



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Best Way to Voice Concerns about RMP Fee on Net Metering Customers

3 messages

Abel Thompson <weakstuffout@gmail.com>
To: psc@utah.gov

Wed, Jan 8, 2014 at 8:17 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am wondering who I can contact about a few concerns I have about regarding the most recent request for RMP to tag a fee to Net Metering Customers.

Can you direct me to the right person, place, avenue, or procedures in order to do this?

Thanks,

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Abel Thompson
weakstuffout@gmail.com
801-243-0381

PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>
To: Abel Thompson <weakstuffout@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 8, 2014 at 9:40 AM

Dear Mr. Thompson,

Thank you for your contact request. If you provide, via email or snail mail, your concerns to this same email address - psc@utah.gov, those concerns will be entered into the docket and considered in this case. Please reference Docket No. 13-035-184 in your correspondence.

Sincerely,

Laurie Harris Wirz
Public Service Commission
801-530-6742
laurieharris@utah.gov
[Quoted text hidden]

Abel Thompson <weakstuffout@gmail.com>
To: PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Wed, Jan 8, 2014 at 4:07 PM

Thanks Laurie:

For Docket No. 13-035-184--

I have some concerns about the proposed NEW fee by RMP specifically to net metering customers.

1) Reason for the new fee according to RMP: they are obligated to buy back excess power generated from the customer at retail rates. While this is factually true, but that is really not the case. Looking through my net metering contract and on RMPs website (link below), if I were to produce more than used for a given year, the excess is just claimed by RMP. From month to month it is carried forward, but for the year, it is essentially given to RMP. That means that RMP ONLY has to buy back the electricity we produce which makes sense. It is only NET up to a customers usage from month to month and anything above that for the year is available to

RMP. Don't let RMP's "Retail" verbage scare you.

2) Another reason for new fee according to RMP: net metering customers pay less per kWh than RMP to produce because of lack of infrastructure requirements. Again, while factually true, the reality is that RMP receives benefits from net metering customers from their ability to help offset demands for electricity. For example, the summer months provide some of the largest challenges to RMP for providing reliable power when the demand is so high. This high demand is helped in no small way by solar panels which provide additional power even and especially when the a/c for that house is not running. Additionally, the costs of transmission/distribution are poorly aimed at net metering customers as the power generated is immediately available to neighbors on the grid without having to transfer the power across miles of lines to a substation. It should offset some of their infrastructure and capacity planning as well. Oh yeah, did I mention the residual power to the grid over and above what a customer uses for a given year is given to RMP (See #1)?

3) Changing the Rules affects consumers abilities to recoup costs on systems and will PREVENT MORE FROM PARTICIPATING. Is this really what we want? When anyone putting in a system decides to proceed, there is almost always a Net Present Value calculated to determine what the payback period of time is and whether the project is going to be worth it. This pay back period is pushed out further for people who already have systems installed and, arguably, if this fee would have been known in the past some of them would not have proceeded with the project. For example, our home went from equal payment of about \$100/month to roughly \$50/month after the installation of a small number of panels. If we see a \$5 fee for the net meter added, that increases our payment by 10% per month. Our calculations of savings are dramatically changed with that somewhat minor fee. If a new fee is implemented, it should be for new net metering customers so they have fewer variables affecting their decision to purchase or not. There are federal and state incentives (let alone RMP incentives) to installing these systems--why add a fee for those that are trying to help out?

4) For those net metering customers using more power than they produce, they effectively get hit with a fee that doesn't really apply to them. For example, Joe uses 700kWh per month while generating 300kWh per month. Joe also pays an INTERCONNECT FEE of around \$5 every month. Now he will need to pay this fee even though the only power "bought back at retail rates by RMP" is the 300kWh. They still make money on the other 400kWh RMP buys off Joe. In other words, RMP calls it buying back at retail rates even though it is really just NET of production by the consumer.

5) Exhibit RRR from the Public Services Commision website (link below) - I studied this for about 30 minutes and while I believe I understood most of the line items, I am still not following the connection between kWh from net metering and how that is translated into \$4.25 rate increase for net metering customers. Assuming the above 4 items being true, shouldn't the better calculation be to determine the following: 1--kWh produced by these residential systems total for the year; 2--subtract what is used by these same customers over a given year. Then, the left over (if there is additional capacity produced by these systems) maybe should be pro-rated against the interconnection fee for these same net metering customers.

Remind me again why net metering customers need to have an additional fee for being able to connect to the grid?

Is this rate fee justified for net metering customers? You decide.

Here is a link to the UPSC website regarding this proposal for further details.
<http://www.psc.utah.gov/utilities/electric/elecindx/2013/13035184indx.html>

Here is RMP Net Metering agreement:

https://www.rockymountainpower.net/content/dam/rocky_mountain_power/doc/About_Us/Rates_and_Regulation/Utah/Approved_Tariffs/Rate_Schedules/Net_Metering_Service.pdf

Thanks,
 Abel Thompson
 Net Metering Customer since May of 2013
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Abel Thompson
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