



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Net Metering Rate Change

1 message

Elizabeth Clark <lizaclark458@icloud.com>
To: psc@utah.gov

Sat, Jun 13, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Ref: docket #17-035-61

Please don't approve RMP's request to lower the net metering rate. I work in the solar industry and want it to remain profitable to secure jobs and benefit homeowners by helping them generate renewable energy.

Sent from my iPhone



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Docket No: 17-035-61

1 message

Trevor Jones <trevoralexanderjones@gmail.com>
To: psc@utah.gov

Sat, Jun 13, 2020 at 4:31 PM

Respected Commissioners LeVarr and Clark,

Rocky Mountain Power is at it again. Three years ago, when they asked you to allow them to slash reimbursement rates - and citizens turned out en masse against it - they worked out a "compromise" with the solar power lobbying group, USEA. I was involved with USEA, and the private consensus at the time was "this compromise is bad, but it could have been worse." Now they are looking to tear up their compromise, and make it worse, after all, for solar owners and advocates.

Three years ago, I took the position that RMP was likely negotiating in good faith. Now, I find it hard to believe. Why? If they were, they would have just left the negotiated compromise deal intact. They saw that they got taken apart in the public comment section and so they backed down. Even as they backed down, though, they were able to kill all the job growth in the renewable energy sector in this state. It had previously been a thriving, growing sector, but now it is undergoing serious consolidation. Now, RMP's back to finish the job.

I don't believe for a second that accepting solar energy is actually as expensive as RMP claims it is. Plenty of utilities around the country - most notably Xcel, operating in nearby Denver - are actively encouraging the adoption of clean, distributed energy, and they remain firmly in business. RMP does not want to admit that their entire business model is threatened by independent power producers, if they do not adapt, so they are trying to use their monopoly power to set rates to make it uneconomical for the average homeowner (like you or me) to get solar power.

Even if this were as expensive as RMP claims, there are good reasons not to grant RMP's petition to lower the reimbursement rate for customer-generated electricity. The citizens - through their elected representatives and eventually through you, Respected Commissioners - have given them a social license to operate as a monopoly. This monopoly is natural (in both technical and nontechnical senses) when power generation is centralized and distribution methods are costly. However, as the costs of solar systems continue to come down and solar is more broadly adopted, the monopoly is no longer natural. I would hope RMP changes with the times, but if they continue to block and fight the progress of new technologies, I believe there may come a time when society generally revokes their license to operate as a monopoly.

I would like to close my comments by making a similar point to what I did at the hearing three years ago: solar installations are (or could be) the source of many, many good, high-paying jobs. Fossil fuels are no longer the jobs-creating engines of generations past. Work on solar certification letters has directly created at least 10 full- or part-time jobs at my previous place of employment, Vector Structural Engineers. It may shortly create even more at my current employer, Precision Systems Engineering. (Many more jobs are potentially available in construction than in engineering.) However, this has been almost entirely for residential solar projects from out of state. The reason? The incentives are all wrong here in Utah. If RMP is allowed to continue to pay below-market rates to homeowners for their solar power, it will never be economical for homeowners to make the switch. Hundreds and perhaps thousands of jobs will be lost - or never gained - in this great state if RMP's request is granted.

Therefore, I strongly urge you to reject Rocky Mountain Power's motion to alter the export credit rate for customer generated electricity, effectively reducing the rate from the current 9.2¢/kWh to a rough average of about 2.0¢/kWh. I further propose that the PSC retain an independent, 3rd-party analyst to determine a fair, market-based value of the export credits, and that the PSC mandate RMP to pay solar homeowners that rate. I further propose that RMP or a public entity be mandated to pay an additional credit as compensation for the numerous unpriced positive externalities afforded by solar power, including cleaner air and its attendant health benefits, and mitigation of climate change with its own associated costs to society.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions, comments, or concerns. In addition to my email address, my phone number is 208-994-1680.

Most sincerely,
Trevor Jones, P.E., M.B.A.



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

residential solar power

1 message

brent olson <brent@theolson.net>

Sun, Jun 14, 2020 at 12:55 PM

To: psc@utah.gov

Eight years ago, I spent \$60,000 installing solar panels on my roof. I believe that solar power is an excellent source of power and that residential installation should be fully supported and that net metering rate should not be reduced. I support keeping my reimbursement at the current level and not reducing it.

Richard Brent Olson
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