



Docket Number: 13-035-184

1 message

Allen Sanderson <allen@sci.utah.edu>

Tue, Jul 29, 2014 at 1:44 PM

To: psc@utah.gov

To The Public Utilities Commission,

I am writing today to voice my opposition to the proposed \$4.65 surcharge for net metering residential solar energy systems by Rocky Mtn. Power. Currently, utility users pay a \$5.00 per month for the cost of the hookup, meter, meter reading, etc. This "Basic fee" is born by all users regardless of the amount of energy used. It is my understanding in talking to a representative from Rocky Mtn. Power that part of this fee is already for grid costs. As such, it would appear to me that Rocky. Mtn. Power's desire to add a surcharge to net metering residential solar energy systems is simply a way for them penalize customers who are reducing their power consumption.

If Rocky Mtn. Power wishes recoup costs associated with the grid it should be born by all users based on a two fold metric. The first being the cost of the grid system, the second being the cost of transmitting the electricity over the grid. There is a third metric, the cost of the electricity which is not germane to the discussion. As such, I believe Rocky Mtn. Power needs to restructure their fees more broadly, that is via the basic fee paid by all customers.

Missing from this discussion is the fact that net metering residential solar energy systems do not receive credit for the excess power supplied to the grid. As such, there is no way for customers to offset the basic fee let alone the proposed fee. This approximately \$115 in yearly fees is enough to tip the balance for many customers wishing to install net metering residential solar energy systems to the point that it is not cost effective. As such, if a fee is imposed on net metering residential solar energy systems then customers should be paid for their excess energy.

Further, the goal of net metering residential solar energy systems is to encourage distributed clean renewable energy. Such systems, have a benefit that goes beyond the basic reduction in green houses gases. Customers who are using alternative energy sources are typically very aware of their energy footprint and take measures to reduce it in ways that typically customers might not. For instance, we have built our house such that during the hottest days the our basement is naturally cooled. Thus we rarely need air-conditioning and are naturally reducing the need for energy during the peak times.

In conclusion, the proposed \$4.65 surcharge for net metering residential solar energy systems by Rocky Mtn. Power should not be approved.

Sincerely,

Allen Sanderson
1744 South 1900 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84108