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## Residential solar installations (net metering)

1 message

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To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>

I am a journeyman electrician (Robin Taft) and believe that I may have some insight into this issue. I have followed with interest the arguments so far presented. I see on my own monthly bill a \$6 charge labeled "basic charge single phase". I think that in a revenue neutral way this charge should be increased to cover all the cost of maintaining the provided infrastructure while simultaneously reducing the price per kilowatt hour to produce the same revenues for RMP. Thus everyone is paying equally for the infrastructure even if they are "net metering".

I hope at some future point to add solar power to my home, but as an electrician I have always been aware that being connected to the utility in a net metered way saves the user of the necessity of maintaining a costly battery bank. A task better provided by the utility.

The time has not yet come but eventually will , that the power available from large numbers of highly distributed small solar installations will TRULY become problematic for the utility. I note with interest that Elon Musk can provide lithium ion battery banks economically. Technically it makes the most sense to me that the utility would install and remotely control large numbers of them within the distribution system at the lowest voltage levels practicable to minimize transmission losses and thus smaller transmission requirements throughout the entire grid. This would reduce the cost to both the utility and the customer. As this evolution continues long term the same size grid could serve more and more customers with less fossil fuel generating capacity in relation to the power consumed utility wide. If the solar power generation capacity (net metered homes and businesses) and the power storage capacity (battery's, compressed air , flywheels ect.) are kept nearest the loads then reliance on the transmission of large amounts of power should be minimized almost eliminating all the associated transmission losses which as you already know are Hugh! I believe that future planning should follow this vision to a new future. It will reduce the use of fossil fuels and the associated pollution to a minimum , reduce the infrastructure requirements to a minimum, and reduce the cost of power a minimum as solar power overtakes fossil fuel generated power as time goes by. It also holds the promise of reducing transmission losses to a minimum as the need for distant fossil fuel burning power plants diminishes! I expect that this revolution will evolve over the next 50 to 75 years. The trend is clear that solar power generating costs are dropping very quickly whereas fossil fuel power generating costs are not, so eventually it will happen so we should start planning now! It is the vision of it , supported by facts and engineering that will lead to good decisions now.