



Comments on Docket 13-035-184

1 message

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Last summer, I installed solar panels on my home to generate my own electricity. I did this primarily because I wanted to save money on my utility bills. However, I also am interested in clean air and alternative energy, and I saw this as my small contribution to that effort.

After completing the installation, I discovered a discomfoting fact. Under the present system in Utah, the "power billing" year for Rocky Mountain Power runs from April 1 through March 31. Customers with solar panels have net meters to keep track of their power production and power usage. If, at the end of the billing year, the customer has fed more power into the grid than he has used, Rocky Mountain Power, in effect, says "Thank you very much" and zeros out the account to begin the next yearly billing period.

I've just learned that even in Idaho, Rocky Mountain Power is now attempting to initiate legislation that would allow them to treat Idahoans like they do in Utah, i.e., simply zero out the account at the end of the year rather than issue refund checks.

I'm also charged a fee each month for my net meter. This amount - \$5.00 plus taxes - is a minor charge, and I'm willing to absorb that fee. However, now I understand that Rocky Mountain Power is proposing an additional monthly fee of \$4.25 for people like me in connection with their proposed rate increase.

My question is, "What's fair here?" Power is power, and if I'm producing power in excess of what I use, this benefits all of the people in Utah. Less coal will be needed to produce power, thus helping both in terms of the available coal supply. The atmosphere will be less polluted, and one of the main causes of global warming will be addressed. Why shouldn't I be compensated for my efforts, rather than simply get a "thank you" note at the conclusion of the annual cycle? Why should I have to pay an additional fee simply because I am doing my small part to reduce our dependence on coal-fired power plants which pollute the air we breathe?

Rocky Mountain Power, in its Blue Skies initiative, attempts to portray itself as truly concerned about the development of clean energy alternatives. Yet, in their attempts to produce income for their shareholders, they act in ways that mitigate against such development. In short, they are basically two-faced chaletons.

I'm requesting that the Utah Division Of Public Utilities look into this matter and, if possible, issue a requirement that Rocky Mountain Power put their money where their mouth is and (1) refund monies (not simply issue credit) to patrons who produce a supply of electricity through their solar installations in excess of their consumption, and (2) eliminate all additional fees imposed on these patrons who are contributing to clean air in Utah. I'll appreciate any action you can instigate in that regard.

Respectfully,

Dr. Robert G. Nohavec

Robert Nohavec

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State of Utah Mail - Comments on Docket 13-035-184

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