

UTAH PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

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Utah Public Service Commission
160 E. 300 S.
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Re: Docket No. 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

Dear Public Service Commission,

I would like to thank the Commission, RMP and Utah Clean Energy for making Utah a national leader in renewable energy and net-metering. I have intently followed the hard work and concessions that have been required from all parties to forge the important programs that have allowed the footholds for clean electrical power generation to be created and implemented in the state of Utah.

I'm very grateful that the Commission has decided to receive public input of the fate of the Solar Incentive Program and that, as a concerned citizen and business owner, I can register my comments to the Commission. I have life-threatening asthma and impaired lung functions that make this a very personal issue, especially when the "bad air" days come to stay. My doctors have advised me to leave the State I love to protect my health – is that what we have to look forward too? Having the cleanest air possible in Utah must be a priority to reduce the health issues and the associated costs to society, business and local governments.

The fate of the Solar Incentive Program extends well beyond the convenience issues of our electric utilities. Salt Lake's inclusion in the top-ten toxic cities is not good for businesses, local governments, or individuals. As a society we understand that our utilities must make a profit and be healthy enough to serve the public needs. The public, too, has a right to be healthy, and has invoked the power to your Commission to protect their rights in a monopolistic system. It concerns me greatly that Rocky Mountain Power has concluded and publically stated that that providing solar incentives to consumers is not in their best interest.

I am the Founder and CEO of PerpetualGreen, LLC, a Utah business that manufactures energy efficiency and renewable energy products for homes and businesses. I can't begin to tell you how hard it is to promote our "clean air" products without the support of the Rocky Mountain Power, the State of Utah, or the Public Service Commission. It has been hammered home to PerpetualGreen that the power companies are not interested in helping reduce consumer's energy bills if reduces their revenues. It's really that simple. Without a balancing force (or clean air incentives), greed wins more often than not.

It is unfortunate that our State government has chosen not to initiate a Renewables Portfolio Standard and our Governor has openly backed cheap coal-fired generation as a prime way to attract energy-hungry businesses to our state. I'm hoping the PSC can add balance to the equation of clean, renewable energy vs. dirty, cheap energy.

RMP has assured PerpetualGreen they are an investor-owned utility that is fully focused on their bottom line profits. Nationwide, the recession has already dropped utility revenues an average of 10%. I'm very appreciative we have a system in place that serves to balance the wants of the utilities with the needs of the people. A proposed 13.7% increase this year for RMP and double digit increases each year for the next decade should help their bottom line. Throwing the consumer a bone in the form of solar incentives would help more than it would hurt.

I fully understand RPM's profit motives and their recent stance that offering rebates for solar incentives is not good for their bottom line. It really becomes a ratepayer issue because the utilities will be guaranteed a reasonable return on their investment and rate-payers are the ones paying for incentives, not RPM. I am very grateful that the PSC understands that a monopoly's best interests are not always in line with the best interests of society, individuals and the Commission has been formed to balance the needs of private businesses and the public good.

The cost of having clean air to breath and a healthy Utah environment ultimately must be borne by ratepayers. Clean energy has a price tag, but it's more acceptable to society than cheap, dirty energy. I have always lived in Utah because I love the state, but as an individual with air-quality related my doctors have advised me to move out of an area that has been branded as one the top ten toxic areas in America. It's not good business for the state or local governments, either.

As a RMP residential and business customer, I favor an unlimited solar PV rebate program for the next 5 years. A rebate of \$1.50 per watt would be more than adequate to stimulate renewable solar energy installations and the return on this investment would greatly benefit consumers and the utility. A five year commitment would be enough to encourage private investors and businesses to participate.

I've seen RPM projections to the PSC that forecast a large shortfall in electrical generation going forward as existing fossil fuel plants are being retired and demand continues to increase. These calculations were made before the announcement of the NSA facility that has been projected to consume enormous amounts of our precious energy.

Distributed solar PV generation (DG) coupled with energy efficiency (EE) is the best solution for everyone moving forward and the PSC needs to keep incentives in place to promote these vital installations. Its common sense that centralized fossil fuel plants cannot continue to meet the needs of Utah moving forward.

Distributed solar generation and energy-efficiency projects can greatly reduce the need for additional power plants, reduce the strain of the overloaded electrical grid, reduce rates over the long term, and (best of all) reduce harmful emissions and pollution – *all the while creating green jobs and helping to revive our troubled economy.*

Keeping the solar PV Program alive and unlimited is a win-win-win-win situation no matter how you slice it. If the only downside is in compensating RMP for the difference in NOT building additional coal power plants or transmission lines, it's a good deal for all involved.

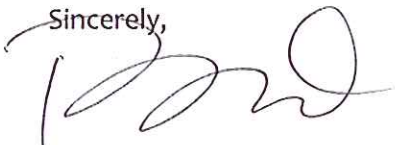
My suggestion is an unlimited Solar PV Program at around \$1.50 per watt for the next 5 years. The 30 systems per year limit under the expiring plan has frankly been a slap in the face to all professionals in the clean energy business and to PerpetualGreen's customers when they learn they have virtually no opportunity to benefit from the current plan.

I believe the expiring plan has been a good exercise for all parties to gain experience and insights, but cancelling or even extending this lip-service plan would be a continued embarrassment and eventually works to the detriment of all parties. I can't begin to convey how disappointed, deceived and offended consumers have been to learn first-hand of the extremely limited nature of the current Solar Rebate Plan. A new, unlimited Solar Incentive plan is absolutely necessary to preserve the public's health and ensure economic progress for the State.

I know we can work together for the greater good of the people of Utah and electric utilities that serve them. The Utah Public Service Commission has an opportunity and obligation to promote clean energy in the State of Utah. As we like to say at PerpetualGreen, "it's the right thing to do".

I sincerely appreciate your time and efforts you put forth and for the opportunity you have extended to the people and businesses of Utah to express their opinions on these urgent and important issues.

Sincerely,



Brent Ivie

Founder and CEO, PerpetualGreen, LLC

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