



Rocky Mountain Power Solar Fee

1 message

Jody Cope <runoft2k6@hotmail.com>

Fri, Jul 25, 2014 at 12:25 PM

To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>

Members of the Utah PSC,

I write to express my strong support for Utah rooftop solar customers, and my opposition to Rocky Mountain Power's proposed fee increase of \$4.25 per month targeting these customers. Utah's solar owners are making critical investments in clean energy at a time when Rocky Mountain Power is not.

Because Rocky Mountain Power's energy mix predominately relies on burning coal, it is a huge source of air pollution. In fact, among all Western utilities, Rocky Mountain Power is the single largest source of air pollution. When rooftop solar customers plug their solar panels into Rocky Mountain Power's grid, they offset some of that dirty energy with pollution-free solar power.

And although these solar customers used their own money to buy solar equipment, the benefits accrue to many Utahns -- in the form of reduced air pollution, protection against fossil fuel price swings, and the creation of clean energy jobs right here in Utah.

Each individual rooftop solar installation is relatively small, but together their contribution is growing -- projected to comprise 20 MW by the end of 2014.

Solar customers are doing exactly what I wish Rocky Mountain Power would do: invest in Utah's renewable energy resources! I am very concerned that a solar penalty will stop some customers from "going solar" and impede progress toward renewables across the grid.

I stand with the rooftop solar energy producers of Utah and ask that the \$4.25 solar penalty not be approved. Their personal investment in clean energy creates clear benefits to Utah's health, environment, and economy. They should not be penalized; rather, they should be commended.

In closing, it is my opinion that previous actions by Rocky Mountain Power demonstrate their underhanded attempts to increase profits for the company. Several years back they tried to force the Cool Keeper program on all of its customers by getting the Utah Legislature involved.

In the past when the PSC denied rate hikes, Rocky mountain Power public relations used scare tactics by contacting the media stating without the rate increase Utah customers would suffer during power outages because they wouldn't have money to pay overtime to pay employees to return power in a timely manner.

Finally, a few weeks ago a Rocky Mountain Power employee came to my front door stating that he was in the neighborhood to inform customers not to panic when they seen Rocky Mountain Power employees in peoples back yards & they were going to be working on routine maintenance. Then he brought up the Cool Keeper program & wanted to sign me up, I declined. When the Rocky Mountain Power employee left my home, I observed him going to other homes on my street. He only went to the doors of residents with central air & skipped the homes equipped with swamp coolers. It is obvious he wasn't in the neighborhood to inform customers as he stated, he was soliciting for the cool keeper program. By the way, as a retiree I am home most days & have yet to see Rocky Mountain Power in any neighbors back yards since that visit.

Sincerely,

Jody R Cope
1161 W 2600 N
Layton, Utah 84041