



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Petition for Clean Utah Energy

1 message

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Tue, Oct 27, 2015 at 11:05 AM

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Petition for Clean Utah Energy

"In 2008 Utah established a goal for 20% of electricity to come from renewable sources by 2025. Rocky Mountain Power, the state's biggest utility, is dragging its feet and proposes the equivalent of only ONE windmill of renewable energy between now and 2025. We need a guaranteed standard of 20% renewables by 2025."

Please copy and paste this link into your browser for easy access into making a difference:

http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/utah-needs-clean-energy?source=s.icn.em.mt&r_by=5320002

Investigation of the Costs/Benefits of PacifiCorp's Net Metering Program

Dear Chairman LeVar, Commissioner White and Commissioner Clark. We have the technology and leadership to make the correct decisions needed to grow Utah's clean energy future in full prosperity and health.

Executive summary. Sustainable power technologies will replace fossil fuel power generation because they continue to decline in costs, have unlimited supply, are healthier, reduce atmospheric damage, satisfy emission requirements, and are better aligned with customer expectations. As power companies adapt to this paradigm shift in power generation and storage, the industry will consolidate into those companies who can successfully modernize and adapt. The prevailing companies will be those who update their business plans to support and invest in the clean energy technologies, remain legal, and become the most efficient. Those industry executives who lead with this clean vision into the future will receive the political and public support necessary to continue the stewardship of the modern energy supply. The adopters will gain increased market share coming out of the expected growth and overtake those attempting to distort the data to defend investments in obsolete processes.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has just finalized the **Clean Power Plan** to limit carbon emissions from power plants. Power plants may no longer dump unlimited amounts of carbon pollution into the atmosphere. As damage and climate change become more apparent, the demands for less CO2 dumping will become more adamant. The US Clean Power Plan and Utah's voluntary goal for meeting the emissions reduction targets are set to put us on a path toward a clean, affordable, and low-carbon electricity system that will support the ongoing growth of Utah's population.

Renewable energy resources, such as wind and solar, are now generating electricity all over the world with little or no pollution or global warming emissions--and deliver a host of additional public health and economic benefits. Renewable energy has proven itself for years as being able to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable power to consumers. These clean energy resources help diversify our electricity mix, strengthen state and local economies, and reduce the risks of an over reliance on dirty carbon based fuels that are not sustainable or as plentiful.

Pacificorp should be commended for retiring the coal fired generating plants it has done so far. They must now revise the plan to more rapidly replace coal burning with sustainable power to raise Utah above being the 46th lowest ranked state in the union for renewables. **Utah's solar resource is ranked as having world class capacity** in multiple studies and government actions, including the Western Renewable Energy Zones report. Utah has the perfect mix natural resources to reach or exceed the national goal of 25% in sustainable power by 2025 and 32% below 2005 levels by 2030.

There is mounting public sentiment toward helping Rocky Mountain Power to sort out the inconsistency between

the CoolKeeper program's stated goal of reducing peak demand and the cost analysis provided to the PSA that refuses to recognize the benefit of solar providing extra power during peak daylight hours. This paradox makes it appear that the controlling corporations and their analysts have **vested interests to slice narrow interpretations of the data out of context and manipulate it to spin the opposite direction of Utah's interests and common sense.** This is the same method that come up with a program name that remotely shuts off the air conditioners at peak load times and calls it a COOLKeeper? The investment into supplying peak demand should be redirected into sustainable energy and modern battery storage technologies that deliver clean power back into the grid during peak loads, and not miss-directing that investment into equipment for shutting off services.

A surcharge on solar energy entering the grid is a perplexing contradiction to the Blue Sky purchasers who pay to get clean energy. Those premium ratepayers and the general public can no longer be misled in subsidizing a dying fossil fuel industry at the expense of health and environment. This basic cost/benefit logic should lead the PSC to direct PacifiCorp to value **the benefit of extra clean energy** contributed to the grid by solar customers at a higher value than carbon energy contributed to the grid; **not charging them extra surcharges to make it available.**

An objective cost benefit analysis reveals that PacifiCorp acquires considerable value from the Renewable Energy Credits that net solar meters provide for them. **Additional Renewable Energy Credits are going to be required for Utah to comply with the Clean Power Plan** of the new EPA standards. Additional sustainable power contributions will need to be added to the grid for Utah to stay in compliance with those increasing standards.

Rocky Mountain Power should not be willing to tarnish its good name and take on the liability exposure costs of continuing to harm public health, in an effort to extend the use of investment in obsolete fossil fuel plants. It is **damaging to the PacifiCorp brand** to continue pressing the Utah Public Service Commission for surcharges on solar. It appears to the public to be an obvious conflict of interest to contort a cost benefit analysis into justifying surcharges aimed at suppressing clean energy competition from solar. Any extra revenue from solar surcharges will never be worth the credibility lost, the expanded liability, the Renewable Energy Credit deficiency, or the legislative push back inspired.

The PSC should no longer allow PacifiCorp to limit its solar customers from using all of their clean energy they can generate. Clean energy providers should be able to maximize their solar generation at any site best suited and aggregate the total energy contribution of all of their meters together onto one bill. RMP aggregates the fossil power costs of multiple meters onto one bill, but has blocked the aggregation of multiple net solar meters; so that the total bill cannot share in the clean energy generated between different meter addresses, even of the same owner. For example, a garage, shop or office that has a large southern exposure, best suited for the most panels, is prohibited from aggregating the overflow savings on its meter over to a house meter; even when for the same owner. A multi-unit property with panels with one net solar meter cannot spread the total solar power credit between the other meters even on the same building.

In both Public Service Commission public hearings of July 1, 2013 and October 9, 2015, it was proposed that all surplus sustainable power that becomes available from net meters, be purchased by RMP at the wholesale price of fossil fuels plus a portion to justify the Blue Sky margin. PacifiCorp is able resell that extra solar at a profit to customers wanting to buy clean energy under premium Blue Sky rates. The sustainable solution for PacifiCorp is to modernize its business plan and redirect its investments into clean energy sources in order to remain viable as a company and aligned with its customer base.

A petition will soon be delivered over 300,000 signatures to the U.N. Convention on Climate Change—urging them to kick big polluters out of the crucial Paris talks designed to save the world from climate catastrophe. All Utah polls show that a vast growing majority want more renewables and less fossil fuels. The Utah Public Service Commission should once again use this lead to continue choosing the clean renewable paths or anticipate legislative direction to do so.

As the current Berkshire Hathaway, PacifiCorp and Rocky Mountain Power executive leadership redesign their collective vision for meeting the standards of Clean Power Plan mandated, they are at a cross roads of trying to justify the past or lead into the future. They should take over the lead in renewables leasing, in distributed citizen renewables, and investing in science-based commercial plans that will ramp up our states renewable energy and clean energy efficiency. The organizations destined for success will choose on this side of public health.

What if you succeed at delaying the conversion long enough for the climate damage to be pushed past the

tipping point of not recovering for centuries? A catastrophic setback to humanity and generations of struggle for our descendants should be too costly for any responsible souls to want to risk. We ask you to please re-consider stepping back into the hero role by not trying to impede solar and converting over to leading us and investing in the essential conversion to clean power.

Please Elevate Utah from one of the most polluting states into a leader in clean energy. Sustain PacifiCorp's reputation and in turn receive public support for rate protections on clean energy as the just reward for protecting Utah's health, tourism, skiing, outdoor recreation, good business environment, and family lifestyle.

Respectfully Yours, Stephen Glines