

Dear Utah Public Service Commission,

6/7/2011

I am writing to offer comment on: 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.

I am writing to please ask that you continue and expand Rocky Mountain Power's Pilot Solar Incentive Program. I would like to ask the UPSC to expand the program to embrace other non-polluting renewable energy sources including geothermal and wind. I would like to ask the Commission to broaden their sight and look at the real and corollary costs of our present non-renewable fossil-based energy system. One cannot look only at the price of generation per kwh. There are far greater health, air quality and death costs citizens pay in terms of this damaged energy system. Is our consumption of energy really worth the death of miners, the 200 plus citizens that die each year in our community from our abysmal air quality and the countless others that are literally sickened from the air pollution, and the environmental havoc sourcing fossil fuels cost?

I am a nurse and I have seen and experienced the negative health consequences of our horrible air quality. I have developed reactive airway disorder(similar to asthma) because of it. Our air quality is a direct result of too many cars and too much air pollution caused by them and by our coal-fired power plants. This has to change. We can not go on as we have in the past and we have to create new and creative solutions to our present energy system. We have to pursue localized non-polluting sources of energy generation. We have no choice; there is a finite supply of oil and coal and what we have left is literally killing us. You, as our Public Service Commission, have the opportunity to be on the forefront of creating a whole new paradigm for energy generation and distribution. Our state has great potential to be energy-independent through solar, wind and geothermal sources. And, you have a moral responsibility to protect the health of the consumers you serve as well. I believe if you asked most consumers, they would be willing to pay higher energy costs to protect the health of their loved ones. Consumers have the right to know the corollary health and environmental costs that they presently subsidize included in kwh costs for fossil fuel-generated energy.

The sort of incentive programs I would like to suggest in regards to creating more locally-generated solar energy include: 1) One where the power company provides the photovoltaic equipment and maintenance while essentially "renting" roof space from homes and businesses. The power company would pay "rent" to the owner's roof space with lowered utility costs to the consumer by splitting the energy generation of the home/business between that consumer and the utility company. The home gets credited with half the kwh generated from their home and the utility company gets to keep the other half generated for the grid. I imagine this would be far less costly than building more coal-fired power plants and far more healthy for all concerned. 2) An incentive program for encouraging smart grid technology for businesses, apartment buildings and other large parking areas. 3) Expanding the present program to incentivize development of fly-wheel storage technology. Fly-wheel technology can mitigate the intermittency issues of solar and other renewable energy by having stored energy available that can be utilized and generated quickly to provide back-up for peak power demands. This technology has the potential to eliminate costly peaking plants and their associated costs. Fly-wheel technology has no emissions(including CO2 and other pollutants), consumes no fossil fuels and is a highly reliable system with minimal maintenance costs. 4) A rebate program provided to consumers that significantly decreases their costs of installing solar and other renewable energy systems with the agreement that their excess energy generation will be downloaded onto the grid.

There are many reasons to support the continuance and expansion of the Solar Incentive Program .On-site generation decreases negative impacts on local air quality; distributed generation reduces the need to burn natural gas fired peaker plants; distributed renewable energy provides an important financial hedge to customers and the utility against the risks of changing climate conditions and a reliance on fossil fuels, which have volatile and rising costs which have serious economic implications for Utah; distributed

generation spurs and stimulates job creation and local economic activity; and rebates leverage private investment, while also supporting local jobs across the state that can't be outsourced.

Most importantly, support of alternate renewable energy sources **is our only option** if we want to create a healthier kinder environment for our families and loved ones, energy independence and energy security.

I would like to thank both Rocky Mountain Power and the Commission for the work you have already done with the pilot solar program and the opportunity to make public comment on the program. I congratulate you both on the progress you have made so far and look forward to the expansion and continuation of this program.

Sincerely,

Kristina Heintz, RN  
2729 Highland Dr.  
SLC, UT 84106  
801-467-4191