



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Docket #14-035-114

1 message

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Wed, Nov 19, 2014 at 10:42 AM

To: psc@utah.gov

Honorable Commissioners:

I am a roof-top net-metering (NEM) Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) customer. I have 37-panels and am able to generate 100% of the power that I consume by using NEM to feed into the grid mostly summer power used for air conditioning and taking the power back out in the winter. RMP has confiscated approximately 3,000 kWh in the last two-years. I participated in the last docket, submitting comments and then testifying during the public comment period. I commend you for your decision last September and urge you to reject this attempt by RMP to penalize solar customers.

I believe that despite the comments I am submitting that I am exempt from an additional fee as I have a 2010 agreement with RMP for NEM that does not include additional fees. I think that this applies only to new NEM customers and I fear that the imposition of the requested fees will have a chilling effect on new installations. RMP is obviously trying to get the fee established and then will be back requesting higher fees. Their fossil fuel based system is at the heart of their wanting to quash the impact of solar. This is demonstrated by their disingenuous Blue Sky program where the state of Utah does not receive the benefit of alternatively developed power.

This point can also be seen in how they have singled out the approximately 2,700 residential customers to get this fee implemented. The additional monthly fee that RMP would generate is minuscule, both as a total increase to their revenue and how much money they are spending to get it imposed. They have simply singled us out, not wanting to take on the larger commercial/governmental installations who would be able to bring muscle to defeating the fee. If the reasons for bringing about this fee were legitimate (and they are not), it would apply to the other users as well. They simply want to slow down the inevitable move to renewable energy to protect their fossil fuel system.

Of course, all of this is part of a much larger conversation about climate change. I think that the title of Al Gore's movie is accurate, it is very inconvenient to make the changes necessary to preserve the planet as we know it. The politicians can continue to ridicule climate change, but it is hard to refute the work of 98% of the expert scientists who have studied this issue. It is critical that we begin making changes in how we live. This is such a obvious, relatively benign move by those of us who have made the investment in solar panels. We should be singled out as an example of what an individual can positively do to change the course of climate change, not penalized by imposing a fee designed that will discourage new installations. The drop in new installations in Arizona the year after this fee was imposed should serve as a warning of what could happen here.

I encourage the PSC to provide the necessary oversight to the work conducted by RMP required by the legislation. It needs to include the avoided costs of building new power plans and transmission lines as well as the benefits to improved air quality. We have seen reported recently in the media stories about companies who will not relocate here due to the air quality issues. As President Nixon envisioned when he established the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and has been realized in Europe, having strong environmental policies including clean air can be a major positive driver of the economy. The short-term hardships as industries move to cleaner alternatives should not derail this effort.

While I fear RMP going back to the legislature with their lobbyists in an attempt to take this decision from the Public Service Commission's deliberate, fact-filled process, currently you have the opportunity to ensure that our state moves in the right direction of encouraging the use of clean, renewable energy.

Thank you

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