




 Committee of Consumer Services  



PUBLIC MEETING

**Utah Committee of
Consumer Services**

March 21, 2023



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Case Updates

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Case Updates

- Centurylink petition to be relieved from COLR obligations
 - Parties in discussions
 - Likely to be withdrawn and refiled (or at least updated)
- PacifiCorp Integrated Resource Plan
 - March 31, 2023 – File preliminary 2023 IRP with the Commission on an informational basis with non-confidential information
 - April: one final stakeholder meeting and opportunity for stakeholders to provide PacifiCorp with feedback on draft IRP
 - May 31, 2023 – File final 2023 IRP (delayed from typical March 31 deadline)
- Community Renewable Program
 - Discussions ongoing
 - Key issues remain to be decided in agreement between the communities and Rocky Mountain Power
 - Low income programs are somewhat defined
 - Valuation of the resource differences has not yet been addressed

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Ongoing Cases

- Collaborative stakeholder process for Rocky Mountain Power's Grid Modernization and Rate Design
- PacifiCorp MSP
- Export Credit Proceeding (awaiting Supreme Court order)
- DEU and RMP demand side management
- Ongoing State and Regional Forums
- Participation in national association (NASUCA)

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New and Upcoming Cases

- PSC review of existing rules and new rules associated with legislation
- Rocky Mountain Power:
 - Various small reports
 - REC Balancing Account
 - Next Energy Balancing Account filed May 1
- Dominion Energy Utah:
 - Revisions to Rural Expansion Projects
 - Pass-through (May/June)
- Telecom:
 - Additional ETC requests
- Other projects
 - File organization/library almost finished
 - Next: build on some old files found and create some historical records
 - Increase focus on regional issues and cross training



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Upcoming CCS Discussions

- Net metering
- Community Renewable Program
- Historic records?
- Regional activities?
- Other?

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2023 Legislative Session Recap

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2023 Legislative Session: Bills that Didn't Pass

- No language released
 - Utah Clean Energy Fund
 - Renewable Energy Projects Amendments
 - Energy Project Funding Amendments
- No committee hearing
 - HB123 Broadband Service Amendments (became SB102)
 - [HB0535](#) Wind Energy Facility Siting Modifications
 - [SB0102](#) Broadband Service Modifications
- Committee hearing then sent to interim
 - [SB0190](#) Utility Shut off Protection Amendments
 - [SB0211](#) **Net Metering Energy Amendments**
- Voted down in committee or only passed one body
 - [HJR025](#) Joint Resolution Highlighting the Hazards of Net-zero Energy
 - [HB0407S03](#) Incentives Amendments
 - [SB0249](#) Electric Energy Storage Amendments



Note: bills OCS took position on in bold

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2023 Legislative Session: Bills that Passed

- [HB0220S04](#) Emissions Reduction Amendments
- [HB0370S04](#) Utility Infrastructure Amendments
- [HB0389S01](#) Electrical Power Delivery Quality Amendments
- [HB0425S04](#) **Energy Security Amendments**
- [HB0426S03](#) Statewide Energy Policy Amendments
- [HCR009](#) Concurrent Resolution Concerning the Shutdown of Utah's Power by the Federal Government
- [SB0097S02](#) Public Contract Requirements
- [SB0288](#) **Utility Bill Assistance Program**
- [SCR009](#) Concurrent Resolution Opposing Efforts to Weaken the Economy or Restrict Energy Supply

Note: bills OCS took position on in bold


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Follow up on Low Income Discussion

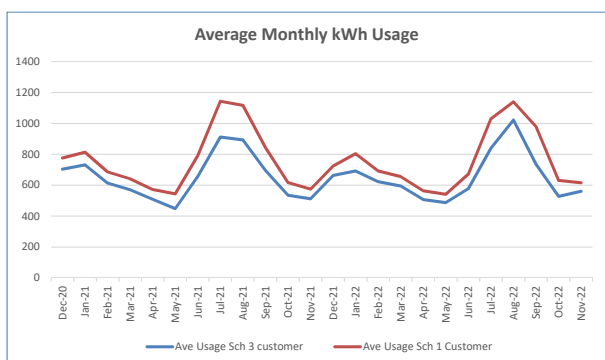
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Initial Observations



- DWS data suggests that only between 5 and 7% of income qualified Utah households are currently served by utility assistance programs (much lower than the already low national estimates)
- Schedule 3 (low income) Rocky Mountain Power customers comprise about 2 – 2.5% of RMP residential customers
- Schedule 1 customers' average monthly usage is between 9 and 33% higher than Schedule 3 customers.
- Well below one percent of Schedule 3 customers participate in Subscriber Solar, but between 4 and 5 % participate in Blue Sky
- A small number of outliers procure a shockingly high number of Blue Sky blocks, whereas the vast majority purchase 5 or fewer blocks.

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Usage Comparison: Schedule 1 and Schedule 3



Month	Ave Usage Sch 3 customer (kWh)	Ave Usage Sch 1 Customer (kWh)
Dec-20	700	800
Jan-21	750	850
Feb-21	650	700
Mar-21	600	650
Apr-21	550	600
May-21	500	550
Jun-21	750	850
Jul-21	900	1150
Aug-21	900	1100
Sep-21	600	700
Oct-21	550	650
Nov-21	500	600
Dec-21	700	800
Jan-22	750	850
Feb-22	650	700
Mar-22	600	650
Apr-22	550	600
May-22	500	550
Jun-22	750	850
Jul-22	900	1150
Aug-22	1000	1100
Sep-22	600	700
Oct-22	550	650
Nov-22	500	600

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Low Income Participants in Voluntary Rate Programs

Blue Sky:

- Between approximately 680 and 1100 Schedule 3 (low income) customers participate in the voluntary rate associated with the Blue Sky program
- This is between 4 and 5% of the total low income customers



Subscriber Solar:

- Between 22 and 23 Schedule 3 (low income) customers participate in the voluntary rate associated with the Subscriber Solar program
- This represents approximately 1/10th of a percent of total low income customers



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Recommendations

- Continue with current positions regarding Schedule 3 eligibility to participate
- Continue to monitor participation rates
- Consider follow up on maximum Blue Sky blocks
- As new rate options for residential customers are developed, consider whether it is appropriate for Schedule 3 customers to be eligible to participate. (For example: time of use rates and low income discounts might not be appropriate to be mutually exclusive.)
- Other discussion or recommendations?



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Utility Pricing Update

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Updates: Dominion Energy Utah

- Latest rate increase went into effect March 1 – an increase that would result in an 11% annual bill increase for the average residential customer
- Since summer 2020, over 50% increase in annual natural gas bills for residential customers
- Since summer 2020, approx. 120% increase in the commodity portion of the rates
- Despite these increases, significant balances of unrecovered rates remain
- DEU is working with DPU and OCS to discuss options for collection of addition balances and short/medium/long-term solutions to reduce price risks for customers

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Updates: Rocky Mountain Power


- Last year's Energy Balancing Account (calendar year 2021, interim rates went into effect May 1, 2022) true-up was somewhat high (around \$90M)
- The Q3 report for this year's EBA shows almost \$120M of uncollected net power costs, but the report does not include Q4 or some of the revenue offsets
- EBA true up for calendar year 2022 will be filed May 1, 2023
- Interim rates will go into effect July 1, 2023, likely to be at least an increase of 1.5 – 3%

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Guest Presentation on Natural Gas Prices

Will Schwarzenbach,
Dominion Energy Utah

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Other Business/Adjourn
