



We Partner to Build the New Clean Energy Economy

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Utah Clean Energy Questions for STEP Technical Conference

To: Rocky Mountain Power

From: Utah Clean Energy
Kate Bowman, Renewable Energy Program Manager

Date: March 22, 2019

Re: Docket No. 16-035-36
In the Matter of the Application of Rocky Mountain Power to Implement Programs Authorized by the Sustainable Transportation and Energy Act

Hello,

Utah Clean Energy would like to submit the following questions in advance of the technical conference scheduled for April 2. We appreciate the opportunity to learn more about these projects.

Intermodal Hub Project

- Can the Company present information about the cost of the Intermodal Hub Project relative to the cost of a “worst case analysis,” as described on lines 57-58 of the Company’s application?
- The Intermodal Hub is described as serving several transportation options (light rail, electric buses, interstate and urban passenger and truck traffic, park-and-ride customers, and first-and-last mile ride hailing and car share service providers). How does the Company anticipate managing demand from each of these transportation options? Will charging be actively managed or scheduled for certain transportation options and passively managed for others?
- The application states that “The UTA site will serve as a living laboratory for data collection and a model showcase of sustainable electrified transportation technology.” (Lines 74-75). How does the Company intend to showcase this project and is the Company willing to make data collected through this project available to interested partners?

- Will the “tools¹” described in lines 78-79 be used at other sites in Utah? Will they be made publically available?
- Are there other types of customers with similar power and demand profiles who could benefit from the findings of this project, outside of other transportation hubs?

Battery Demand Response Project

- Is the Company willing to make the data collected during this project available to stakeholders?
- How does the Company intend to select the third party consultant hired to assist in quantifying the benefits achieved from the energy storage system?
- How will the assumptions and methodology used to develop a cost-benefit computation methodology be determined? Will the Company or consultant solicit stakeholder input into the creation of this methodology?
- What are the inputs and considerations that will be used to evaluate potential rate design options?
- This application describes a “mutually beneficial battery concept for utilization of the batteries...” that “...allows the Company to have full control of the batteries for advanced grid management, including demand response.” (Lines 30 – 33). Does the Company plan to evaluate the relative value of different utilization concepts for customer-sited battery storage? For example, customer-controlled batteries, use of price signals, or batteries configured to export to the grid?
- Will the batteries be capable of offsetting demand only at the apartment at which they are installed, or will they be capable of offsetting demand from multiple apartments (or the entire apartment complex?)
- Does the Company plan to explore how the batteries could best be operated in order to maximize grid benefits?
- The total cost of the BDRP is \$34.3 million, of which \$12 million is for the purchase of batteries and \$3.27 is requested from STEP funding (lines 70 – 72). Please describe the remaining cost components of the project, that are not included in the requested STEP budget or the cost of the batteries.
- According to the application, this project “could lead to cost savings for customers...” (lines 85-86). How will participating customers receive cost savings? Will participating customers receive other benefits?
- What rate schedule will customers in the Soleil development be on?
- How does the Company plan to use the batteries for frequency response?
- Will this evaluation be relevant to other brands and types of customer-sited batteries (in addition to Sonnen)?

¹ “The primary benefit is to develop tools that can avoid oversizing of infrastructure 79 equipment by optimizing system design.”

- Once the batteries are fully charged, will the solar be configured to export to the grid? If so, how will customers be compensated for exports to the grid?

Advanced Resiliency Management System

- The Company’s application requests \$16.6 million in STEP funding for this project and anticipates that it will provide \$67.6 million in net customer benefits. Given the favorable economics of this project, what is the Company’s rationale for funding the project through STEP?
- How will the Company identify and select “critical customers” and locations that will receive additional line sensor technology?

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Best,



Kate Bowman