



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

DEAN CLAUSON <dean.clauson@comcast.net>

Fri, Oct 9, 2020 at 12:10 AM

To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>

I am very opposed to any decrease in net metering rates from Rocky Mountain Power to private solar owners. Solar is good for everyone, including Rocky Mountain Power. Such a decrease in rates as proposed by Rocky Mountain Power would cause solar to effectively be much more expensive. With the pollution problems that the Wasatch Front already experiences, we need to encourage MORE clean energy generation, not less! I fully understand that RMP has a large investment in power generation and distribution equipment. I also fully understand that solar installations are a large investment for homeowners such as myself. I suspect that my investment, compared to my income, is proportional to RMP's investment and income. If true, why should I be paid less for energy that my investment generates than Rocky Mountain Power is paid for their energy? Given the ongoing population growth of our state, RMP should be grateful for the help their generation facilities receive from private solar installations rather than discouraging them! Please do not allow Rocky Mountain Power to unfairly profit from my investment while increasing my net costs for electricity. As a retired couple on a fixed income, we purchased solar as a hedge against future rate increases by RMP. A decrease in the net metering rate would mean an effective rate increase in our electric costs. A rate increase we cannot afford either as individuals or collectively as residents of a rapidly growing state with rapidly growing energy needs and pollution.

Thank you,
Howard Dean Clauson



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Comment on Docket No. 17-035-61: Application of Rocky Mountain Power to Establish Export Credits for Customer Generated Electricity

1 message

Tom Butine <tdbutine@hotmail.com>
To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>

Fri, Oct 9, 2020 at 9:14 AM

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Utah must find a way to incentivize and encourage clean energy. Our state has an abundant source of it with the sun, and we need to leverage it. RMP seems to be going backward on this subject, and we must work with them to transition their energy supply. It is a dramatic shift. The recent [Utah Roadmap](#) and [Compact](#) are huge signs, pointing the direction. We must make this change, and with urgency. I cannot emphasize enough that the commission needs to support the change, and be an agent of it. Small scale rooftop solar is a terrific capability that we must foster.

I am a retired engineer-scientist, manager and Technical Fellow at the Boeing Company. While my field is not energy generation or climate science, I have studied both extensively, and have come to the conclusion that we must rapidly shift to clean electrical energy. Utah can and should be a leader in this transition, and it must happen soon, within the next 10 years or so. I live in St George and generate all of my yearly electrical energy from it, including the energy for my car. Without the programs provided through the city, it would be impractical to do this. Since then, the city has eroded its support, exactly in the wrong direction. The commission should not make this mistake.

Tom Butine
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PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

Zach <ztahrens@uwalumni.com>
To: psc@utah.gov

Fri, Oct 9, 2020 at 9:14 AM

Greetings from a RMP customer,

- As a solar customer, I believe that a significantly lower compensation rate for solar will make it very difficult for anyone to invest in their own systems.
- Please consider all of the various benefits that rooftop solar provides to the grid, our neighbors, and air quality.
- Almost 200,000 Utahns were without power recently - shouldn't we encourage families to invest in solar and backup power to ensure the wellbeing of their loved ones and neighbors?
- The utility is asking for another rate increase, can't other Utahns like us, invest in a system to help mitigate that?
- The sun shines bright in Utah, shouldn't we be able to generate our own energy and provide our neighbors with what we don't use?
- At a time when we have seen many of our friends lose their jobs, is it really a good time to put at risk thousands of jobs in the solar industry?
- In Utah we believe in being prepared for emergencies. Solar is a significant way to help with that priority- having energy when the utility can't provide it is important to so many people I know.
- I believe in a free market economy and Rocky Mountain Power continually tries to take away what little choices we have.
- We should encourage cleaner energy everywhere possible- not discourage it.
- Utah is one of the five sunniest states in the country, why would we not take full advantage of such a resource?
- More rooftop solar means less emissions in our valleys.

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Zach Ahrens
Grand County, UT



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Docket number 17-035-61 - comment

1 message

clark stacey <clarkstacey@me.com>
To: psc@utah.gov

Fri, Oct 9, 2020 at 3:19 PM

Public Service Commission members,

My name is Clark Stacey. I'm a business owner and resident in Salt Lake City, and I am opposed to the proposed rate change under discussion in Docket #17-035-61.

For the past year my family's rooftop solar installation has been contributing to our electricity needs as well as feeding surplus production back into the grid. My wife and I both made the switch to fully electric vehicles, so our transportation is now powered by our home electricity. This has predictably increased our monthly electricity consumption, but because of our rooftop solar array, our monthly electric bill from Rocky Mountain Power has concurrently been reduced significantly.

This scenario is one you'll see with escalating frequency in the coming years, and it's one that in your capacity as public servants you should welcome and vigorously promote. Please consider:

-Most of the electricity RMP sells to Utahns is generated by coal-fired power plants; plants which PacifiCorp and RMP intend to continue operating. These plants rely on fuel that employs far fewer people than clean energy companies and is diminishing the quality of life in Utah by fouling its air.

-Carbon impact is not priced into RMP's fuel costs — yet — and nevertheless coal cannot compete economically with solar.

Rocky Mountain Power wants to recover the costs of its infrastructure investments in coal-fired power plants. Rate payers want to recover the costs of their rooftop solar arrays. Your commission has historically been very accommodating of RMP's need to fund infrastructure investment, despite their strenuous avoidance of investments that will prepare their grid for distributed, carbon-free power generation.

The company seeks to generate or obtain electricity as inexpensively as possible and sell it to Utah families at the highest rates the market will bear and your commission will permit. This fact is not a slight on RMP; rather, the company's motivations are perfectly logical and ably serve the interests of the shareholders in their parent corporation. Therefore they want to convince you that the electricity they obtain from us, the ratepayers, via our residential solar systems should cost them a fraction of what they pay other suppliers. They argue that they must incur the expense of connecting us to their aging grid, which is partially true only because they insist on this role. But then why not charge the solar homeowner the cost of a service call to recover this de minimis cost, and thereafter pay them market rates for the power they generate? The answer is obvious: rank protectionism and the need to eke the last dollars from a dying business model regardless of the public good, before that business model is inevitably yanked away by market realities.

Certainly cheap electricity is an economic boon that benefits every strata of society... but so is breathable air. The residential solar industry and consumers willing to pay for home arrays are making the capital outlays to modernize our power market that RMP is not, and RMP seeks to starve the solar industry — with your blessing — by denying us a market rate for the watt-hours we generate for them.

I implore you, don't give them that blessing. You will be voting on the side of the free market, the side of more jobs for Utahns, and the side of overwhelming public preference if you vote to deny them this rate change.

Respectfully,

Clark Stacey
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