



Docket #14-035-71

1 message

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Subject: Docket 14-035-71

In 2013, my wife and I applied and were notified soon after, that we qualified (randomly chosen) to participate in the residential PV Solar Incentive Program (SIP).

We would like to offer the following feedback on our experience as SIP award participants:

1) The financial and technical details of the program are extremely difficult to understand (by layman and industry professionals) and need to be simplified and better documented by RMP:

We worked with several professional PV Solar firms to design and size a system to meet our particular requirements. In that process, we got conflicting information from RMP representations and the different solar firms on exactly how the incentive reimbursement would be calculated and awarded.

2) In light of RMP's proposed additional Net Metering fee's, I think the financial viability of the SIP program is disingenuous. While our family's desire to install residential PV Solar was not entirely based on financial reasoning, the fact remains our resources are limited as we both approach retirement. We feel the SIP program probably helped "push" us into residential PV sooner – but now we feel a significant chunk of our award "savings" will be eroded in the years ahead, certainly within the life expectancy of the PV system.

3) Also, the SIP program needs to review it's down-payment requirement. People are eager to embrace alternative energy, but the complexities of this program apparently made many "lottery winners" hesitant to surrender, up front the required down-payment. This, in my opinion is an indicator of a problem.

4) The SIP program decreases by 20% each year, eroding it's effective incentive. If RMP was serious about alternative energy, they we build into the SIP an annual increase. It's just another example of sending the "wrong" message and demonstrating their lack of commitment to PV solar power in Utah.

5) We are happy with the net-metering contribution our system is making to reducing our carbon footprint. With a lot of care and planning on our part, we installed a residential system (6 kW, nominal) that took maximum advantage of the SIP award, while fitting our historic home and meeting our budget requirements. Unfortunately, given the present status of the SIP and proposed net-metering rate changes, it is difficult to recommend this program to our friends and co-workers.

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