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Subject: **Comments AGAINST RMP Proposal to add monthly charge to solar energy from Utah rooftops**
Date: July 29, 2014 2:32:35 PM MDT
To: RMP and Public Service Commission
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To RMP and Public Service Commission
July 29, 2014

I believe it is an error for Rocky Mountain Power to claim their need to add a charge of \$4.65 per month to all Utah solar rooftops whose electricity generation is 'net-metered' to the extent of electricity used. RMP seemed to understand the value of gaining renewable energy for Utah and Utah residents when they generously subsidized the installation of solar voltaic panels at my cooperative condominium association. What would be the reason for them to retract such subsidization, which has now helped to put solar roofs on some 2,700 Utah homes?

As a scientist, I most certainly understand the overbearing impact of human beings on this planet, primarily due to their accelerating combustion of fossil fuels, from which the release of carbon dioxide is causing our atmosphere to over-heat. Impacts on climate, arctic ice, ocean levels, and biological systems are increasingly observable. If the extraordinary life-support system of Earth is to be saved, we humans must commit to reducing fossil fuel combustion, replacing it by generating energy from renewable sources: sunlight, wind, tides and the internal heat of the planet. Such sources produce no carbon dioxide and no toxic by-products (e.g. mercury, radioactivity). Their harvesting does not disturb the biological surface of our Earth, nor our amazing landscapes. AND current calculations show that renewable energy can suffice to support human energy needs (if we learn to be efficient in our energy use).

"Carbon-Free and Nuclear-Free: A roadmap for U.S. Energy Policy" by Arjun Makhijani, IEER Press, 2007.

"How to Power California with Wind, Water and Sun", Mark Z. Jacobson et al, Science Daily, 24 July 2014.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/07/140724144316.htm>

It is understandable that industrialists will be deterred from changing our energy base because of their prior investments in fossil fuel sources and facilities. But our society is understanding more and more the need to commit to movement towards renewable energy. Even in Utah, there are already major solar voltaic energy installations that are functioning effectively (even though we were told 10 years ago that our latitude was too North for useful solar energy production).

Thus, RMP would be well advised to advance their progress towards renewable energy, rather than slowing it by imposing new charges on solar roof installations.

Naomi Franklin

