Utah currently has a growing rooftop solar industry. However, Rocky Mountain Power has put forward a plan before the Public Service Commission (PSC) that would substantially reduce the financial benefits of rooftop solar by slashing the amount that customers receive for the power they sell back to the electricity grid, known as net metering, and impose new fees on solar customers. We summarize the solar rate plan below, but the full plan can be seen in PSC Docket 14-035-114 under “Schedule 5.”

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER’S SOLAR RATE HIKE**
*What You Need to Know*

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**ROOFTOP SOLAR IS BOOMING IN UTAH, BRINGING CLEAN POWER AND JOBS TO UTAH COMMUNITIES**
- Solar is booming in Utah, driven by rapidly falling costs and smart policies that seek to harness solar power’s tremendous potential to generate clean power, reaching over 16,000 customers this year.1
- Rooftop solar provides significant value to all Utah residents and businesses, helping to create over 2,600 jobs in the solar industry.
- Rooftop solar is a zero-emission renewable energy resource that leverages private investments to diversify Utah’s energy mix and can be deployed quickly, helping to reduce Utah’s reliance on fossil energy, improving air quality and reducing future energy costs.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER'S PROPOSED SOLAR MONTHLY RATE IMPACTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Metering Compensation (cents/kWh)</td>
<td>10.41</td>
<td>3.81</td>
<td>-63.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Customer Charge</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>+150.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demand Charge ($/kW)</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$9.02</td>
<td>NEW CHARGE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER'S RATE HIKE THREATENS UTAH'S SOLAR INDUSTRY**
- The rate plan includes a series of changes that will make residential rooftop solar financially unaffordable for many Utah families, effectively doubling the payback period for the average residential customer who installs a solar system.2
- The solar rate hike includes three major new changes:
  - Slashes the amount that homeowners receive from utilities for the solar power they produce by 65%, from 10.7 cents/kWh to 3.8cents/kWh.
  - Imposes an unavoidable monthly $15 fixed charge.
for new rooftop solar customers, more than twice what other residential customers pay.

- Creates a confusing new “demand charge” on solar customers that could require customers to pay anywhere from $30 to $90 in new monthly fees depending on which household appliances they use during hours of high “peak” energy demand.3

- Rocky Mountain Power’s proposal ratchets up the one proposed by RMP’s sister company in Nevada, NV Energy, that destroyed its once-promising rooftop solar industry nearly overnight, leading to thousands of layoffs in the solar industry and confusion among customers.

- Higher fixed fees and lower energy compensation rates punish rooftop solar customers for reducing their energy use and reward higher energy use customers

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER’S COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF ROOFTOP SOLAR IS INCOMPLETE & MISLEADING

- Rocky Mountain Power claims that solar customers, only less than 2% of all residential customers, shift the cost of providing electricity service to other residents, but no independent analysis has confirmed this.

- In contrast, a 2016 report by the nonpartisan Brookings Institution found that net metering “frequently benefits all ratepayers when all costs and benefits are accounted for” in states that had performed an analysis.5

ENDNOTES
1 Source: Standard Examiner, Nov. 10, 2016, http://www.standard.net/Environment/2016/11/10/Rocky-Mountain-Power-proposes-new-rates-for-rooftop-solar-customers Their analysis indicates that the payback period for the average residential solar customer would increase from 13 years to 30 years.


