



PublicService Commission &lt;psc@utah.gov&gt;

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## Comments for Docket 14-035-114

1 message

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**Mark D Larsen** <yanquetino@casteyanqui.com>  
To: Public Service Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Tue, Jan 27, 2015 at 10:25 AM

Dear Commissioners:

I would like to express 5 points in response to RMP's continued push to impose a penalty surcharge on net-metering customers.

(1) I purport that the PSC needs to transfer into this docket all the comments that private citizens submitted previously on this issue (Docket 13-035-164). RMP should not be allowed to "wipe the slate clean" of the thousands of Utahns who oppose its proposal. Nor should those individuals have to resubmit their objections. They have already made the effort of contacting PSC to voice their perspective, and deserve to have that perspective heard.

(2) I most strenuously object that RMP wants the PSC to limit its cost-benefits study to the impact of solar on load comparisons. As we all know, for far too long utilities have sidestepped the external costs of their operations: cleaning up toxic waste, effects on public health, exacerbating global warming, etc. Mitigating such costly externalities is an undeniable benefit of rooftop solar that deserves to be included in the comparison. To do otherwise in the face of increased pollution locally and climate change globally is deceitful and destructive.

(3) EEI utilities like RMP have known for decades that burning fossil fuels wrecks havoc on our environment and public health, yet have myopically continued to do "business as usual" —no matter the consequences to our communities, state, nation, and planet. Now, when private citizens have grown fed up with such practices, decide to take matters into their own hands, and invest in clean, renewable energy instead, RMP seeks to thwart their efforts and even force them to continue pay for their fossil fuel business. Such actions are unconscionable, something that only a monopoly would dare propose. If we really believe in a *free market* society, no company should be able to undermine and punish the *freedom* of its customers.

(4) There are voices in the utility industry itself that oppose RMP's ALEC-inspired battle against solar homeowners. I encourage all parties concerned to read the recent article by the CEO and President of NRG Energy, David Crane, "Carbon Morality: Nearsightedness of Incumbency" in *Energybiz* (<http://bit.ly/1CuU99w>). Allow me to quote a concluding paragraph, expressly directed to utilities like RMP:

*It's something for the utilities to think about this year as they rev up their lobbyists and unleash their PR consultants in an effort to eliminate or retard the spread of clean distributed generation like residential solar. You may win the occasional net-metering battle here or the fixed-charge battle there. Electric utilities in Florida may continue to prevail with their canard that distributed solar is not right for the Sunshine State, but make no mistake: By winning these battles - indeed, by fighting them in the first place - you are losing where it really matters. You are losing the hearts and minds of the future generation of Americans. And, by so doing, you are hastening the day when the dominant energy partner for the end-use energy consumer will be companies with no history of fighting against the inexorable rise of the clean energy future and that embrace and enable the consumers' right to make their own energy choices.*

(5) In case the PSC does not transfer citizens' comments from the previous docket to this one, I will duplicate here links to the web pages I have already posted on this battle —and to which RMP has *never* responded. Please re-examine the figures cited: they clearly show that, contrary to RMP's bogus claims, solar homeowners are indeed paying their fair share of infrastructure costs —just like all other customers:

Fossil Foolishness (<http://bit.ly/MDiwws>)

RMP vs. Solar FAQ (<http://bit.ly/1ianRYa>)

Don't Drink RMP's Fossil Fool-Aid (<http://bit.ly/1jIDx6E>)

Average Home vs LEDs vs Solar (<http://bit.ly/1tTZcKW>)

Six Neighbors' Electricity in Utah (<http://bit.ly/SIUhVf>)

Class Warfare Propaganda for Profit (<http://bit.ly/1via8RD>)

Larsen Residence Solar Infographic (<http://bit.ly/1BuSMGr>)

Thank you for including my comments and links in this Docket. We citizens trust the Public Service Commission to serve the *public*, first and foremost.

Most earnestly,

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