



Docket Number: 13-035-184

1 message

Rick Sorensen <ricksorensen@att.net>
To: psc@utah.gov

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Mr. Ron Allen, Chairman

Utah Public Service Commission

160 E 300 S

Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Mr. Allen,

A recent Salt Lake Tribune article stated:

"The Utah Office of Consumer Services and Division of Public Utilities, however, don't see it this way.

"Net metering customers are primarily providing energy for their own consumption and (incrementally) to the Company. In exchange, net metering customers are compensated at the full retail rate either through a reduction in consumption or through credits," wrote the division's energy section manager, Artie Powell, in testimony filed Thursday.

"However, these net metering customers still use the distribution and transmission infrastructure," Powell wrote, "and that makes this a cost causative issue. All customers, including net metering customers, using infrastructure should pay for that usage."

Excuse me?!

The portion discussing net metering customers providing power for themselves first and then providing power to the grid is true. That's how grid-tied solar systems are designed to work. However, the remaining statement ("the net metering customers use the distribution and transmission infrastructure") is extremely misleading.

Net metering customers are providing electric power to the grid, namely to Rocky Mountain Power (RMP), not directly to other consumers. The net metering customers use the same infrastructure Rocky Mountain Power uses to deliver power to these same customers – RMP is not providing a separate infrastructure for these customers (i.e. RMP is not incurring a cost to receive the excess power produced by net metering customers). Moreover, RMP is receiving the excess electricity generated by these private solar installations – at no cost to RMP - and re-selling that electricity to other consumers at full rate! Seems to me that RMP is already reaping a significant cost benefit in this arrangement.

If we are going to acknowledge some (to me fictitious) cost of distributing the electricity produced by private solar installations then RMP must address the cost (incurred by the net metering customers) of producing the electrical power they receive from the private solar installations (net metering customers) and reimburse the private solar installation owners for that cost.

I stand with the rooftop solar energy producers of Utah and ask that the \$4.25 solar penalty not be approved.

Rick Sorensen

2460 N 750 W

Harrisville, UT 84414