

**Public Service Commission - 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 Rebate Program**

UTAH PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**From:** "Jennifer Bodine" [REDACTED]  
**To:** <psccal@utah.gov>  
**Date:** 6/9/2011 10:50 AM  
**Subject:** 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 Rebate Program

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Dear Utah Public Service Commission,

First, I want to extend my thanks to you and to Rocky Mountain Power for your work to date on the pilot solar program. Thank you also for the opportunity to make comments on this program.

My name is Jennifer Bodine and I am an Ogden homeowner and employee of Weber State University. Specifically, I work as an Energy & Sustainability Coordinator for the University. I am writing not only in support of continuing Rocky Mountain Power's Utility Solar PV Rebate Program, but expanding it further. I think that there are many reasons to continue and expand this program.

From an environmental standpoint, on-site renewable energy generation can help mitigate impacts on local air quality. Investment in renewable energy is also necessary and critical if we ever hope to effectively tackle the enormous issue of climate change. While many folks believe that the environment and the economy are two separate issues. The evidence clearly points to the fact that the two are tied. Poor air quality and climate change will have severe negative consequences for Utah's economy if nothing is done to address these issues.

Even without the environmental benefits, there are plenty of other reasons to support the expansion of this program. Fossil fuels are only increasing in cost and their prices are often volatile. You add in the fact that these fuels are not renewable and you come to the conclusion that it does not make any economic sense to continue to rely heavily on fossil fuels. We need a plan for phasing over to alternative, renewable forms of energy. Rebate programs such as these help make renewable energy more affordable for residential and business utility customers. Programs such as these also spur new job creation and stimulates local economic activity.

Expansion of this program is critical to creating a more competitive and robust solar market in Utah. A healthy solar market will further reduce solar costs which will mean that PV systems will become more affordable to an even larger segment of the Utah population.

My understanding is that the Program's administrative costs are relatively high (around 32% of the total program cost). Reducing these costs to a more reasonable 5 or 10% would make the program much more cost-effective. Realizing significant administrative efficiencies would also allow you to expand the program initially without increasing program costs.

From a personal perspective, I really hope this program continues because I was planning to participate in the near future. My husband and I just purchased a home in Ogden and we are in the process of making our home as energy efficient as possible. The next major step is to install a PV system on our home. Again, these programs are vital to making renewable energy an affordable option for utility customers.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bodine  
 [REDACTED]