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July 29, 2014

Public Service Commission
Salt Lake City

Re: Increase in Charges for Net-metering for Renewable Power

Dear Commissioners,

Please consider the following comments on the proposed increases to the connection charges for net-metering and renewable energy residential generators.

We built (2011) and still currently own a home equipped with solar panels, net-metered to Rocky Mountain Power. The home is nearly entirely electric, including our space heating and cooling, which runs from a ground source heat loop. Our eighteen solar panels power about **70% of our annual energy needs** (by KWhr). The net-meter base charge now forms more than 10% of annual power bill from a dollar perspective. This charge has already gone up once, by 81% from \$4.17 to \$7.55 per month, since we built the house in 2011.

When we built our house we invested more than \$20000 in solar, because we felt having a small “footprint” was the right thing to do. An increase in the cost we would have to pay monthly would have been a deterrent to our investment. If the charge is increased now we feel it will discourage people from investing in renewable when this is the “right thing to do” to be good stewards to the planet.

Now that solar costs have dropped further, and electric consumption is not rising, it appears that installing residential or commercial rooftop solar is by far the most efficient way to bring additional generating capacity to Utah. Local renewables have so many advantages:

- Locally generated renewables avoid fossil-fuel emissions and don't degrade local air quality
- Local generation avoids transmission losses
- Utah has plenty of sun, and in some areas enough wind to create a meaningful contribution from each installation.

Increasing the basic/minimum charges for these installations will send the wrong message to people who are investing in renewables to contribute to the future of Utah's power.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Richard and Miranda Menzies
Residents of Eden, UT.
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