PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

RMP Solar rate proposal

1 message

Trish Greenfield <trishg.dennye@gmail.com> Thu, Aug 17, 2017 at 9:38 AM
To: psc@utah.gov

Please consider all the facts when considering Rocky Mountain Powers rate hike proposal for Utah solar customers. As demonstrated in Nevada when you create an imbalance for different customers the solar industry will leave the state. RMP should be incentivizing customers to switch to solar and work with the state to create programs for low income customers to enjoy the same benefits. If they are successful in raising the rates for those of us giving them excess power we will switch to a battery to store our power and the benefits to the grid will disappear. Utah needs to look at what other states that actually have implemented forward thinking solutions to getting us further from fossil fuels not the other way around.

thank you

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PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Solar

1 message

rjm@premsoft.com <rjm@premsoft.com> Thu, Aug 17, 2017 at 3:57 PM
To: psc@utah.gov

Hi,

My name is RJ Mendenhall. I would like to add some comments to the solar discussion.

1. In the discussions I have read there is rarely a mention of the cost benefit to the utility.
    a. Each year they “steal” power from the solar community by wiping out the credits that are unused. Yet they charged the neighbor retail price for these.
    b. The utility did not expend any expense to install or maintain the solar panels yet the grid receives benefits from them during peak periods.
    c. They do not allow the credits to be used towards the non power portion of the bill.

2. I think it is time to uncouple the connection charges from power usage.
    a. There should be a fee (for everyone) to connect to the grid.
    b. There should be a fee (Flat rate) for power used. I say flat rate because it does not cost the utility more per KWH to produce power during the peak times as the off times. Yes there is an increase in usage (profits) as well as production (expenses).
    c. Currently RMP has a peak and off peak time rates. I suggest that if a solar producer produces power during peak times they should be paid a premium for power they produced during that peak. To be fair it should be the wholesale rate + the percentage of increase in consumed power. ie. If I pay 10 cents during off peak and 20 cents peak that is 100% increase in cost. So if they would normally pay 5 cents wholesale off peak they would pay me 10 cents peak for power provided to them. 100% increase. Note: this is where the flat rate thing would be really helpful.
3. Cost for over production: I believe that RMP should charge us a (reasonable retail) rate for our usage and pay us (wholesale) for any and all over production. No limits, no clearing of credits, and adjusted for peak off peak production.
4. There is no difference between a person connected to the grid who works all day (low usage) and is conserving energy. Then they come home and use power at night. Their usage profile is the same or very similar to a solar user. So why doesn’t that person get hit with a proposed rate hike? A minimum if you will. Note: this is where the connection cost should be de-coupled from the usage.
5. For most solar users if it gets dicy they will leave the grid permanently. Then the remaining users will still be forced to absorb the costs.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. Hang in there and do the right thing for all of us.

I have yet to hear of a detailed explanation of why RMP thinks it costs more to produce power during the peak periods than it does off peak. Do you have a reference to this explanation I would love to learn more about this.

RJ

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