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American Fork, UT 84003

11 November 2016

REF ID: A10142

Carol Revelt, Executive Staff Director
Utah Public Service Commission
Heber M. Wells Building
160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Dear Ms. Revelt:

My family and I are grateful to have a Utah Public Service Commission to watch over the interests of we citizens in Utah have in dealing with regulated utilities. The article in today's *Deseret News*, page A7 about the Commission and about Rocky Mountain Power's request of you for new fee hikes for new solar customers is what has prompted me to write to you.

My wife and her large family grew up in Utah. She was born in Roosevelt Utah, but she has lived in Logan, in Junction, and in American Fork all of her growing up life. Our own family has lived at our current address in American Fork since 2002. My wife's aging father, has recently turned 94. I asked him a couple of weeks ago what he believed was the greatest invention during his lifetime. He replied that it was "electricity" which changed his life and the life of his parents and that large family for the better. He grew up in Tridell, Utah, and until electricity came to Tridell they organized their farming and work and school around the daylight hours. They heated their homes with chopped wood. As I thought about his answer, not knowing what he would tell me, I can better understand the goodness that electricity has brought to all our people in the U.S. My wife's parents and my own lived through the Great Depression. But our own children have little idea of what that may have been like. And perhaps we don't fully appreciate it even today as citizens and residents of Utah. We just assume that electricity will be there when it is needed. There have been times when it has gone out, such as during hurricanes coming up the East Coast, or here in Utah when there have been savage storms. But it is almost always there when we flip on an electric light switch, or turn on the stove, or try to heat or air condition our homes. We live in a special period on this earth.

Mindful of the special place we live in along the Wasatch Front, just below the feet of the mountains that run from north to south, we recognize that we ought to take care of and be good stewards of this earth. We are aware we have inversion problems in Utah, particularly during the winter, and we have to be careful about burning wood, or coal, to heat our homes. You regulate both electricity and natural gas providers, both of which are regulated monopolies. We citizens need you all to help us be excellent stewards, and to help us in acting responsibly. We support you in regulating monopolies that wouldn't act to benefit the public otherwise. I'm sharing with you below our experience in getting the solar installation and in getting Rocky Mountain Power to act to inspect it and turn on the electricity so that it flows both ways through the inverter we had to install.

We have made some substantial improvements in our home since I retired in 2010, and my wife and I have returned from voluntary service overseas back home to Utah. They have included new outside windows installed, a new roof put on, a new furnace installed, a radon exhaust system put in, etc. Our most recent completion of 25 solar panels installed on our backside roof facing west where the sun will most effectively catch the rays, was completed more than a week ago. I called Solar Alliance in Lindon UT a few minutes ago to check on whether American Fork City has made its second inspection of their installation, and whether Rocky Mountain Power has itself come out to make its final inspection so that the switch can be turned on and the electricity flow both ways from the roof panels to the grid through Rocky Mountain Power and, when the roof panels are not generating enough power for our home use, to continue to get electricity from Rocky Mountain Power. Alas, that call to Solar Alliance confirmed that Rocky Mountain Power has not acted with dispatch to come out and inspect the installation, so the solar panel generation can work as installed, and I can pay Solar Alliance if the job has been correctly done. Indeed, it may well be that the Rocky Mountain Power sees it's bread buttered better if it holds off as long as possible in doing such inspections. That is how monopolies work.

Indeed, it was because we understood the likelihood of monopolies, including but not limited to Rocky Mountain Power, to act in their own best interests, that we did not choose to go with joining Rocky Mountain Power through participation in their Millard County installation of thousands of solar panels there in Southern Utah and having it shipped over the electrical grid system to Northern Utah where we live. I thought then that Rocky Mountain Power was trying to have it both ways in terms of solar panel use. They were trying to maximize their monopoly power generation through the use of solar panel electricity generation within the company (beyond other ways on generating power through coal, natural gas, water power, etc. generation). But I thought that they would also act in their own interests by making it difficult to have other providers of power (solar panel users like businesses and home owners, for example) get to use their solar panel generation capabilities. I think that may be what is happening, and what the Utah Public Service Commission should expect in its oversight responsibilities.

I have not written this letter to you because I think that Rocky Mountain Power is a bad or evil entity. Rather, I am just one of millions of consumers of electric power, and natural gas power through Questar Gas, and I do care what you are charged to do in your own responsibilities. I retired from BYU after teaching political science courses there, and before that I have worked for a couple of U.S. Presidents and several individual governors. Moreover, I have served at the National Governors' Association and the National Conference of State Legislatures in Washington DC for many years. I am grateful for your work at the Utah Public Service Commission.

Sincerely yours,



Robert P. Goss