



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Docket 13-035-184 (Rocky Mountain Power's proposed net-metering FINE)

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To: PSC <psc@utah.gov>

Dear Public Service Commission:

Anyone interested in RMP's proposed net-metering surcharge, including members of the PSC, should ask themselves this: Why would RMP be targeting roughly 2,700 solar customers out of the million+ Utah residents they bill each month? Why wouldn't RMP be upset about the reduced electric bills being paid by thousands more Utahns, who have adopted other energy saving appliances and devices, such as LED lightbulbs, energy star-rated appliances, etc.? After all, these customers also are using LESS of RMP's infrastructure, so why not additionally fine them? The answer to both is self-evident. RMP, just like its buddies — the fossil fuel industry, ALEC, the bulk of our legislators, and our governor— see the writing on the wall. Many citizens want to adopt alternative energy solutions (solar, wind, etc.) in the future and, if they do, RMP and friends stand to lose money. Mission? — Kill solar (and then kill other alternatives). This is the real reason behind RMP's marketing efforts to impose patently unfair fines on solar customers.

RMP is manipulating the public, falsely leading people to believe that solar customers pay \$0 for each month in which they generate more electricity than they use. The facts are very straightforward as answers to the following questions reveal:

Do solar customers pay infrastructure costs every single month? YES, even when they generate EXCESS electricity. A concrete example from last month: Our solar home generated FIVE times MORE electricity than we used. In that same month, RMP nonetheless billed us for basic, minimum, and other charges. And, YES, these payments become proportionately larger the more electricity we receive from the power company in other months. The billing structure is no different than that applied to nonsolar customers.

Does RMP "pay" solar customers for the excess electricity they generate? NO. We are only credited for any excess up through the end of March, at which point RMP essentially cancels out the remaining excess credit (somewhat analogous to employers rescinding their employees' unused vacation days, except remember the profit RMP is making off of solar homes excess electricity).

When solar customers generate excess electricity, does RMP sell this to non-solar homes? YES, RMP sells OUR excess power to our non-solar neighbors at the FULL BILLING RATE, even though RMP has incurred NO costs for fuel, power generation, or for its transmission. Moreover, contrary to another RMP-heralded myth, there is no special or extra infrastructure (e.g., wiring) needed for RMP to transfer that excess to nonsolar customers.

Is RMP, therefore, earning a profit by selling this excess electricity to nonsolar customers? ==> YES, MAKING RMP THE FREE RIDER OFF OF NONSOLAR CUSTOMERS!!!!

One final question: Does the (excess) electricity generated by solar homes meet peak demands? IT DEPENDS, PLUS WHY IS THIS EVEN RELEVANT? YES, these homes absolutely save RMP (and you) the coal or other dirty fuels RMP would otherwise have to purchase, burn, and transmit to meet solar homes' power needs during non-peak demand hours (i.e., during the non-evening hours). NO, they don't during the evening hours when these homes, just like nonsolar homes, have to rely on RMP's dirty power resources and transmission. But, most importantly, WHY is this even relevant to fining solar homes? Those who raise this issue seem to assume that solar customers are the ones responsible for solving the mess RMP's poor planning has caused. RMP needs to invest, like other countries have, in ways to save excess solar energy to then draw on that during times of peak demand.

If you're upset with anyone, it should be with RMP for all of the above reasons.

Although much of the venom spewed in response to the proposed net-metering fine is the result of trolls in RMP's and/or the fossil fuel industry pockets, some of it actually derives from John and Jane Q. Publics. I sometimes wonder whether these individuals have actually studied and understood the facts (graphs, websites) that many have provided about these issues, instead of blithely assuming that we are lying but that RMP is telling nothing but the truth. It is each citizen's and the PUBLIC Service Commission's responsibility to demand for RMP to actually prove solar customers are free loaders AND that RMP is not.

I also wonder whether some individuals are simply irked that they don't have solar panels. Many act as though those with solar panels are the greedy rich, as in RMP's discriminatory Park City vs. Rose Park comparison. This is a misconception. There are many people, ourselves included, who had to dig into their retirement funds, charge the costs to credit cards, or take out a second mortgage to afford installing panels (on which they're still paying). Moreover, a considerable number invested in solar primarily because we wanted to do our part to reduce carbon emissions as opposed to saving money on our electric bills. And, to end on the latter note: What is RMP and what are YOU personally doing to reduce the horrible air quality in Utah?

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