



Proposed Solar charge from RMP. PEASE DENY THIS REQUEST FOR THIS PUNITIVE CHARGE

1 message

Peter <peter@pbehn.us>

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

Cc: "fitz@sltrib.com" <fitz@sltrib.com>, "community@rockymountainpower.net" <community@rockymountainpower.net>

Dear Sirs and Madams of the Public Service Commission,

My wife and I are the owners of a 5 KW photovoltaic system, currently net metering with RMP. We started out with a 2.5 KW system several years ago (when it was more expensive than it is today. We are just now in the process of doubling our capacity in the hopes of coming closer to Net Zero. We originally put our system in to help the environment, and because we felt it was "The right thing to do". (We also bought 10 blocks of "Blue Sky" for the same reason.) I have recently learned that Blue Sky does not do what we thought it was going to do. (We thought it was going to buy electricity from wind farms in Wyoming and Utah and sell it to us. It is my understanding they do not do that. We are going to cancel our Blue Sky participation.) We are expanding our system now to continue our philosophy and also because it is now much closer to making "economic sense".

I am very concerned that the proposed Solar charge will send a negative message to those individuals who are considering making an installation similar to ours. This charge comes at a time when the industry is just coming out of the experimental phase, and needs all the support it can get. Although many may say the \$4.55 charge is not very much, it matters most for the small systems trying to figure out the economic viability of it all. And we also know that a small fee, once imposed will remain forever and grow and grow.

I also find it very strange and counter productive for RMC to be proposing this charge while they are also offering grants and other incentives for people to install PV. These grants are by lottery, and very limited. I feel it is just "window dressing" and a grab for positive PR, which they obviously need. I feel the Blue Sky program is the same quest for positive PR.

I am afraid it all boils down to the fact that RMP is in the coal business as well as the electricity production business. They may encourage us to "save" energy, but they don't want us to "produce" energy and be competing with their monopoly.

Finally, I believe that home photo voltaic systems are benefitting RMP far more than any "wear and tear" on the distribution grid. Although the effect may be small now, we are supplying power that may go on the grid only as far as our neighbors. And as more systems come on line, we are extending the day that a new power plant is to be built. Eventually our citizens cumulative efforts and production of electricity may be equal to the output of an entire power plant. How much is all that worth?

Please do not approve RMP's fee request which everyone feels is a punitive charge on an industry trying to come out of it's infancy. VOTE NO!

Sincerely Yours, Peter Behn

Peter Behn
9785 Kimball Canyon Road
Park City, UT. 84098

peter@pbehn.us

435 658-1255. Home
435 640-2313. Cell