



Correction: Fees for renewable energy, Docket Number: 13-035-196

1 message

John Sohl <jesohl@gmail.com>
To: psc@utah.gov

Mon, Jul 28, 2014 at 11:19 AM

Correction to this email subject line, the correct Docket Number is 13-035-196

To the Utah Public Service Commission,

I am in favor of reasonable fees and reasonable profitability of companies. In the case of the service charge for solar, I cannot be more strongly opposed.

Please vote NO for the section on special fees against solar and wind power.

In many states, the rational view is taken that individual homeowners and businesses are investing in energy infrastructure to the benefit of the power company. Here are a few facts, absolutely none of which are in dispute:

1. Total energy use is increasing, even if per capita use drops as a result of increasing population.
2. There is a strong case of NIMBY for new power plants. This is a challenge for all power producing companies. They must supply the energy but no one wants the power plant near them.
3. Hydroelectric power is easily throttled up and down, but is becoming more scarce and less environmentally tolerable by many.
4. Coal and, to a lesser extent, natural gas both pollute in multiple ways which makes for an unpopular and unsustainable energy source. Given the air problems along the Wasatch Front, the only rational thing is to site new power plants remotely which adds to the expense and upkeep.
5. More energy is consumed during the day than at night. Solar produces more energy during the day by definition.
6. Many people freely give extra money to the power company in the form of the Blue Skies surcharge in the understanding that the money is being used to invest in renewable infrastructure and power generation.
7. Many states require net metering and that the power company pay the producer (at a reduced rate) for the energy that is being put onto the grid.
8. Many power consuming devices are being shifted (perhaps slowly) to electrical power. E.g., plug-in hybrids, all electric cars, lawn mowers, edgers, etc. This will only put more demand on the power grid.

Most importantly for this issue: there is ALREADY a monthly minimum hookup fee of \$7.55 charged by Rocky Mountain Power. Isn't the point to this hook up fee to maintain the lines leading to the home and the cost of billing? The current request nearly doubles that fee.

Now, let's put these points above into perspective. You have a modest number of individual landowners who are voluntarily putting in their own power plants at their own expense to help defray the demands and load on the power company. People who are providing free infrastructure and maintenance to the power company for power that is provided during the peak demand period of the day. The reward for this is to get penalized with an extra fee?

The power company claims that these same people are a problem when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow. How is this different for the power company's very own renewable plants? The same facilities for which they charge us for the energy and happily collect Blue Skies donations. But when we put it in at no cost to them, they want to charge a penalty fee.

Sorry, but that just doesn't add up. Please reject this connection penalty fee.

Sincerely,

John E. Sohl, Ph.D.
Professor of Physics
5018 Charenton Cove Cir.
Ogden, UT 84408