

Comments on Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

WILLIAM HUNT

bilihunt@comcast.net> To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>

Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 12:40 PM

My name is William Hunt. I wanted to let my voice be heard as a current rate payer of Rocky Mountain. I want to let the Commission and all other parties know that I do NOT want to keep subsidizing rooftop solar customers and I support Rocky Mountain's position. They should pay their fair share of the infrastructure costs associated with their use of the electric grid. In fact, their costs of using the grid are probably higher than my costs without solar because of their inefficient use of the grid. They generate power when Rocky Mountain does not need it, so Rocky Mountain has to manage their system to take on the extra power, then rooftop solar customers want electricity when they can't produce it at night, so Rocky Mountain has to accommodate their increased usage. Rooftop solar customers have been taking my money for too long.

In addition, these rooftop solar companies should be regulated more closely. My experience with their door-to-door salesman tells me that they will tell any lie, exaggerate any cost estimates and pay back periods, and oversell the benefits of rooftop solar in order to make a sale. They especially prey on the old and the young and naive. My oldest daughter and son in law purchased roof top solar five years ago and were told that it would increase the value of their home. He got a job out of state two years later, and the value of their home did not increase one dollar due to the solar panels. They ended up having to pay off their 20 year contract with the proceeds of the sale of their home, it cost them quite a bit of money with NO benefit.

My younger daughter fell into the same trap, she was told of all kinds of benefits that just aren't true. Luckily I talked to her before they installed the solar panels and she was able to cancel it, but not before threats from the rooftop solar company that they would charge her thousands of dollars for changing her mind.

I see no benefit to rooftop solar as solar farms provide a much more cost effective solution and a more more efficient use of the electric grid.

If people want to buy rooftop solar, they should be told the truth about its benefits and the consequences, and they should pay the full cost associated with it. I shouldn't have to pay the consequences of their poor choices.



Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

Gary Baschuk <gpbaschuk@gmail.com> To: psc@utah.gov

Tue, Oct 6, 2020 at 5:16 PM

Don't give in to a monopoly RMP who wants to control the future of the Solar Industry here in Utah and Idaho. Those of us who have solar took upon ourselves the cost of Solar with the Net Metering as part of the decision to invest in new technology.

Gary Baschuk

532 Canyon View Circle

North Salt Lake, UT 84054-2606

(801) 707-8600



Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

Shelby Johnston <shelbjohnston@gmail.com> To: psc@utah.gov

Tue, Oct 6, 2020 at 6:32 PM

I want you to have my opinion of my opposition with changing the net metering. I love having solar and I want everyone else to have the opportunity as well. It is more environmentally friendly! And with the air quality we have in Utah we need environmentally friendly options because our health is at stake. Rocky Mountain is essentially a monopoly. Why should I not be allowed to have other options for my power?? I love that when the power goes out I have another backup option to give me some power to use. Just think about those windstorms recently. People were able to use their solar panels to get some electricity! That was especially helpful for those that had DAYS with no power. Please please do what you can to keep the net metering agreement the same as it is now or very close to it.

Shelby Johnston 801-678-0863 shelbjohnston@gmail.com



Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

Lacy Croft < lcroftjr@me.com> To: psc@utah.gov

Tue, Oct 6, 2020 at 8:21 PM

I agree with those who spoke in the public hearing.

Yesterday in the eight hour public hearing, almost 100% of the public who spoke told the PSC that this is a bad idea for the following reasons:

- Without solar in Utah, Rocky Mountain Power will have a complete monopoly. People deserve another option for electricity.
- 7107 people have jobs in the solar industry in Utah. This proposal will destroy many jobs, which is the last thing we need during the pandemic. This directly contradicts Governor Herbert's plan for economic recovery.
- Pollution throughout the Salt Lake Valley is terrible. Rocky Mountain Power gets most of their electricity by burning coal. Solar has a tremendous environmental benefit.
- As we get more solar, it will provide stability to the electric grid for natural disasters and other outages.
- A recent study by Vote Solar showed that net metering credit are worth a lot more than the rate Rocky Mountain Power is asking for. Solar owners deserve fair compensation.
- Most other states in the US offer 1 to 1 net metering or very close to it. Utah doesn't need to reinvent the wheel. A few states, like Nevada and Maine adopted net metering programs similar to the one currently proposed in Utah, and they experienced massive job loss, protest, and even lawsuits. After immense public pressure, both Nevada and Maine rolled back the net metering changes. We don't need to put Utah through that also.

Lacy Croft Riverton, UT

Let not any one pacify his conscience by the delusion that he can do no harm if he takes no part, and forms no opinion. Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing. John Stuart Mill 1867



Docket # 17-035-61

1 message

Curtis Anderson < curtis@smartwavesolar.com> To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>

Tue, Oct 6, 2020 at 8:59 PM

As an employee of smart wave solar my job is completely dependent upon your decision. Plenty of arguments have been made showing how inequitable the proposed change is so I won't go that route.

Instead I will say you would directly harm our Utah economy by even giving RMP even a tenth of a cent. Please consider rolling back 1:1 and allow clean energy to thrive in Utah!

Curtis Anderson



Docket # 17-035-61 -- Net Metering

1 message

TOM BERGGREN <TBERGGREN@joneswaldo.com> To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>

Tue, Oct 6, 2020 at 11:14 PM

Members and Staff of the Utah Public Service Commission:

We are writing in favor of a net metering program that provides significant incentives for the users of solar power, for all of the reasons you have been hearing about from proponents of such a program. But we want to also make another argument.

We understand that about 35,000 Utahns have already installed roof top solar systems, which includes our family. We know you appreciate that this constitutes a substantial investment by each of us. In part we do this because we believe it will benefit Utah and our planet, and in part because we believe it will, in the long run, be a prudent investment, as a result of the anticipated reduction in power costs. In order to achieve those reductions, however, we have to have an effective system. If that system does not produce the projected power, or fails entirely, we will look to the guaranty of our installer to determine if repair or compensation is available, hopefully to make us whole. Of course, the value of a guaranty is only as good as the financial health of the installer which gave it. If you take actions to undermine this nascent industry, with the effect of driving our installers out of state or out of business, these investments will be lost, in whole or in part.

In making our investments in roof top solar systems, the Utahns with these systems have been relying on guaranties from our installers. These installers have been relying on a consistent, future oriented, appropriate net metering system from RMP. Please do not undermine the economic viability of our installers such that all of our existing investments in roof top solar are at risk.

Thank you.

Tom and Lydia Berggren

1330 Perrys Hollow Road

Salt Lake City, UT 84103



No. 17-035-61

1 message

safety@uset.us <safety@uset.us> To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov> Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 7:28 AM

This is a bad idea other state have been sued over this.

Seth Vermillion 801-809-2912



Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

Michael Petersen <mphe98@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 8:03 AM

To: psc@utah.gov

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my opposition to Rocky Mountain Power's reducing net metering rates. I believe that if 'fairness' is an argument, it is better suited for the customer than for the power company; not continuing to offer the same (potential) benefits to all customers is rather 'unfair'. As I recall, a 'study' was also performed to determine what net metering rates should be; why is that study no longer valid?

I fully understand that there are costs associated with maintaining a power grid and I pay a monthly fee to be connected to that grid. That fee, also being determined and mandated by Rocky Mountain Power and backed up by a 'study', is meant to pay for the solar customer's portion of grid maintenance. Rocky Mountain Power's argument that the burden is unfairly laid upon non-solar customers, as proven by a 'study', is completely baseless.

Sincerely, Michael Petersen



Docket No. 17-035-61 Public Comment

1 message

Alexsis Lever (alexsis.lever@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message <automail@knowwho.com> To: psc@utah.gov

Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 8:24

Dear Utah Public Service Commission,

Utilizing and protecting sustainable forms of energy is incredibly important to me. Climate change is occurring at an incredibly rapid pace and as a result, we are witnessing ocean temperatures rise to over 95 degrees Fahrenheit. This spike in temperature, caused inherently by greenhouse gases for which the science was developed and proven in the late 1800?s, has been driving the collapse of an ecosystem. The coral reefs are responsible for 25% of all ocean life. How many ecosystems must be destroyed by negligence until it has too great of a negative impact on us to finally call for change? Change must start now. Protect solar energy. Empathy for our home, our planet must drive these decisions going forward.

As a resident of Utah, I am urging you to reject Rocky Mountain Power?s proposal to reduce the export credit rate of rooftop solar by up to 85%. The change in value for residential customers from 9.2?/kWh to 1.5?/kWh is not supported by sound science, as demonstrated by the vastly different valuations between the Rocky Mountain Power and Vote Solar studies. The rate change would result in drastic job losses for an entire industry, compounding the hardship of the current economic crisis in this state. Additionally, by allowing this change, the Public Service Commission would be condoning Rocky Mountain Power?s monopolization of sun power, and cutting off Utahns' right to energy choice.

Our energy grid is rapidly evolving. The future of the grid must include a diversity of resources, including distributed generation which supports greater community resiliency. If the Public Service Commission allows Rocky Mountain Power to undervalue the contributions of rooftop solar, then it is essentially stifling millions of dollars of potential crowd-funded investment in our grid infrastructure. A decision to approve a 1.5?/kWh rate is a decision to support corporate welfare over the future stability and sustainability of our energy grid.

I implore you to serve the best interest of the people of Utah over the shareholders of Rocky Mountain Power. Reinstate net-metering and afford the people of Utah our right to choose the clean, distributed energy choice we deserve.

Sincerely,

Alexsis Lever 721 W Fondi Court South Jordan, UT 84095 alexsis.lever@gmail.com (801) 889-6399

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.



"Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

Randy Leppell <randy.leppell@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 8:30 AM

To: psc@utah.gov

This proposal is ridiculous and insulting to the people of Utah. Are we TRYING to become dependant on one provider for an essential utility? Why would the power they provide be worth any more than the power the consumer is providing for themself or in some cases for others?

Please stop this proposal and keep the current rates where they are for the individuals who are willing to take the initiative and spend their own money up front to make the power grid more reliable and less dependant on one singular "weak link".

Thank you, Randy Leppell randy.leppell@gmail.com 360-632-1155



solar export

1 message

John Hinds <i hinds@earthlink.net> To: psc@utah.gov

Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 10:21 AM

Just a comment regarding RMP discounting rooftop solar being brought into the grid. Several years ago, RMP was encouraging us to join a program that would tie our air conditioning into a network essentially orchestrating rolling blackouts during the hottest days of the summer. Since that is the same time that my rooftop panels are at peak output, I doubt that my electric production is only worth the paltry return they are proposing.

I am a landlord and own two other properties that are perfect for a solar installation, but without an expectation of viable return on investment, we will not upgrade the properties, even though we value the community benefit of renewable energy. I don't believe RMP needs a financial incentive to continue selling us coal fired electricity, but members of public deserve incentives to invest, upgrade, and support our communities.

Perhaps RMP should increase rates on consumers whose demand rises during peak usage, as do many other industries.

John Hinds Ogden, Utah jhinds@earthlink.net



Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

Lamar Breshears < lamar.breshears@hardingfp.com> To: psc@utah.gov

Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 10:39 AM

Hello,

I am adamantly against lowering metering rates. I will be grandfathered into the current meter rates, but electricity is electricity, why should future solar owners be reimbursed less than market rates? This proposal is being driven by Rocky Mountain power as a way to drive out solar, which is a threat to their monopoly in UT. UT should be moving forward and expanding solar to bring the cost down for everyone, not taking a step backward with coal produced electricity. There should be competition in energy providing, not a monopoly. Why follow in the same metering regulation failures of Nevada and Maine? They tried this EXACT approach and ended up rolling back the regulations. Nothing like copying a loser proposal driven by the energy lobby. Plus, every gov't politician in UT always talks about cleaning up the air in UT....but here we are with a proposal that will continue to make air worse in UT. Some points:

- Without solar in Utah, Rocky Mountain Power will have a complete monopoly. People deserve another option for electricity.
- 7107 people have jobs in the solar industry in Utah. This proposal will destroy many jobs, which is the last thing we need during the pandemic. This directly contradicts Governor Herbert's plan for economic recovery.
- Pollution throughout the Salt Lake Valley is terrible. Rocky Mountain Power gets most of their electricity by burning coal. Solar has a tremendous environmental benefit.
- As we get more solar, it will provide stability to the electric grid for natural disasters and other outages.
- A recent study by Vote Solar showed that net metering credit are worth a lot more than the rate Rocky Mountain Power is asking for. Solar owners deserve fair compensation.
- Most other states in the US offer 1 to 1 net metering or very close to it. Utah doesn't need to reinvent the wheel. A few states, like Nevada and Maine adopted net metering programs similar to the one currently proposed in Utah, and they experienced massive job loss, protest, and even lawsuits. After immense public pressure, both Nevada and Maine rolled back the net metering changes. We don't need to put Utah through that also.

Sincerely,



Lamar Breshears



"Docket No. 17-035-61"

1 message

DAVID Read <spikeiou@comcast.net> To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>

Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 9:20 AM

Hello,

I was informed that Rocky Mountain Power was requesting a net metering reduction of 84%. I am apposed to any net metering reduction.

Where do I find all the facts about the proposal? What is your opinion of the proposed changes?

Thanks for your time.

David Read



"Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

Paul Whitaker <paulwhitak@gmail.com> To: psc@utah.gov

Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 10:56 AM

Good Morning

We see no reason for Rocky Mountain Power to make a crazy request lessen the current discount offered to Utahan's spending their own money to bring solar Power to their homes. What planet do they live on, certainly not this one that is dying from its over-use and abuse. Its no longer about making money and to heck with the consequences. We spent \$15,000 of our own money to do a little bit make up for the damage we have caused as members of the human race. Rocky Mountain Power should be encouraging all its customers to go solar even if it goes out of business! It will go out of business anyway sooner or later unless it transforms itself into an alternative power company.

Their position is not defendable and is a disgraceful example of short term business views and supposed shareholder at all costs thinking. They also took 5 days to reconnect our home after the recent storm, so it seems they are not very competent at the fossil fuel generation game either.

Sincerely

Paul & Dianna Lindquist Whitaker 5181 Mile High Circle Ogden Utah 84403 paulwhitak@gmail.com 303 667 1416



Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

donna simmons <simmonsdr1950@gmail.com> To: psc@utah.gov

Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 11:00 AM

We are definitely AGAINST the proposal by Rocky Mountain Power to cut its compensation rates to rooftop solar customers for the excess energy they export to the grid. We spent thousands of dollars on solar panels expecting to benefit by less expensive Rocky Mountain bills and so far, our bills have been less. This proposal would destroy people's incentive to save on energy costs.

Bill Simmons Donna Simmons 4638 W 1650 N West Point, UT 84015



Docket No. 17-035-61 Public Comment

1 message

Mark Pittman (mark.e.pittman@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message <automail@knowwho.com> To: psc@utah.gov

Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 11:20

Dear Utah Public Service Commission,

Decentralized solar production keeps Utah safe from threats against our grid and helps us build resilience against weather threats. In addition to cleaning our air, reducing the overall cost to rate payers by reducing transmission costs, maintenance and volatility in oil, coal and gas markets. If anything the rate net metering customers pay should be increased not decreased. Stop letting monopolies stay monopolies, this is the closest thing to competition a utility has, it's important to drive the market.

As a resident of Utah, I am urging you to reject Rocky Mountain Power?s proposal to reduce the export credit rate of rooftop solar by up to 85%. The change in value for residential customers from 9.2?/kWh to 1.5?/kWh is not supported by sound science, as demonstrated by the vastly different valuations between the Rocky Mountain Power and Vote Solar studies. The rate change would result in drastic job losses for an entire industry, compounding the hardship of the current economic crisis in this state. Additionally, by allowing this change, the Public Service Commission would be condoning Rocky Mountain Power?s monopolization of sun power, and cutting off Utahns' right to energy choice.

Our energy grid is rapidly evolving. The future of the grid must include a diversity of resources, including distributed generation which supports greater community resiliency. If the Public Service Commission allows Rocky Mountain Power to undervalue the contributions of rooftop solar, then it is essentially stifling millions of dollars of potential crowd-funded investment in our grid infrastructure. A decision to approve a 1.5?/kWh rate is a decision to support corporate welfare over the future stability and sustainability of our energy grid.

I implore you to serve the best interest of the people of Utah over the shareholders of Rocky Mountain Power. Reinstate net-metering and afford the people of Utah our right to choose the clean, distributed energy choice we deserve.

Sincerely,

Mark Pittman 2195 South 1000 East Salt Lake City, UT 84106 mark.e.pittman@gmail.com (801) 529-7432

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.



Docket No. 17-035-61 Public Comment

1 message

Ernie Rogers (ernie.e.rogers@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message <automail@knowwho.com> To: psc@utah.gov

Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 11:22

Dear Utah Public Service Commission,

Solar is a growing industry that has fewer negative impacts on the environment and improves the economy. It's a new industry that deserves promotion, not restrictions. Older forms of energy production are trying to form a monopoly, please don't make that happen.

As a resident of Utah, I am urging you to reject Rocky Mountain Power?s proposal to reduce the export credit rate of rooftop solar by up to 85%. The change in value for residential customers from 9.2?/kWh to 1.5?/kWh is not supported by sound science, as demonstrated by the vastly different valuations between the Rocky Mountain Power and Vote Solar studies. The rate change would result in drastic job losses for an entire industry, compounding the hardship of the current economic crisis in this state. Additionally, by allowing this change, the Public Service Commission would be condoning Rocky Mountain Power?s monopolization of sun power, and cutting off Utahns' right to energy choice.

Our energy grid is rapidly evolving. The future of the grid must include a diversity of resources, including distributed generation which supports greater community resiliency. If the Public Service Commission allows Rocky Mountain Power to undervalue the contributions of rooftop solar, then it is essentially stifling millions of dollars of potential crowd-funded investment in our grid infrastructure. A decision to approve a 1.5?/kWh rate is a decision to support corporate welfare over the future stability and sustainability of our energy grid.

I implore you to serve the best interest of the people of Utah over the shareholders of Rocky Mountain Power. Reinstate net-metering and afford the people of Utah our right to choose the clean, distributed energy choice we deserve.

Sincerely,

Ernie Rogers 1735 Cherokee Dr Pleasant Grove, UT 84062 ernie.e.rogers@gmail.com (801) 785-2291

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.



Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

Austin Allred <austin.allred@acimacredit.com> To: psc@utah.gov

Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 11:47 AM

This is a terrible idea and makes me wonder about the motivation to make this change. Please don't be pimped out by Rocky Mountain - do what is right for Utah instead.

Austin Allred | Executive VP Sales | Acima Credit

M: 801.898.4031

P.O. Box 1667 Draper, UT 84020

austin.allred@acimacredit.com | www.acimacredit.com



Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

Tim Sleeper <tim@logicalmove.us> To: psc@utah.gov

Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 11:55 AM

Don't mess with my air!!!! Maintain solar viability because it's the right thing to do!!!

Tim Sleeper

Acquisition Specialist

Logicalmove

Commercial Real Estate

(801) 449-9999 Main (801) 671-5644 Cell

http://logicalmove.com

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Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

M. Spencer Salt <spencersalt@hotmail.com> To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>

Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 11:57 AM

I strongly oppose RMP or any company taking away the incentives and benefits both fiscally and environmentally of rooftop solar energy. I love my system and realize that I am grandfathered in, but why would you take the same advantages away from others? This is corporate greed and grab for control plain and simple. I have actually paid extra to RMP each year so that they can invest in their green sky initiatives and further renewable energy development. This is how they repay me and others? The fact that they are now trying to take away solar incentives from the average citizen in the name of corporate profits by assigning one price for rooftop generated power, and a much higher price to their own generated power is ridiculous and maddening. Power is a commodity that should have the same value no matter how its generated. I understand that being a utility RMP needs to make profits for its shareholders as well as pay for the infrastructure maintenance, so a slight differential in cost for purchased and sold energy is nesseccary. That is the current system, and the proposed change to the existing system is unnecessary and excessive. It is clearly motivated by greed, profit, and control. I would ask how this proposed change would benefit anybody other than Rocky Mountain Power?

Sincerely, Matthew Spencer Salt, P.E. 801-979-4849



Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

Sheena Morris <sheenamorris25@gmail.com> To: psc@utah.gov

Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 1:11 PM

I am opposed to the proposal by Rocky Mountain Power to reduce net metering rates. If granted, this proposal will seriously impair the solar industry in Utah, destroy thousands of jobs for people in the solar industry, and give Rocky Mountain Power an energy monopoly.

In addition, the Salt Lake Valley has terrible pollution and since Rocky Mountain Power gets most of their energy from burning coal, they are adding to the problem. On the other hand, solar panels are a source of clean energy and have a tremendous environmental benefit.

I urge you to decline Rocky Mountain Power's proposal and in doing so support the solar industry, solar energy recipients, and Utah's environment.

Sheena Morris Bluffdale, Utah



Docket NO 17-035-61

1 message

Robert Lee <travislee06@aol.com> To: psc@utah.gov

Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 1:40 PM

Utah utilities commission:

As a recent solar purchaser, I request your consideration to not decrease the net metering buy back rates.

I would not have purchased solar if the buy back rates were lower than they currently are. A move to decrease them will negatively impact the communities move to cleaner, sustainable energy.

Thanks

Travis Lee American Fork Resident



Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

Aidan Garrity <aidan.garrity1@gmail.com> To: psc@utah.gov

Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 2:31 PM

Dear Public Service Commission,

I urge the Commission to reject Rocky Mountain Power's proposed low valuation of solar energy. As a Utahn struggling with poor air quality and other increased health risks, I believe our community needs every opportunity to invest in the health of ourselves and our future generations. Empowering residents to generate their own energy is just part of that healthy future.

Please reject RMP's low valuation in order to improve the health and safety of all people of Utah.

Thank you, Aidan Garrity