

Utah Rural Electric Association

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A Touchstone Energy™ Cooperative 

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March 28, 2007

Utah Public Service Commission
Heber M. Wells Building, 4th Floor
160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City UT 84111

Attention: Julie Orchard

RE: Docket 06-999-03 – Net Metering

Consistent with the provisions contained in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Utah Public Service Commission is required to consider five new federal standards relative to the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act. The Utah Division of Public Utilities (Division) issued a memorandum to the Utah Public Service Commission (PSC) dated February 26, 2007 regarding the Net Metering standard. The Division recommended;

“... that the PSC find that Utah Code, Title 54-15 is equivalent and satisfies the “grandfathered” provision of the PURPA law regarding consideration of a standard. Therefore, Utah meets the obligation regarding the Net Metering Standard under PURPA.”

The Utah Rural Electric Association participated in the development of Title 54-15 and concurs with this recommendation of the Division. Given the relatively favorable electric rates in Utah the electric cooperatives have not experienced a high demand for net metering. It has been difficult for some customers to justify the expense of self-generation given the Co-op’s existing rate structures.

During technical conferences for Docket 06-999-03 it was noted that Rocky Mountain Power is the only electric utility over which the Utah Public Service Commission has ratemaking authority. Under Utah law the locally elected board of directors at each electric cooperative determines the level of rates and charges to cooperative members, including net metering tariffs. Each cooperative is required to hold public meetings, receive approval from the board of directors and any applicable federal regulator, and file its tariffs with the Commission. Utah’s Rural Electric Cooperatives will continue working with their members in those situations where net metering is an appropriate and desirable option.

Sincerely,

Michael Peterson
Executive Director