 10 years.

I have come to the conclusion that RMP has a vested interest in preventing distributed solar power production by its 'rate payers'. The suggestion that solar production places a burden on the distribution network is disingenuous in light of the announcement last month by First Wind that RMP has entered into a long term agreement to purchase 320 megawatts of solar generated power from facilities being constructed in Utah. This purchase will satisfy a portion of RMP's obligation under the Federal Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act. This act has been driving utilities toward the use of renewable energy sources.

I urge the Commission to deny both the proposed \$4.25/month solar generator fee and the \$15/month minimum

billing fee because of its impact on low income families.

Best Regards,

Jim McCormick