



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

To: Commissioners

1 message

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To: psc@utah.gov

Thu, Jan 19, 2017 at 10:44 AM

Thad LeVar:

David Clark:

Jorday White:

Gentlemen,

My name is RJ Mendenhall and will be installing solar on a home I will be building in the near future. I am a big proponent of solar energy because it's clean and renewable. It is helpful to the consumer and for the peak power times when RMP needs the power. I have a long detailed list of things and supporting documentation I will attach, but below is a summary of my issues.

In all the arguments put forth by RMP I never see the benefits to RMP listed.

- Money saved by not needing to burn more coal or natural gas.
- Expenses deferred by not needing to build additional power plants.
- Conservation of water in our reservoirs in the case of hydro power plants.
- Like conservation RMP delays the building of new power plants
- Money received by wiping out credits in March. That is money RMP received by selling excess power that didn't cost them a dime to produce.
Note: a co worker of mine forfeited a megawatt of power credits. Money RMP received.
- Cleaner air
- Reduces the load on the grid during peak periods. (I understand there is an impact when the sun goes behind a cloud the grid has to pick up the difference for a few seconds. That is a challenge!) Maybe there should be a requirement where the solar user installs sufficient batteries to cover their load for 5 minutes so the grid has time to react.

The big question is... if a solar user didn't have solar wouldn't they have the same no sun, night time, peak usage as if they didn't have solar? The Obvious answer is yes. If that is the case why charge them differently.

It seems early on in setting up the rate schedule some of the fixed costs were being rolled into the cost of the power used. Maybe it is time to break that up? Connection fees should be the same for all residential customers regardless of whether they are solar or not. The price of power should be the same for both.

Here are my thoughts. If I am a traditional user and am gone during the day I have the same usage impact on the grid as if I had solar. (none during the day but lots at night) The big difference is during the day a solar user contributes to the grid, reducing the cost to RMP. The power I don't use is sold by RMP to the neighbors at the retail cost. Here is where I differ from some. If RMP could not generate enough power they would buy it wholesale the sell it retail. So I believe the fair thing to do is buy the solar production at wholesale rates and sell it at retail. Cash for cash meaning they pay me for what I produce and I pay them for what I use. That way I can apply some cash to my huge monthly fees.

Note: if I use power from RMP without paying for it I will be arrested as a thief. At the end of March RMP steals all excess credits from the solar users. Which they sold at retail rate. Sounds like theft to me. (the only difference is I signed a document stating I knew they would do this)

- Jobs for those in the solar industry. Why can't RMP get into the solar business by installing them on homes too? It isn't much different than them building a solar farm somewhere else. Many companies will install solar on a home no money up front with fixed payments for 25 years. If RMP did that they would save on real estate costs and the payments would go to them instead of someone else. If they didn't want to get into the business they could finance them and collect the revenue and interest. The user just wants to stabilize their costs

As you know RMP is proposing the following.

The three-part rate includes:

- \$15 monthly fixed charge – for costs like customer service and meters (The customer service charge / meters should be the same for everyone.)
- \$9.02 per kilowatt peak demand charge – for costs like poles, wires and generation (Every RMP customer uses poles and generation. Shouldn't they be charged the peak demand charge during their peak too? The solar customer uses less generation over all. They would have the same peak generation if they didn't have solar)
- 3.81 cents per kilowatt-hour use rate – for energy consumed

The first question is why this rate structure for solar only customers? Every RMP customer uses poles and generation. Shouldn't they be charged the peak demand charge during their peak too? The rate should be the same for all residential users.

I have tried to find a reasonable explanation as to why RMP thinks solar costs them more than a traditional user. With the exception of NetMeter hardware it is all the same. Is there a place I can go to find some details of these costs?

Sincerely,

RJ Mendenhall
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