



Comments for docket 13-035-184 - Surcharge for rate payers with solar panels

1 message

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To: psc@utah.gov

Wed, Jul 30, 2014 at 12:28 PM

I am strongly opposed to the proposal by Rocky Mountain Power to add a separate fee of \$4.65 to rate payers with solar panels.

In September 2013 we had a 5KW solar system installed on the rooftop of our home. For several months the power generated did not exceed the amount of power we used. However, for the last 3 months we have generated more power than used and we received bills with the minimum charges of \$7.97.

I first began investigating solar more than 5 years ago. We compared system costs, power costs and our energy saving efforts. We questioned whether we would live in this home long enough (or live long enough) to repay our investment. According to our calculations it will take 8 to 10 years for us to break even financially.

Another consideration was how our investment in solar energy would help the environment. We feel our decision to invest in solar power benefits everyone in our community including our children and grandchildren. It also benefits Rocky Mountain Power. Solar energy reduces pollution, reduces greenhouse gases, reduces peak demand and reduces the need for Rocky Mountain power to build power generation capacity for "peak power demand." The need to manage peak load is illustrated by the Cool Keeper program where air-conditioners are switched off during peak demand.

On our power bill there is a Basic Charge of \$5.00 per month. Wasn't the reason this charge was added a few years ago to pay for fixed costs, such as the grid? Why do we need a separate charge targeted to only those with solar panels? If it is absolutely necessary to charge a grid fee then everyone should participate equally. Adjust the Basic Charge accordingly. The rates for electricity could be adjusted down to compensate for the increase. This may have the same effect of surcharging rate payers with solar panels but it would not be perceived as so unfair.

We have made a significant investment in renewable energy. Any changes in the fee structure will change how long it takes for us to break even. It is unfair to change the rules after all the decisions have been made. Please do not approve any fees that unfairly target renewable energy users. Please do not allow disincentives for investment in renewable energy.

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