



Proposed rate fee levied against solar power customers

1 message

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

Sun, Jul 27, 2014 at 5:33 PM

July 25, 2014

To:
Utah Public Service Commission

Re: Proposed Additional \$4.65 monthly fee for solar customers (we have always continued to pay a fee to be connected to the grid)

We are advocates for progress, renewable energy and the environment. One year ago we made the investment to install a 6.3kw solar array on our home to capture the Sun's power to create energy for our home, our non-particulate producing electric lawnmower and hopefully soon our plug-in automobile. And yes, we know the battery argument. This is an evolution, and change has to start some where, some how. Now Rocky Mountain Power wants to penalize us for doing the right thing.

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW RMP TO IMPLEMENT THIS ARBITRARY FEE!

RMP has a program called CoolKeeper where they pay HIGH demand users to turn off their air-conditioners when needed to lessen demand on a burdened system. We do not even have AC. As a solar power user we are producing the majority of our power during the hours(1-8 pm) that the CoolKeeper program is in effect and putting power back into the grid thereby decreasing stress on the system. We are helping the grid at the same time you are actually paying high demand users to turn off their AC. Power is power on the grid whether you are making it or we are. Don't reward those who are using more and penalize those who are both using less and producing power.

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW RMP TO CHARGE US MORE FOR USING LESS.

RMP has not done a comprehensive cost benefit analysis of solar power arrays connected to the grid. We may help you more that you know. You have not shown any justification for this fee and have not fulfilled the legal requirement of analysis. What kind of costs are solar power user incurring? And by the way, RMP DOES NOT reimburse customers who produce power in excess of what they use, they just keep that power that we produced and is now free power for them. Solar customers are helping to speed progress towards energy independence from fossil fuels and driving down prices on choices for renewable power. RMP needs to move towards these goals also. We are helping to reduce the need for building new power plants which will help to clean up the environment and hopefully slow climate change.

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW RMP TO DISCOURAGE PEOPLE FROM CHOOSING RENEWABLE ENERGY BY INTRODUCING A NEW FEE.

RMP cannot have it both ways. When power demand goes up they need to charge more to service the demand. When power demand goes down they need to charge more or come up with new fees to run the system. Charge the people who are using the power, not the people who have

invested in progressive ways to make their own power and reduce personal demand. If the state of Utah is serious about cleaning up the air and environment, and encouraging the use of renewable energy sources, the PSC will not allow this additional arbitrary fee to be levied on solar power users. RMP needs to be working proactively to modify their current business model (ie. profit above all) to accommodate a more resilient, multifaceted, state of the art energy system and reward people who take steps on their own to facilitate change rather than trying to maintain the status quo. The times they are a changin'. Lawmakers are pushing stricter clean air standards and solar power is one way of achieving these goals. There is a big beautiful Sun up there making lots of power. Let's use it!

Sincerely,

Pat and Gregg Lehtonen solar since August 2013
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