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Public Service Commission,
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OFFICE OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
DIVISION OF REGULATION
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November 21, 2016

REF: Proposed rate changes for private homeowner solar panels

Dear Sir,

I am troubled by the recent newspaper report concerning revisions to the kWh rate increase plus installation surcharge proposed for homeowners who are purchasing solar panels for their homes.

I contracted with a company July 2016 to have a system designed and installed on my roof. Due to Weber County permit issues and scheduling delays, my system won't be installed until November 21, and Rocky Mt. Power is unable to hook up my system until December 20th. My first issue is with the proposed date effective December 9th. I would think a contract date would be more appropriate because cost calculations and decisions to finance a homeowner solar installation is based on then current rates, not an entirely new cost structure.

I do not object to being charged for usage of power which includes the costs associated with their infrastructure and generating costs, as that is fair and reasonable. Those infrastructure, future power plant expansion, and maintenance costs are currently included in the kWh bill for electricity used. This leads to my second issue, which is why would there be an increased cost for homeowners generating solar be different from a normal homeowner? Aren't they using the same number of kW? I do object to a higher cost for homeowner solar generators on the grounds that the homeowner has his own infrastructure investment and maintenance that he is solely footing the bill for.

My third objection is that I may have to pay an installation surcharge for the connection to a Rocky Mt. Power meter. The meter is installed to Rocky Mountain's requirements and they should be responsible for service of it including replacement costs. My understanding is that the homeowner is responsible for wiring and upgrades after the meter, not before.

What I see as the missing factor in the rational for the proposed increase in the Rocky Mt. fee is the investment cost and maintenance which the homeowner has made and will continue to make for adding power to the Rocky Mountain grid system. I'm sure Rocky Mountain spreads out the cost of a new power plant over decades (and is currently charging us in our monthly bill), so why is the homeowner's investment ignored?

Regards,



James L. Richardson
future solar generating homeowner

cc: file
Utah Office of Consumer Services;
Utah Division of Public Utilities, Artie Powell Mgr.