



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

RMP Rate Increase

1 message

Carleton DeTar <detar@physics.utah.edu>

Thu, Jun 5, 2014 at 7:04 PM

To: psc@utah.gov

Cc: Carleton DeTar <detar@physics.utah.edu>

Dear Public Service Commissioners,

I am a Utah resident homeowner and a Rocky Mountain Power customer. I am writing to ask you to deny Rocky Mountain Power's request for a rate increase. In particular, the "Solar Penalty" fee increase should be denied.

The Solar Penalty would force homeowners who contribute photovoltaic power to the grid to pay an additional \$4.25 per month (about \$50 per year), because, RMP says, they are not paying their fair share of the cost of the grid.

Apart from the obvious argument that it is extremely important to be encouraging and not discouraging renewable sources of energy and to be decreasing our dependence on fossil fuels, simple logic says that the RMP case for the solar penalty is fallacious:

Consider two neighbor homeowners: one of them installs solar PV and manages to decrease their home usage to 1 kwh per day. The other simply reduces their usage, through conservation measures to 1 kwh per day. Both of them require the essentially the same service. But RMP wants to charge the PV homeowner a fee and not the neighbor. Why? The cost of providing the grid is the same. Before the solar issue came up, RMP charged for the grid through a basic connection fee. But now they are also asking for an increase in the basic connection fee. They should not be allowed to charge twice for the same thing, and certainly not to charge homeowners different fees for the same thing.

It is time Rocky Mountain Power realized we are in a global crisis and need to be actively changing our energy sources. Times are changing, whether we like it or not! They need to divest their coal interests and start taking renewables seriously.

Sincerely,
Carleton DeTar