



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

RMP Surcharge for Solar Net Meterers

1 message

John Kennington <jkennington@utah.gov>

Mon, Jul 14, 2014 at 9:46 AM

To: PSC@utah.gov

Dear PSC Members,

I respectfully submit that I strongly urge you not to impose the additional \$4.65/month surcharge on solar users of the electrical grid.

By generating mostly excess power during the high-demand time of day solar generators reduce the demand on RMP's need to generate, and by being geographically diverse and local they reduce the load and demand on the grid for long distance transmission of power.

This issue is larger than a small surcharge on renewable energy generators. Such a surcharge would act as a dis-incentive to developing alternative energy sources when such incentives are sorely needed. With just 2000 connections, the volume of generation is miniscule and a long way from threatening RMP's day v. night time generation balance to provide base-line power when solar is not producing.

With the present low-cost of power in Utah, solar users did not spend big \$\$ as an investment to recoup a financial dividend. As an investment, it's a losing proposition. I would submit that most solar users 'invested' such large sums for the sake of the common good, and for their children's posterity, to reduce climate change influences and because it was the right thing to do.

The need to use coal as a generator fuel will last a long time, but eventually we must greatly reduce or eliminate that practice. The least painful way to do that is to gradually move away from it, and rooftop solar generation is one of the many ways that will be necessary to do that.

I am one such user who has had a system for 3-1/2 years. Each year I have generated more power than I've used. Last year (ending April 1, 2014) I had accumulated an excess of about 1340 Kw-hr for that year, which I donated to RMP. That's equivalent to about 4 months of my consumption. My original system cost was \$25,000 and, including taxes paid on refunded incentives, I recouped only about 35% to 40% of that cost.

So, please do not penalize those who have committed considerable resources towards doing what eventually needs to be done.

Sincerely,

John Kennington
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