



PublicService Commission &lt;psc@utah.gov&gt;

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**Docket No: 17-035-61: In Opposition to Rocky Mountain Power's petition**

1 message

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**Josh Neves** <josh.neves@blueravensolar.com>  
To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>

Tue, Jul 21, 2020 at 10:36 AM

To the Honorable Commissioners,

I serve as General Counsel for Blue Raven Solar—one of the country's leading full-service residential solar providers. Like many other successful solar companies, we call Utah home. I write to you to respectfully request that you reject Rocky Mountain Power's latest attack on net-metering rates for residential solar energy producers. Its plan will cause irreparable harm to Utah solar industry.

While headquartered in Utah, Blue Raven does most of its business in other states where the incentives, permitting processes, and net-metering offerings are more conducive to conducting business. With the solar industry growing so quickly, solar providers have the luxury to choose where to do business—they choose to work in solar-friendly states. In Nevada in 2015, Utah in 2017, and Idaho in 2019, we have seen the damage to residential solar caused by legislative and administrative attacks on net-metering. Sales in Nevada and Utah have never fully recovered and Idaho is experiencing a similar slowdown. There is no question that solar jobs in Utah will be lost if the Commission adopts RMP's plan.

The RMP plan does very little to promote stewardship and conservation of Utah's land. RMP's parent company PacifiCorp has committed to adding 13 GW of clean energy over the next 20 years. It has said that it will reinvest money from Utah customers in largescale "clean energy projects." Yet, RMP already sells the same excess clean energy from Utah's residential solar energy producers to neighboring customers. This Commission and others commissions like it have recognized residential solar energy producers to be an integral party of Rocky Mountain Power's energy portfolio. When regular Utahns invest in rooftop solar, those costs are not put in RMP's rate base and are not passed on to its customers. Why not RMP meet its goal of sourcing more clean energy for its customers by reinvesting in local residential solar energy, or at the very least, leave well alone?

The RMP plan is bad for solar and it's bad for Utah's response to the Covid-19 crisis. Governor Herbert has committed to making a "full-blown economic recover" and creating "long-term prosperity" for all Utahns. However, RMP's plan cannot be reconciled with the Governor's strategy for economic revitalization. Hundreds of Utah solar jobs will be lost if the RMP plan is adopted. This, at a time when our economy and our people cannot afford to lose any more jobs.

I ask the Commission to reject RMP's plan as it is not in the best interest of Utah families and businesses.

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