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**Docket 13-035-184**

1 message

**Mary Ann Wright** <MAW@pbageo.com>

Sun, Jun 29, 2014 at 7:26 PM

To: psc@utah.gov

Dear PSC folks:

Whoever thought that solar panels would be so controversial? Somehow, I grew up thinking that they are golden, like the sun itself. But, yes, they are controversial. There have been huge battles fought over solar rights and someone else's trees. There will still be conflicts, but the way is being paved for making solar installations easy and solar bulk-purchase programs are gaining steam. Right now, anyone with any connection to the UU may opt in on a solar bulk-purchase. It seems, the competition is steam rolling and you may not even need to be in on that deal to get the same price.

And then, "What, hey!" along comes a hitch. And, this hitch comes from a utility. Yet, if you have been able to swing getting solar panels on your home, guess what? that rebate you got from the power company? They want it back in a monthly fee. And they also happen to be asking to raise all the rates for everyone. It has been difficult to get to the detailed analysis of this need to impose a solar fees and a raised rate. The matter is being looked at very closely by you, the Utah Public Service Commission. It is being asserted that those without solar panels are definitely supporting those who have them.

In the early 1990s, my office of the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, put on an energy seminar, trying to look to the future of dwindling coal resources and, at the time, very uncertain gas resources. I recall the basics of what we were there to examine. But, what was most interesting and thrilling to me was a very forward-thinking engineer who had a vision of locally generated energy. His idea was of a neighborhood, maybe just a few city blocks large, not with substations, but with integrated and connected solar, wind and ground-geothermal taking care of all the needs for energy in those few blocks.

The notion tantalized me for a long time and still does. Without seeing it coming, I saw a prototype developing. A utility on the East Coast began renting the rooftops of homeowners to build a solar power plant. Why buy land? In the Caribbean, it has just been announced, entire integrated systems are being set up using wind and solar, where their only source of power to date has been diesel fuel. Start-up corporations of young people, our salvation for the future, are visioning these dreams to reality. In the paper on Saturday was an article of a man who will pave the streets of Sandpoint, ID with solar panels and strong glass. It is amazing and heartening.

So, if you wanted to, could we ever get there? To a world where we harvest the sun? Not if we don't get started. I am crazy about you folks at the PSC, really I am. You all are good people, but let's get real, and let's get going. Coal is a transition fuel. Let us treat it as such and move forward: no fee for solar.

My best regards,

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