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November 12, 2020

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13Public Service Commission

14Heber Wells Bldg. 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

15160 E. 300 South

16Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

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**RE: TRANSITION RATE SCHEDULE 136**

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20Dear Commissioners,

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22 I am a retired attorney currently splitting my time between Salt Lake City and the sunny  
desert community of Ivins Utah outside of St. George. I am now in the process of attempting to  
obtain the approval from our HOA to install solar panels upon the roof of our home in Ivins. I  
have made significant progress toward that goal, and expect to get an answer from the Shonto  
Point Homeowners Association next Tuesday, but as you can see, that may be too late for us.

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24 That is why I am writing to you to express my strong objections to the unexpected and  
abrupt end to the Transition Rate upon which my solar panel system was based. The new rate  
is neither "just" nor "reasonable" as is required by law. (See U.C.A. Section 54-15-105.1(2).)

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26 My home in Ivins is part of the thriving retirement community of Kayenta which is  
governed by a very strict HOA. The HOA requires a very detailed application for its homeowners  
wishing to convert to solar. Routine approval cannot assumed, and many applications are  
denied. Thus, my application had to be strong and precise. The application I submitted was 50  
pages long and required a very substantial investment of my time and energy.. This required  
many trips upon the roof to take measurements, and photographs. The location of the panels  
had to be changed several times in order to comply with the strict requirements of our HOA. I  
submitted dozens of photographs, technical data, and detailed schematic diagrams. This also  
required substantial technical assistance from my solar contractor. I had been working on this  
application for several months before I submitted it to the Solar Committee. I hope to receive a  
favorable determination on Tuesday, but as you know, that may now be too late for me to retain  
the Transition Rate that existed when I started this application process last Spring.

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28 My solar contractor and I planned very carefully for my solar array. The 16 panel system  
I hope to install will significantly reduce our electric bill, which can be very high during the  
extremely hot summer months. As part of the proposal from the solar company, they also  
provided me with a cost analysis demonstrating the potential savings we should receive based  
on the Transition Rate. Under the new rate, the payback period on our system will be at least

two years longer than we planned, thereby increasing the cost of our investment. This result is neither just nor reasonable as applied to me and my wife.

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30 The PSC's decision is very discouraging in other respects. In addition to reducing our energy bill, we would also like to reduce our carbon footprint and conserve energy in general. Like many Utahns, we love the natural beauty of our state and want to protect and preserve that environment as best we can. The PSC, as regulators charged with the duty of serving the public interest, should be encouraging people like me and our neighbors to invest in solar, rather than creating barriers and increasing costs toward that end.

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32 The PSC should strive to protect and serve the consumers' interests, and not simply assure the energy companies such as Rocky Mountain Power a good ROI on their money. A just and reasonable rate would allow us ratepayers and solar energy customers to receive a good ROI on our investments as well!

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34 Please provide us with a fair price for the energy we sell back to Rocky Mountain Power. Encourage the private investment in renewable energy sources; do not discourage it. All of us will benefit in the long run as we transition away from a system that relies almost exclusively on fossil fuels and all the costs associated with it.

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36 **For all of these reasons, I urge you to extend the Transition Rate Schedule 136 to at least January 1, 2021.**

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Sincerely,

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*John L. Black, Jr.*

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JOHN L. BLACK, JR.

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Attorney at Law



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

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## Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

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**Susan Saltzman** <susan saltzman@gmail.com>  
To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>

Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 10:02 PM

Dear Public Service Commission,

I am writing this email in regards to the net metering changes that took effect October 31st. On October 12th, following some research into the process, I signed an agreement with Smart Wave Solar to have solar panels installed. Part of my analysis included a phone call to the Renewable Energy Department at Rocky Mountain Power. During that call, I asked about the possible change in net metering, and was told there shouldn't be a problem getting my project put in under the existing agreement. That call gave me confidence to go ahead and sign a contract with Smart Wave Solar.

According to the solar salesperson, purchasing his solar system would save money over the long term. But he was basing his estimates both on completing my project prior to December 31, 2020 and the previous net metering agreement. At this point I'm worried not only about being given incorrect information regarding net metering, but about the completion of my project in a timely fashion as well. Are other solar companies not going forward with contracts because of the net metering change? Losing the tax credit would be devastating to me. But changing companies would mean foregoing the possibility of my project being reconsidered for the old metering agreement. Talk about being between a rock and a hard place.

I guess right now I'm wondering if this whole mess was just one big mistake. Is solar a bad idea? Is it a waste of money? What would you do in my situation?

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Saltzman



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

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**Docket No. 17-035-61**

1 message

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**Dale Densley** <daled2003@gmail.com>  
To: psc@utah.gov

Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 9:43 AM

Dear Public Service Commissioners,

My wife and I recently made the decision to begin using renewable resources to do our part to conserve our natural resources and improve the environment. Our first step was recycling and now we are in the process of adding solar power to our home. It seems to be the environmentally responsible thing to do. The financial considerations are large but we saw that over time it would help us control our energy costs and possibly provide a backup source of electricity in the event of an emergency. As we approach retirement, currently both 65yolds, these factors have even more importance.

Your recent decision to decrease the net metering rate has an adverse effect on our financial ability to move forward. This came as a shock to us and could negatively affect our ability to move forward with the project. It was announced without any warning or provisions to grandfather in the existing applicants and/or allow for a period of time to process the current applications. Contracts have been signed and plans made.

We strongly urge you to reconsider the date of implementation of the new net metering rate, and allow for the grandfathering in of those who are already in the process of having solar energy sources installed in their homes. This would be a very appreciated Public Service and would seem to be in the best interests of all parties concerned.

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Thanks,

Dale Densley  
cell (801) 367-6633  
[daled2003@gmail.com](mailto:daled2003@gmail.com)



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

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## Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

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**Chester Thedog** <chester284074@yahoo.com>  
To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>

Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 11:32 AM

Dear Sirs,

I signed a Solar Panel System with Smart Wave Solar Company and am to have this system installed by the end of December 2020 or beginning of January 2021. I believe they were behind on their installations due to the lack of personnel caused by the COVID pandemic.

I just recently learned of the Net Metering Changes that evidently took effect October 30, 2020. My solar contract was signed before this deadline.

It is my understanding that the buy back rate of my excess power will go down from about 9.0 cents/Kwh to about 5.0 cents/Kwh.

I was very disappointed to learn this and am considering cancelling my contract because of this. However, I will be penalized \$1,000 dollars to do so, so I am conflicted as to how to proceed. If an extension is not granted I believe that I will reluctantly have to cancel my order and swallow the penalty.

I sized my solar system so that it will have 100% power independence based on the 9.0 cents/Kwh rate. My money break even point will be set back considerably with the new drop in rate. This is my most important reason for agreeing to purchase a solar system especially with the high initial startup cost. My system would pay for itself in fairly short order.

I therefore petition you to consider extending to me the previous higher power rate of about 9.0 cents/Kwh.

Thank You for your consideration.

Ben Torres



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

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## Docket No. 17-035-61

1 message

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**Carlson** <sgtlcarlson@msn.com>  
To: psc@utah.gov

Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 12:11 PM

Public Service Commission:

We are concerned about the net metering change that was just announced.

We signed our contract prior to this change thinking we had signed up for the current net metering. Dismay is an understatement to your decision.

We have been in this process since October and still are waiting for the right permits.

We chose solar to help us financially in the long run. It seemed liked a good investment for our future well-being, both financially and physically. With this change, that benefit goes away due to our age and the solar panel life expectancy.

If this net metering change is not grandfathered, then we probably can't afford to install it which would be a loss for us and the community.

Sincerely,

Scott and Terry Carlson



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

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**Docket No. 17-035-61**

1 message

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**Eric Thompson** <mister.e.thompson@gmail.com>

Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 1:40 PM

To: psc@utah.gov

We signed a contract to have solar panels to our home approximately 3 weeks ago. My wife and I choose this for several reasons such as the environmental benefits and as a hedge against potential rate increases. But the primary reason for choosing solar was the benefits afforded by Net Metering. I am very concerned about recently enacted changes to the net metering program. I feel that this greatly reduces the value of adding solar panels. Considering that we signed our contract prior to the announcement of the net metering change, I feel that we should be allowed to take advantage of the previously agreed upon provisions.

Thank you for considering our petition and feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

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**ERIC THOMPSON**

m: 818.438.2046

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