



RE: Docket 13-035-184 Comment on Rocky Mountain Power's request for residential solar surcharge

1 message

H Steven Wood <hsteven88@hotmail.com>

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Subject: Docket 13-035-184 Comment on Rocky Mountain Power's request for residential solar surcharge

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Solar panels were installed on our home in April 2014 and our Net Meter Agreement with Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) began May 1, 2014. Since then we have generated 205 more KWh than we have drawn from the grid. This means that we have not paid for any power for June or July and have just incurred the minimum charges showing on the bill as: Basic Charge - Single Phase \$5.00 and Minimum Charge - Single Phase \$2.00 plus the applicable fees and taxes on that amount. Additionally we purchase 5 units of Blue Sky monthly as an ongoing commitment to renewable energy. I am thus paying RMP \$17.73 per month and generating power for them as well.

We made the decision to purchase the solar panels because we wanted to reduce our own carbon footprint. Economically the panels should pay for themselves in just over 7 years in reduced power costs, based on the currently approved tariffs. When payed for it will put us in a position to do more for renewable energy. It now appears that enough customers are coming online with alternative energy that the revenues for power are declining for RMP. That is the only reason I can see they are coming up with arguments that certain customers need surcharges and requesting them.

I am not in favor of a surcharge on homes that have net meter agreements and ask that you deny RMP's request to impose one. This singles out those people who have invested in alternative renewable energy sources and creates a stigma, according to RMP's arguments, that those with solar panels or wind mills are not paying their fair share for the grid infrastructure that delivers the power. This is not true. We have invested many thousands of \$\$\$ that benefit Rocky Mountain Power. The net meter agreement has an annual day of reckoning and any surplus power generated through that year is kept by RMP without compensation and can be sold to others.

If Rocky Mountain Power needs to generate infrastructure revenue on an equitable basis then it should seek to amend its tariffs to include these costs in a basic service cost that shows as a bill line for **all** customers and is equal for all of them. This avoids creating classes of customers as it is currently proposing with infrastructure costs for one in their electrical charges and as a surcharge for others. This practice is discriminatory and difficult to assess equity.

If the Commission goes forward with approving such a surcharge then they should also include an amendment in the net meter agreements that surplus power at the end of each year (March is the reckoning month) be paid for by RMP as a credit against the basic charges and surcharges that are currently levied in the tariffs. While I don't feel you should do this, if you do, it is the only way to assure that people who invest in alternative energy receive some equity from their infrastructure investment.

Thank you for your consideration.

H. Steven Wood

