

To: Utah Public Service Commission

From: Ed and Teresa Dieringer

Date: May 26, 2011

Reference: Comments on Docket 07-035-T14 – In the Matter of the Approval of Rocky Mountain Power's Tariff P.S.C.U. No. 47, Re: Schedule 107 - Solar Incentive Program; Request for Comments

UTAH PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

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Dear Public Service Commissioners and Commission Staff:

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We are residents of Salt Lake City, Utah small business owners, home and business property owners, PV panel owners on our home, purchasers of blue sky credits, healthcare professionals, members of several nonprofit boards of directors, and active participants in our community.

We support measures to facilitate adoption of clean energy technologies, including the utility solar program under consideration. We believe that diversifying Utah's energy portfolio with clean energy technologies can provide numerous benefits to the State's economy, environment, and quality of life. We are interested in seeing programs and measures adopted that reduce impacts on Utah's pristine outdoor environment and affiliated recreation opportunities, help improve local and regional air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate carbon risk, provide new economic development opportunities for Utah's communities, and minimize risks and uncertainties for Utah's businesses and consumers in the energy arena. Because of this, we strongly support and recommend the continuation and expansion of Rocky Mountain Power's Solar Incentive Program for several reasons, outlined below.

1. A Solar PV Incentive Program provides an economical resource for the utility, ratepayer, and the State of Utah. Maximizing private investment in solar resources promotes development of new and innovative energy production systems that are sorely needed, creates new businesses and employment that cannot be outsourced, leverages private dollars and investments, decreases the financial burden on the utilities to pay for the building, management, and maintenance of new power plants, decreases demand and cost of water usage, and minimizes the environmental, safety, and health costs on our society that other power production causes.

2. Incentivizing the use of Solar PV over standard power production also provides significant water saving benefits. Unlike most thermoelectric coal- or natural gas-fired power plants, solar PV does not use water in the electricity generation process. Developing a stronger PV program in our desert environment would help meet Utah's (and the Western States') water conservation needs. With a growing population and increasing pressures on Utah's constrained water resources, benefits would likely be derived from increased adoption of distributed renewable energy technologies and other low water-use renewable energy resources in Utah.

3. Solar PV helps reduce the need to burn fossil fuels that contribute to global climate change and unhealthy environmental conditions, which pose significant economic risks and uncertainties for Utah's businesses and citizens. Of particular note are Utah's ski and outdoor recreation industries and tourist communities/businesses. Additionally, we must continue to move in directions that help to mitigate the ever increasing financial burden on our society due to health hazards caused by the burning of fossil fuels. There are already significant environmental and health studies with future projections that should offer support for the necessity to do what we can to decrease the dependence on burning fossil fuels.

4. Solar PV provides energy during peak usage hours during the day, especially in the summer. On-site generation effectively reduces both private and commercial consumer demand during peak usage times. Additionally, given that large commercial and industrial systems could provide significant power during summer months, it is critical not to exclude large installations from an expanded solar program.

5. We have witnessed the ease of installation, low maintenance, and direct benefits of Solar PV on our Salt Lake City home. Because of this we have a continued strong interest to be able to effectively install and utilize this system on our child daycare facility in Taylorsville which consumes significant electrical power. Due to city constraints, we are unable to install wind or other types of alternative energy production. Without a supportive program to help us, and so many others like us, to get over the large hurdle of the initial cost of a larger system that also results in a 20 year "payoff," it is difficult for us and so many others like us to help do our part toward contributing to our communities in an important and meaningful way. We know of many people who have the same goal to more positively impact our society through installation of Solar PV panels.

6. The greater demand for electricity will require us to continue to invest significant dollars toward new electricity production. Rather than continue down the path of paying for antiquated and unhealthy forms of energy production, let's transfer that investment into expansion of incentives and other programs like this that will greatly help in transitioning our society toward a more efficient, effective, and healthy system of energy production that benefits everyone. Expanding programs like this incentive would bring installation of Solar PV from "state of the art" to "state of the economy" making solar electricity production even more economically viable.

Given these reasons, we recommend the Commission approve an expanded pilot program to a much larger and long-term solar incentive program. The program could be designed to pass the "utility-cost test," and the Commission should consider the additional and unique benefits that distributed generation provides when evaluating the cost-effectiveness of the program. We also recommend that the process to develop the expanded program continue to be open to interested stakeholders to ensure that the expanded program is designed, administered, and implemented with best practices in mind.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on this important matter. We look forward to future involvement in next steps.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed and Teresa Dieringer

Owners – Caregiver Support Network Home Health and Hospice

Owners – Golden Years Consultants, a geriatric care management company

Owners – Bennion Learning Center, a child day care facility

Owners – Grindstone Enterprises, a property investment company

