

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Mary Fitzpatrick <stardust@usadig.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 8:22 AM
To: PSC_UtilityComment; Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: MDU net metering proposal before the PSC

I am concerned about the MDU proposal to impose fees on their customers who install distributed generation with net metering on their homes or businesses.

During the last legislative session, the discussion centered on whether net metering creates costs or benefits for non-net metering customers and the system as a whole. This is an important question for IOUs and co-ops alike in determining their policies with regard to net-metering and distributed generation. To answer these questions, the legislature directed the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee to study the matter, and ETIC has committed itself to a thorough and rigorous study.

Any action by the PSC on MDU's proposal would be premature until the ETIC study and report is completed in September 2016. It would be grossly unfair to charge net-metering customers extra if their distributed generation investments actually benefited the entire system. If they are imposing costs, the fees and/or credits need to fairly reflect those costs. The legislature refused to expand net-metering in the absence of this information and the PSC should do the same. A precipitous and premature decision would set unfortunate precedent.

Montanans deserve public policy based on the best available scientific and economic analysis. The ETIC study will provide such analysis, and show what unanswered questions remain. I urge the PSC to defer action on MDU's proposal until the study is completed.

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