



February 6, 2015

Commissioners Ron Allen, David Clark, Thad LeVar  
Utah Public Service Commission  
Email: <psc@utah.gov>  
Subject: Docket #14-035-114... Net Meter Study

Dear Commissioners,

It has come to our attention that you are planning to assess the costs and benefits of PacifiCorp's net metering program in Utah. As you undertake this assessment, we ask that you take the environmental and health impacts that are felt in Colorado into account.

These impacts were well documented in the 2010 Synapse study, "Co-Benefits of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Utah: Air Quality, Health, And Water Benefits." A copy of the Synapse study is being sent with this letter.

As the Synapse study pointed out there are numerous health and environmental benefits from increasing reliance on renewable energy and energy efficiency. Importantly, the Synapse study pointed out that approximately 86% of the health and environmental costs were borne by downwind states—e.g. Colorado! (See page 8 and Table 7-2 for details.)

When taken into account, these "external" costs make it clear that there is nothing cheap about burning fossil fuels. We pay with our lives, the health of our children and other loved ones and our environmental quality; we just don't see those costs on our utility bill. This is particularly true for the impacts of Utah's emissions on Colorado.

We urge you to take these large external costs into account when evaluating the benefits of net metering. The Synapse study showed that they can be as high as \$78 /MWH when coal generation is replaced with energy efficiency and renewable energy. As you know, \$78/Mwh equates to 7.8 cents/kwh!! Those costs need to be updated, but they have probably gone up—not down.

I have also enclosed a copy of the Harvard "Full Cost Accounting for the Life Cycle of Coal" study which comes to a similar conclusion about the external costs of using coal as Utah does for much of its electricity.

Thank you for taking a full and fair look at the many benefits of clean energy systems for Utah, for your neighbors and for our country.

Sincerely,

Leslie Glustrom  
For Colorado Renewable Energy Society—Boulder County Chapter.

Attachments:

- 1) Synapse Energy Economics Study, "Co-Benefits of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Utah: Air Quality, Health, And Water Benefits."
- 2) Harvard "Full Cost Accounting for the Life Cycle Impacts of Coal."