



Input on solar rooftop installations: AZ Public Service passed RMPs proposal, now is installing their own all over AZ

1 message

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To: psc@utah.gov

I spoke at your public input meeting yesterday, and much appreciated your patience in listening to all of us. As a regular public meeting attendee, I think I can say with some authority that I haven't seen so many people against a proposal in a long time.

If it isn't too late, please include the following in your public comment record. My name, address, and phone information are included below.

The article below is interesting because nearly as soon as possible after getting legislative permission to charge exactly the same fee on Arizona's solar powered residences as RMP proposes here in Utah, Arizona Public Service wants to use existing rooftops for their own solar farms, taking the electrical production for themselves and selling it back to roof owners and others. This probably can easily happen here. The use of existing roofs is very efficient. But putting local contractors out of work by halving or better their business as a result of creating a fee that will surely increase in time is really unethical in my opinion.

Please guard us, the citizens, against this. Encourage all solar possible; the EPA's new regulations on coal generated electric power will be in force soon.

I recommended this very thing at the last rate hearings for RMP, several years ago, when I sat at the table during the discussion phase. I live in a condo development which will not allow solar on the roofs, but has probably a thousand running feet of south facing peaked roofs. If installed en masse and owned/maintained by the utility, I think they would then approve it.

Respectfully, Linda Johnson

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The following was reported today in the Salt Lake Tribune, and can be found on the web at <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/world/58238591-68/arizona-solar-rooftop-company.html.csp>

Arizona utility wants to install rooftop systems

The Associated Press

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Phoenix » A major Arizona utility wants to install rooftop solar panels on thousands of homes for free.

If approved by state regulators, the request filed Monday by Arizona Public Service Co. would allow the Phoenix-based company to partner with installers to put rooftop systems on 3,000 homes.

The proposal would help the company satisfy the Arizona Corporation Commission's mandates for renewable energy use, and the company said its proposal also would provide access to solar for consumers who can't afford to buy or lease a rooftop system.

"It opens the opportunity for solar to everybody in the community," said Daniel Froetscher, the company's senior vice president for transmission, distribution and customers.

Under the proposal, consumers would save money by receiving monthly credits, and Arizona Public Service would pay for installation and maintenance. The customers would get a \$30 credit each month for the 20 years, or \$7,200 over the course of the 20-year program.

The 20 megawatts of power generated by the rooftop-systems panels would flow to the grid, rather than providing power to the individual homes.

The company said its alternative to generating power on customers' rooftops would be to build a large-scale solar plant.

The proposal would cost Arizona Public Service between \$57 million and \$70 million.

The Arizona Solar Energy Industries Association says the company's proposal would be competition because solar companies' customers aren't subsidized.

"The idea of our members who compete in the free market today having to all of a sudden compete with a regulated monopoly is frightening. How would you like it if the government just stepped in and started competing with your business?" said Corey Garrison, treasurer of the association and CEO of Arizona-based Southface Solar.

The company expects the commission to hold a hearing on its proposal this fall. Unlike rooftop solar companies that must compete with each other, as a regulated monopoly in its service area, Arizona Public Service earns a guaranteed rate of return off of its assets, which would include the proposed rooftop solar systems.