



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

The Commission's Position on Solar Energy

1 message

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

Mon, Nov 9, 2020 at 7:10 AM

I am a retired engineer-scientist, Boeing program manager and technical fellow, living in St George. I have been studying energy policy and climate change for many years and have come to the conclusion that we must swiftly move away from fossil fuels toward renewable energy sources. My electrical home and vehicle are completely solar-generated, and I continue to be shocked at how little Utah uses this clean energy source. I think we must and will soon have a fee on carbon to incentivize Utahns to move in this direction. Your recent decision relating to solar energy pricing is completely opposite the direction we should be moving. I urge you to reconsider and encourage you to review the science and long-term macro-economic factors related to your strategy and direction.

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PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Comment on Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

Charles Masoka <chuck.masoka@gmail.com>
Reply-To: Charles Masoka <chuck.masoka@gmail.com>
To: Public Service Commissioners <psc@utah.gov>

Wed, Sep 23, 2020 at 4:58 PM

Dear Commissioners,

As a Utah resident, I am writing to ask you to reject Rocky Mountain Power's proposed solar export credit rate (Docket No. 17-035-61).

This utility's proposed export credit rate reduction from 9.4¢/kWh to ~ 1.5¢/kWh is nothing more than an attempt by Rocky Mountain Power to misrepresent the value of rooftop solar in order to stifle competition and monopolize renewable power generation. The evidence provided throughout this solar export proceeding has both demonstrated the value of customer-generated exports and shown that Rocky Mountain Power has failed to adequately assess the value of excess solar energy in its proposed rate change.

A better solution than the proposed rate, which, if approved, would be among the most punitive in the nation, is an increased solar export credit rate. The Vote Solar Load Research Study demonstrates the value of customer-generated exports at 22¢ per kilowatt-hour. This value includes 10.57¢/kWh from utility-based benefits alone. Environmental and social benefits add an additional 12/03¢ of benefits.

While it is important to recognize that rooftop solar customers are still very much on the grid, utilizing utility infrastructure, one cannot fairly calculate the cost of this over the many benefits to the grid, customers, and community provided by rooftop solar.

Rooftop solar creates many system-wide benefits enjoyed by all Rocky Mountain Power service area customers and the utility itself. Distributed energy generation from rooftop solar contributes to grid flexibility and resilience and avoids costly transmission upgrades. Additionally, rooftop solar helps create consumer choice and keeps customer dollars local. A punitive export credit rate would take all of these benefits away and would further exclude low-income communities from consumer choice. Rapid implementation of the utility's proposed export credit rate would create a shock for rooftop solar customers and the solar industry. Reducing the export credit by 84% would also jeopardize thousands of local jobs and create additional cost risks for customers through fuel price volatility and major infrastructure development.

Rooftop solar helps to ensure safe, reliable, adequate, and reasonably priced utility service, the guidance by which the Commission is to assess rate proposals. Evidence brought forth throughout this proceeding and by dozens of cases throughout the country confirm that a reduced solar export credit is the inappropriate regulatory response to rooftop solar and will serve to disincentivize the integration of renewable energy into Utah's energy portfolio. Please consider increasing the export credit rate to reflect the real benefits created by rooftop solar.

Sincerely,
Charles Masoka
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