



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Public Comments on Docket No. 14-035-114 in opposition to proposed rate change

1 message

Darina Murashev (murashevdarina@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message

Fri, Aug 25, 2017 at 1:42 PM

<automail@knowwho.com>

To: psc@utah.gov

Dear UT PSC,

Dear Utah Public Service Commission Chair LeVar, Commissioners Clark and White,

I strongly urge you to deny Rocky Mountain Power's request to impose punitive rates that would unfairly penalize Utah's rooftop solar customers.

Rooftop solar benefits all customers by reducing the need to build new polluting power plants, saving all customers money. Rooftop solar also protects our air and water by using clean, free sunshine as opposed to dirty fossil fuels. These benefits far outweigh the cost shifts alleged by Rocky Mountain Power, which at most amount to only a penny or two per month for average non-solar customers.

Utah should learn from neighboring states that have been down this road before. States where utilities succeeded in implementing similarly discriminatory rate designs like the one proposed by Rocky Mountain Power have suffered a near complete loss of rooftop solar development. This loss has meant less economic growth and fewer choices for customers. Rocky Mountain Power's plan to kill rooftop solar is the wrong path for Utah, a bad deal for customers, and hobbles Utah's vibrant solar industry.

Please reject Rocky Mountain Power's punitive rates for rooftop solar customers in favor of a rate structure that recognizes the enormous benefits that rooftop solar provides to all customers. Don't let Rocky Mountain Power's monopoly take away our rooftop solar!

cc: Cindy Crane, President and CEO, Rocky Mountain Power

Sincerely,

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PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Rooftop Solar Debate

1 message

Barry Hallsted <HALLSTBA@uvu.edu>
To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>

Fri, Aug 25, 2017 at 1:44 PM

I have been anxiously watching the Rocky Mountain Power debate on increasing fees and costs for net-metering. After reading the request and "facts" that they presented, I feel a strong urgency to comment.

I find the "facts" presented very perplexing. The statistics and reports remind me of a Mark Twain comment. He said "there are lies, damn lies... and statistics."

I do not have a PV system on my home. I wish I did, and I fully intend to one day. But I simply haven't been able to afford it on my educators' salary. I teach classes on sustainability, and it is a research interest of mine. So, I am very familiar with the pros and cons of solar from an environmental, social and economic standpoint.

It would be extremely foolish to increase any costs or charge additional fees for solar customers. If there is truly from the very small percentage of rooftop solar, those costs should be covered through the normal, everyday pricing for electricity. Rather than charging those using solar, we need to encourage and incentivize the use of solar in many ways. Here are a few points to consider:

1. Research indicates the population is expected to grow substantially in Utah. Rooftop solar can help offset that demand on our grid.
2. Solar may be our best option to offset the fossil fuels emissions problem we face here in Utah. It is a very small percentage, Utah it helps.
3. People who have already purchased solar systems most likely get less benefit than they anticipated. Adding fees and rate increases will be very damaging to them and the solar industry as a whole.
4. Solar is typically generating during peak load hours. It can offset the demand for peak generators.
5. As a matter of national security, we need to implement as many alternative energy sources as viable to different areas.
6. Many, many more environmental, social and economic reasons.

If you look at the "regional priorities" of Utah, energy efficiency and alternative energy is listed as two of the top priorities for the state of Utah. Is that just political "lip service" or is it truly a priority? To me, even considering what Rocky Mountain Power has asked for is hypocritical.

Let's do all we can to not discourage or disrupt a great means to reach to priority goals!

Barry K. Hallsted, Ph.D.

8/25/2017

State of Utah Mail - Rooftop Solar Debate

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