



Solar -- Please consider my sad experience.

1 message

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To: "PSC@Utah.Gov" <PSC@utah.gov>

PSC Members--

Last year I spent \$48,000 installing a state-of-the-art solar system on my home in Sundance. It's something that I had been wanting to do for years with the objective of installing a system large enough to create a net zero structure.

My bills went to zero for two months. Then a not-so-funny thing happened.

Rocky Mountain Power upped the base rate of my power to maintain their revenue stream. There was a little note on the bill that stated something like "Rocky Mountain Power reserves the right to change rates without notice."

How would you feel if you spent almost \$50K on a solar system and still pay the same utility bills? The answer is self evident.

I encourage your board to read and ponder the contents of "The Third Industrial Revolution."

Perhaps this is how the system should work.

1. Rates should be fixed so poor saps like me who take the risk to install solar systems can actually reap a return on investment.
2. Rocky Mountain power should have a narrowly pre-determined rate at which they purchase clean energy (solar or wind).
3. They can sell this back to customers at a nominal profit. With preference to those who create the energy. (I bought Blue Sky blocks for years. It was a rip off for the consumer and a feel good for Rocky Mountain Power.
4. While Solar incentives are still in force, both Federally and State, it is in Utah's best interest to push consumer adoption. As the budget strings continue to tighten these incentives will be slowly diminished. A solar investment should yield predictable returns... not none at all.
5. Are you aware of how much power is lost (and money!) through inefficient conductivity? How about funding some prototype systems with joint participation of the DOE?
6. Ultimately, you want as much clean residential power as possible -- where it can be bought and sold using a Smart Grid. (Read the book.)

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7. And one more thing. How about mini hydro-electric power plants at the outflow of Deer Creek, etc. There is a LOT of energy going to waste.

From what I can ascertain from my utility bills thus far this year, my home should be at net zero by December.

One more thing. Please deny Rocky Mountain Power the right to access a fee for solar monitoring. And plan special off peak rates for EV users.

As for me? The next step is a fuel cell.

Thanks for thinking.

Don Moriarty

Sent from my iPhone