

Rocky Mountain Power  
Docket No. 14-035-114  
Witness: Joelle R. Steward

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF UTAH

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER

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Rebuttal Testimony of Joelle R. Steward

July 2017

1 **Q. Are you the same Joelle R. Steward who presented direct testimony in this**  
2 **proceeding?**

3 A. Yes I am.

4 **Purpose and Summary of Rebuttal Testimony**

5 **Q. What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony?**

6 A. My rebuttal testimony is comprised of three sections. In Section I, I respond to the  
7 direct testimony submitted by other parties on June 8, 2017, related to the Company's  
8 proposed changes to the net metering program and new rates for net metering  
9 customers. Specifically, I respond to testimony submitted by the Division of Public  
10 Utilities ("DPU") witnesses Dr. Artie Powell and Stan Faryniarz; the Office of  
11 Consumer Services ("OCS") witnesses Michele Beck, James Daniel, and Danny  
12 Martinez; the Energy Freedom Coalition of America ("EFCA") witness Eliah  
13 Gilfenbaum; Utah Clean Energy ("UCE") witness Melissa Whited; Vote Solar  
14 witnesses Dr. David DeRamus and Rick Gilliam; Vivint Solar witnesses Thomas  
15 Plagemann and Richard Collins; and Sierra Club witness Allison Clements.

16 In Section II, I present the Company's revised rate design proposal. The revised  
17 rate design proposal includes optional energy-based time-of-use ("TOU") rates in  
18 addition to the demand-based time of use rates.

19 In Section III, I discuss a succession program to net metering.

20 **Q. Please summarize your general observations from the other parties' direct**  
21 **testimony.**

22 A. The majority of parties appear to recognize that net metering ("NEM") as we know it  
23 today is not sustainable in the long-run, or that at least some level of change is

24 warranted, particularly related to how exported energy is compensated. There is,  
25 however, a wide difference of opinion on the timing and scope of necessary change.  
26 The DPU and the OCS, who concur with the Company's findings from the compliance  
27 analysis that the costs of NEM exceed its benefits, recommend that the Commission  
28 lower the cap on the NEM program in this proceeding and move to a new program  
29 model. For the new program, they recommend that the Commission initiate a new  
30 proceeding to develop a formulaic rate to compensate customers for exported power  
31 from on-site generation while giving different treatment to rates for energy consumed  
32 from the grid.<sup>1</sup> While not going as far as the DPU and OCS in their recommendations,  
33 many of the other parties implicitly acknowledge that the current NEM program is  
34 problematic, particularly the export rate.<sup>2</sup> EFCA, for instance, argues that the value  
35 could be higher than the retail rate.<sup>3</sup> Many parties also cite the contentious debates that  
36 have been occurring around the country related to proposed changes to net metering  
37 and the ensuing uncertainty and confusion for all stakeholders.<sup>4</sup> In all, the parties'  
38 arguments demonstrate the need for clear direction from the Commission on changes  
39 to the current ratemaking model for customers with private generation, and the timing  
40 for the changes. While the Company supports the recommendation of the DPU and

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<sup>1</sup> OCS witness Michele Beck Direct Testimony, ll. 323-433; DPU witness Artie Powell, Ph.D. Direct Testimony, ll. 454-582.

<sup>2</sup> *See e.g.*, EFCA argues that adjusting the export rate may resolve the Company's concerns requiring a separate class. EFCA witness Eliah Gilfenbaum Direct Testimony, ll. 414-20. UCE recommends that, if a change in the NEM program is necessary, compensation for excess generation should be reduced. UCE witness Melissa Whited Direct Testimony, ll. 559-63. Vivint proposes an alternative that would step down the value for exported energy. Vivint Solar witness Thomas Plagemann Direct Testimony, ll. 281-3. Vote Solar proposes a declining compensation rate for net excess energy to address the Company's concerns about cost shifting. Vote Solar witness Rick Gilliam Direct Testimony, ll. 760-3.

<sup>3</sup> Gilfenbaum Direct Testimony, ll. 483-9.

<sup>4</sup> *See e.g.*, Sierra Club witness Alison Clements Direct Testimony, ll. 690-982. Plagemann Direct Testimony, ll. 32-47. Vivint Solar witness Dan Black Direct Testimony, ll. 112-38.

41 OCS to lower the cap on the NEM program and begin the transition to a new program  
42 now, which I discuss in more detail in Section III, the majority of my rebuttal testimony  
43 specifically addresses the NEM program that is the subject of this proceeding, and the  
44 Company's proposed changes to that program to minimize cost shifting.

45 **Q. Please summarize your rebuttal testimony.**

46 A. In Section I, I continue to support the need for a separate class and rate design for  
47 residential NEM customers in order to eliminate the cost shifting that occurs and to  
48 send correct price signals. I show that other parties' attempts to argue that the data does  
49 not support a separate class are without merit. For the proposed rate design, I rebut the  
50 arguments that transformers should not be included in the customer charge, that a  
51 minimum bill provides a solution to cost shifting, that demand charges are  
52 inappropriate, and that the proposed rates will result in unacceptable bill increases for  
53 NEM customers. I also continue to support the need for elimination of the average retail  
54 rate option for large non-residential customers, showing that the average retail rate  
55 option is in excess of benefits. Regarding the Company's proposed application fees, I  
56 continue to support the proposed \$60 fee for Level 1 interconnections, which no party  
57 opposed, but withdraw the request for increases in Level 2 and 3 interconnection fees  
58 at this time. Lastly, I provide additional details on the Company's proposed deferral for  
59 incremental revenue from Schedule 5.

60 In Section II, I present updated rates for residential NEM customers. In addition  
61 to the time of use demand-based rates I presented in my direct testimony, I propose an  
62 optional TOU energy-based rate for NEM customers. The TOU energy-based rate  
63 option includes a \$28 per month customer charge in order to better track costs. For the

64 TOU demand-based rate, the customer charge has been updated to \$13 per month,  
65 based on the updated cost of service results presented by Company witness Robert M.  
66 Meredith.

67 In Section III, I support the proposal by the DPU to lower the cap on the current  
68 NEM program and develop a new successor program for private generation. The new  
69 program would provide a separate compensation rate for all exported energy.

70 **I. Rebuttal of Other Parties Direct Testimony**

71 **Q. Please explain how your rebuttal of other parties' direct testimony is organized.**

72 A. I organized this section around the issues I addressed in my direct testimony:

- 73 • Whether residential NEM customers should be in a separate class;
- 74 • Rate design for residential NEM customers;
- 75 • Non-residential excess energy credits;
- 76 • Proposed application fees; and
- 77 • The proposed deferral for any incremental revenues from the proposed  
78 residential rate design.

79 NEM Customer Class

80 **Q. Please summarize other parties' positions on whether residential NEM customers  
81 should be in a separate rate class.**

82 A. DPU witnesses Dr. Powell and Mr. Faryniarz present analyses on differences in usage  
83 characteristics of residential NEM customers compared to non-NEM customers, and  
84 argue that these differences may not conclusively support the need to establish  
85 residential NEM customers into separate class today.<sup>5</sup> However, the DPU identifies

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<sup>5</sup> Powell Direct Testimony, ll. 58-61; DPU witness Stan Faryniarz Direct Testimony, ll. 90-4.

86 aspects of NEM that indicate a separate class may be important.<sup>6</sup> The OCS agrees with  
87 the Company that NEM customers have different usage characteristics than other  
88 residential customers, but does not believe it is necessary to create a separate NEM  
89 customer class.<sup>7</sup> EFCA, USEA, Vote Solar, and UCE oppose the creation of a separate  
90 class for NEM customers, arguing that the behind-the-meter reduction should be treated  
91 similar to other types of energy efficiency, that analysis excluding crediting shows  
92 similar usage as non-NEM customers, and that the differences are no more significant  
93 than the differences between other intra-class subsidies that occur.<sup>8</sup>

94 **Q. How do you respond to the DPU's testimony?**

95 A. I appreciate the additional statistical analysis the DPU has contributed to the record;  
96 however, unlike the DPU, I find the DPU's analysis supports the creation of a separate  
97 residential NEM class now, particularly when considering that residential NEM  
98 customers significantly underpay the costs of serving and therefore shift costs to other  
99 customers. In addition, NEM customers fundamentally use the system differently—to  
100 back-up their own generation, akin to partial requirements customers, and to export the  
101 generation that exceeds their immediate needs. As such, changing the current structure  
102 by creating a separate class for NEM customers is in the public interest.

103 **Q. How do the DPU's usage and cost of service characteristics analyses support the**  
104 **creation for a separate residential NEM class?**

105 A. First, Dr. Powell presents analyses that confirm that:

106 (1) The customer profiles between residential NEM and non-NEM are distinct

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<sup>6</sup> Powell Direct Testimony, ll. 272-80.

<sup>7</sup> Beck Direct Testimony, ll. 70-4.

<sup>8</sup> See e.g., Gilfenbaum Direct Testimony, ll. 51-5, 374-420. Whited Direct Testimony, ll. 51-4, 357-62. Stanley Direct Testimony, ll. 197-210. DeRamus Direct Testimony, ll. 85-101. Gilliam Direct Testimony, ll. 661-72.

- 107 despite the similarity of their average usage;
- 108 (2) The rate of change in usage by NEM customers during the day is
- 109 significantly larger than non-NEM customers;
- 110 (3) The variation in load factors for NEM customers is greater; and
- 111 (4) NEM customers have notably lower load factors.<sup>9</sup>

112 These markers indicate that residential NEM customers have different

113 characteristics or, at the very least, that differences in rate design treatment may be

114 warranted to better address these differences among customers.

115 Second, Dr. Powell notes that separating NEM customers from the residential

116 class may better capture the benefits NEM customers bring to the system, allowing the

117 design of their rates to reflect those benefits.<sup>10</sup> In this regard, Table 1 below shows the

118 differences in the unit costs by function between non-NEM and NEM residential

119 customers. NEM customers have an overall lower cost of service, particularly in the

120 generation and transmission functions, once the one-time program administration costs

121 are removed. Accordingly, these lower costs would be passed on to NEM customers

122 through lower rates in a separate class rather than diluted as part of the larger residential

123 class.

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<sup>9</sup> Powell Direct Testimony, ll. 315-439.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* at ll. 440-50.

Table 1.

Annual Functional Costs per Customer			
	Residential Non-Net Metering	Residential Net Metering	Percentage Difference
Generation	\$580	\$468	-19%
Transmission	\$136	\$127	-6%
Distribution	\$240	\$238	-1%
Retail	\$40	\$57	43%
Miscellaneous	\$5	\$4	-5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$894</b>	<b>-11%</b>

124 Third, Mr. Faryniarz demonstrates that NEM compensation for exported power  
125 at a retail rate that exceeds net power costs results in the significantly lower parity to  
126 cost of service than non-NEM customers, and therefore results in a net cost to other  
127 customers.<sup>11</sup> Correcting this cost shift under the NEM regime requires a different rate  
128 design for NEM customers that better balances cost of service for consumption from  
129 the system with compensation for exported power.

130 **Q. EFCA witness Mr. Gilfenbaum and Vote Solar witnesses Dr. DeRamus and Mr.**  
131 **Gilliam argue that a separate class should not be created because once**  
132 **compensation for exported power is removed, NEM customers are providing**  
133 **approximately the same contribution to cost of service as non-NEM and that it is**  
134 **normal for there to be a small amount of variation within a customer class.<sup>12</sup> Do**  
135 **you agree?**

136 **A.** No. First, excluding compensation for exported power is irrelevant because NEM  
137 equates compensation for exported power with retail rates. Utah Code Ann. § 54-15-

<sup>11</sup> Faryniarz Direct Testimony, ll. 775-855.

<sup>12</sup> Gilfenbaum Direct Testimony, ll. 374-420; DeRamus Direct Testimony, ll. 746-750; Gilliam Direct Testimony, ll. 417-25.



138 104 requires netting of exported power against consumption within a billing period  
139 except for “excess customer-generated electricity,” which is defined in Utah Code Ann.  
140 § 54-15-102(6) as the customer-generated electricity in excess of the customers  
141 consumption during the monthly billing period. In other words, only the kWh output  
142 that exceeds the usage during the billing period (i.e., is banked), may be credited at a  
143 different value that is at least avoided cost. Only about 6 percent of exported power is  
144 banked; therefore, even if the Commission adjusted the compensation rate for excess  
145 energy, as allowed under the law, the vast majority of exported power would be  
146 compensated at the retail rate.<sup>13</sup>

147 Second, for the reasons discussed above, I disagree that the variations in usage  
148 characteristics between NEM and non-NEM are insignificant and should be dismissed,  
149 particularly when considering the inadequacies of the current rate design to recover  
150 costs. Also, looking at just the contribution to the class cost of service (even if  
151 compensation for exported power is excluded), or at just load factor, will not show if  
152 the rate design is actually sending an economic price signal or whether the design is  
153 capable of distinguishing between different service requirements within the class. Net  
154 metering customers have distinguished themselves through a variety of factors as I  
155 outlined above, some of which result in higher costs and others in lower costs.

156 **Q. OCS witness Ms. Beck states that, while she agrees that NEM customers have a**  
157 **different usage characteristic, a separate class is not needed. How do you respond?**

158 A. Keeping NEM in the same class but requiring different rate designs for NEM customers  
159 does not fully capture the differences and actually results in higher rates for NEM

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<sup>13</sup> This also provides perspective on UCE's recommendation that if any change is made it be limited to excess generation. Whited Direct Testimony, ll. 599-603.

160 customers since the benefits of the NEM class are diluted in the larger class. In addition,  
161 keeping NEM customers in the current residential class, particularly as the number of  
162 NEM customers grows, will increase the intra-class cost shifting and mask the price  
163 signal for the value of exported power.

164 **Q. Vote Solar witness Dr. DeRamus argues that the NEM customers, who are**  
165 **typically higher use customers before installing distributed generation, are**  
166 **responding to the rates established by the Commission to discourage high levels**  
167 **of usage so NEM customers should not be singled out. Further, he argues that**  
168 **conflating costs with monthly energy consumption rather than peak load is a**  
169 **problem with the overall rates, not with NEM customers per se.<sup>14</sup> Do you agree?**

170 A. To some extent, I agree with Dr. DeRamus on this point. Indeed, there are problems  
171 with the current residential rate structure that cause high use customers to subsidize  
172 other customers with the tiered rate design. However, I don't believe that justifies  
173 keeping the current rate structure for the NEM program, particularly in light of the  
174 required detailed review and evaluation the Commission has sought through this  
175 proceeding. NEM customers are not merely akin to customers reducing usage through  
176 energy efficiency. High-use customers do not stop being high use consumers, but  
177 instead offset a portion of their requirements with private generation, which requires a  
178 back-up from the utility. NEM also requires compensation for exported energy at rates  
179 in excess of comparable or competitively-priced energy. Together, these differences  
180 lead to a significant under-recovery of costs through the NEM program, not just typical  
181 lost margins associated with energy efficiency programs. The uniqueness of the NEM

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<sup>14</sup> DeRamus Direct Testimony, ll. 402-36.

182 program, and customers with on-site generation, has already been established and  
183 therefore it is appropriate to address changes for these customers.

184 **Q. Dr. DeRamus argues that NEM customers' load factors are not different from**  
185 **those of non-NEM customers.<sup>15</sup> Is this true?**

186 A. No. Mr. DeRamus applied the Kolmogorov-Smirnov (“KS”) test to assert that NEM  
187 and non-NEM load factors are not significantly different from one another. The KS  
188 indeed tests whether two distributions are significantly different from one another.  
189 However, it is documented that when testing small sample sizes the power of the KS  
190 test is limited.<sup>16</sup> Comparing the annual load factors for NEM and non-NEM customers,  
191 as Dr. DeRamus did, provides a sample size of 52 NEM customers, which is not  
192 sufficient for the KS test. If Dr. DeRamus’s claim that there is no difference in load  
193 factors between the groups is true, this should be true when comparing monthly load  
194 factors. Therefore, the Company calculated the monthly load factors for NEM and  
195 non-NEM customers from the data provided in response to a data request provided to  
196 the DPU (DPU DR 4.3). Using the monthly load factors increases the observations  
197 from 52 to 621. The Company applied the KS test to the monthly load factors from  
198 both groups—NEM and non-NEM. Applying the KS test to the two customer samples  
199 results in a p-value of 0.0024, lower than the 0.1 standard, meaning that there are  
200 significant differences between the distributions of observations of the two samples.

201 This is consistent with the finding by the DPU using the KS test.<sup>17</sup> Applying the KS

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<sup>15</sup> *Id.* at ll. 935-46.

<sup>16</sup> Razali, Nornadiah M. and Bee Wah Yap, January 2011, *Power Comparisons of Shapiro-Wilk, Kolmogorov-Smirnov, Lilliefors and Anderson-Darling Tests*, Journal of Statistical Modeling and Analytics, Vol 2, No.1, 21-33.

<sup>17</sup> Powell Direct Testimony, ll. 354-6.

202 test to compare monthly load factors for NEM customers and non-NEM customers  
203 demonstrates that the distribution of load factors between the two groups is statistically  
204 different.

205 **Q. What analysis did Ms. Whited prepare to support her belief that residential net  
206 metering customers should not be on a separate class?**

207 A. Ms. Whited provided her Figure 3 to purportedly show the hourly profiles on the peak  
208 day in 2015 (June 30, 2015) for all non-NEM customers whose maximum kW during  
209 that peak day was less than 10 kilowatts with the average profiles from the four strata  
210 from the residential NEM load research study.<sup>18</sup> She concludes that since the lines for  
211 the residential NEM strata are within the same general range as the individual hourly  
212 profiles for all other non-residential customers that “NEM customers are well within  
213 the range of other residential customers.”<sup>19</sup>

214 **Q. Does Ms. Whited’s Figure 3, along with her observation, provide any evidence that  
215 separate class treatment for residential net metering customers would be  
216 inappropriate?**

217 A. No. Ms. Whited’s Figure 3 is not an apples to apples comparison of non-NEM and  
218 NEM residential customers. There are numerous ways in which the information that  
219 she compares for non-NEM customers is on a different basis than for NEM customers.  
220 She removes larger non-NEM customers but does not do the same for NEM customers.  
221 She shows every single individual sample profile for non-NEM customers, but only  
222 shows average strata profiles for NEM customers. For NEM customers, the different  
223 strata are shown separately, but non-NEM profiles are just shown in one blue jumble.

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<sup>18</sup> Whited Direct Testimony, ll. 291-301.

<sup>19</sup> *Id.* at ll. 297-8.

224 Besides the inconsistency between the information she shows between NEM  
225 and non-NEM customers, the point she tries to make with her illustration is unclear and  
226 misleading. She shows that the average NEM strata profiles generally fall within the  
227 range provided by *all* non-NEM customers. Her illustration does not demonstrate that  
228 the overall profile shape for NEM customers is the same as for non-NEM customers.  
229 Using her logic, the profiles for a streetlight or a small irrigation customer could be  
230 shown to fall within the range of residential customers. Visually comparing an average  
231 from one set of customers to all possible data points from another set of customers is  
232 not useful.

233 Figure 3 in my direct testimony shows that the shapes for the overall profiles,  
234 which were prepared on a consistent basis for NEM and non-NEM customers are  
235 different on the peak day on June 30, 2015. Her analysis does nothing to refute this  
236 difference.

237 Residential NEM Rate Design

238 **Q. Please summarize parties' positions on the proposed rate design for residential**  
239 **NEM customers, which included a \$15 monthly customer charge, a demand**  
240 **charge during on-peak periods, and an energy charge.**

241 A. Parties generally opposed some or all of the Company's proposed rate design. The DPU  
242 opposes the proposed customer charge of \$15 per month but supports the consideration  
243 of both a demand charge and an alternative TOU energy-based option.<sup>20</sup> The OCS  
244 supports a different customer charge and a requirement for TOU rates in the next  
245 general rate case.<sup>21</sup> Sierra Club, UCE, Vivint Solar, and Vote Solar oppose the

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<sup>20</sup> Faryniarz Direct Testimony, ll. 1345-7.

<sup>21</sup> Beck Direct Testimony, ll. 600-4.

246 Company's proposed rate design, and in particular, argue that the demand charge is  
247 inappropriate for residential customers but offer some support for a TOU energy-based  
248 rate (but available to all residential customers).<sup>22</sup>

249 **Q. Is the Company proposing changes to the proposed rate design in this rebuttal**  
250 **filing?**

251 A. Yes. In Section II of my testimony, I explain the Company's changes to the proposed  
252 rate design. The Company is proposing to include an optional TOU energy option in  
253 addition to the TOU demand-based option for residential NEM customers.

254 **Q. Regarding the proposed customer charge, DPU witness Mr. Faryniarz argues that**  
255 **the cost of service for NEM customers does not support a higher customer charge**  
256 **that includes the costs of transformers, as proposed by the Company.<sup>23</sup> Similarly,**  
257 **OCS witness Mr. Martinez also opposes the inclusion of transformer costs in the**  
258 **customer charge.<sup>24</sup> Do you agree with their arguments?**

259 A. No. Both Mr. Faryniarz and Mr. Martinez rely on the Commission's 1985 method for  
260 determining customer charges, which limits the customer charge to only costs that serve  
261 individual customers, not costs for equipment that is shared by customers.<sup>25</sup> However,  
262 as DPU witness Dr. Powell notes: "rate-making must be sufficiently flexible to adapt  
263 to changing circumstances."<sup>26</sup> A strict adherence to a Commission determination 32  
264 years ago does not serve the public interest. The changes in technology, growth in

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<sup>22</sup> See e.g., Clements Direct Testimony, ll. 436-43. Whited Direct Testimony, ll. 48-50, 541-5, 564-8. Plagemann Direct Testimony, ll. 48-167. DeRamus Direct Testimony, ll. 102-18, 128-32. Gilliam Direct Testimony, ll. 79-85, 121-31.

<sup>23</sup> Faryniarz Direct Testimony, ll. 123-7.

<sup>24</sup> Martinez Direct Testimony, ll. 195-210.

<sup>25</sup> Martinez Direct Testimony, ll. 62-226; Faryniarz Direct Testimony, ll. 680-733.

<sup>26</sup> Powell Direct Testimony, ll. 201-2.

265 customer generation, and in particular, the present circumstance of net metering—  
 266 which over-simplistically equates the retail rate with a value for exported energy,  
 267 resulting in a cost shift to other customers—warrant a re-evaluation of the past  
 268 approach for a proper balance between price signals and cost recovery.<sup>27</sup>

269 As Table 1 above shows, functional cost of service differences between NEM  
 270 and non-NEM exist, with NEM customers exhibiting lower costs for generation and  
 271 transmission and higher costs for distribution and retail functions. The distribution  
 272 costs include substations, poles, wires, transformers, service drops, and meters. Table  
 273 2 provides a breakdown of the distribution costs and comparison to non-NEM  
 274 customers.

**Table 2.**

<b>Residential Customer Costs</b>			
	<b>Residential Non-Net Metering</b>	<b>Residential Net Metering</b>	<b>Percentage Difference</b>
<b>Transformer</b>	\$50.66	\$63.87	26%
<b>Meter</b>	\$7.83	\$14.67	87%
<b>Service</b>	\$32.25	\$38.09	18%
<b>Retail</b>	\$39.64	\$56.64	43%
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	\$4.54	\$4.32	-5%
<b>Annual Total</b>	\$134.93	\$177.59	32%
<b>Monthly Total</b>	\$11.24	\$14.80	32%

275 Table 2 shows that the most significant cost differences are in meters, transformers, and  
 276 retail, which excludes the costs to be recovered in the Company’s proposed application  
 277 fee. The Company proposes to include the transformer costs in the customer charge for

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<sup>27</sup> The Commission has recognized that changes to methodologies are warranted in light of changing conditions (see e.g., Docket No. 12-035-100, Order on Phase II Issues (August 16, 2013) p. 18, where the Commission justified changing the avoided costs methodology stating "... [t]his action will ensure our method for determining indicative prices will continue to reflect changing avoided costs in light of changing conditions ...")

278 NEM customers with the demand-based TOU rate proposal. As I discuss later, the  
279 Company is proposing a higher customer charge that includes all distribution system  
280 elements with its new proposed TOU energy option.

281 **Q. Please explain why NEM is a reasonable basis for the Commission to alter its past**  
282 **decisions for the calculation customer charges.**

283 A. The cost of service study shows that NEM results in a significant under-recovery of  
284 costs, which is largely due to using the retail rate to value exported energy. With the  
285 costs of infrastructure necessary to support customers' access to the grid included in  
286 volumetric rates, customers can offset charges for infrastructure they relied on for their  
287 own consumption through the NEM kWh netting and banking process. The majority of  
288 costs in rates reflect the embedded costs of the facilities in place and serving customers  
289 today, therefore, these are costs that do not go away, regardless of consumption levels.  
290 In fact, as Company witness Mr. Douglas L. Marx shows, rooftop solar does not  
291 necessarily lead to a reduction in the size of local distribution infrastructure because  
292 these customers use the distribution system for both consumption and export.  
293 Therefore, to ensure cost recovery from the individuals who rely on and benefit from  
294 this infrastructure, the costs must be removed from the volumetric charges.

295 **Q. The OCS recognizes a difference in meter costs between residential NEM and non-**  
296 **NEM customers and proposes a customer charge of \$8.50.<sup>28</sup> Please respond.**

297 A. The current minimum bill for residential customers is \$8.00 per month. So while I  
298 appreciate the OCS's recognition of cost differences for NEM customers, the proposal  
299 still leaves a significant portion of fixed costs subject to volumetric rates and

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<sup>28</sup> Martinez Direct Testimony, ll. 220-6.



300 netting/banking.

301 **Q. Vivint Solar argues that transformers should not be in the customer charge for**  
302 **NEM customers because Mr. Marx’s arguments that NEM customers put a**  
303 **greater burden on the grid are “a red herring and only applied in limited cases.”<sup>29</sup>**  
304 **Does the Company’s proposed customer charge reflect any additional costs for**  
305 **prospectively putting a greater burden on the grid, as Mr. Marx showed?**

306 A. No. While Mr. Marx shows that NEM can actually lead to the need for additional costs  
307 to support the excess energy placed on the grid, the Company’s proposed customer  
308 charge does not reflect any additional costs beyond those in the test period (scaled back  
309 to the final rates approved in the last general rate case). Therefore, Mr. Collins argument  
310 is misleading.

311 **Q. Vivint Solar argues that “a reasonable and small minimum bill” would be a better**  
312 **solution than a higher customer charge because it promotes conservation.<sup>30</sup> Do**  
313 **you agree?**

314 A. No. A minimum bill is often proposed as a solution in NEM proceedings, but is  
315 essentially a red herring because it makes it appear that the utility would get better fixed  
316 cost recovery. In reality however, unless the charge is set high enough, it produces  
317 insufficient revenue. For example, the Company’s current minimum bill is \$8.00 per  
318 month. A 50 percent increase in the minimum to \$12.00 per month for NEM customers  
319 would apply to only 3 percent more bills, based on the 2015 test period. In addition, it  
320 only “promotes conservation” in that it leaves recovery of fixed costs in the volumetric  
321 rate, regardless if that is actually an economic price signal.

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<sup>29</sup> Collins Direct Testimony, ll. 725-50.

<sup>30</sup> Plagemann Direct Testimony, ll. 84-93.

322 **Q. Do you agree with parties' arguments that demand charges for residential**  
323 **customers are inappropriate?**<sup>31</sup>

324 A. No. As several parties note, there is a growing interest by utilities across the country in  
325 incorporating demand changes into residential rate design due to changes in  
326 technology.<sup>32</sup> But arguments like the Sierra Club's that residential customers are "not  
327 in a position to respond to demand price signals" or that demand charges are simply  
328 too inconvenient are unfounded.<sup>33</sup> The Arizona Public Service Company has had  
329 voluntary TOU demand and energy options for residential customers for decades. A  
330 study published in 2016 looked at customers that switched from a TOU energy rate to  
331 a TOU demand-based rate and found that about 60 percent of customers were able to  
332 reduce their summer peak demand an average of 12.5 percent.<sup>34</sup> Responding to a  
333 demand signal would be a change for residential customers, but it does not mean  
334 demand charges are not appropriate or useful in this context. In fact, demand charges  
335 are a more appropriate, economic price signal than tiered energy rates, for the reasons  
336 I discussed in my direct testimony. Gaining an understanding to stagger appliance use  
337 during peak periods provides a more cost-causation-based price signal than just  
338 reducing overall usage.

339 Sierra Club claims that residential customers "have almost no perceptible  
340 impact on the grid based on their own individual usage" so therefore, "the grid would

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<sup>31</sup> Clements Direct Testimony, ll. 309-57; Whited Direct Testimony, ll. 363-512; Plagemann Direct Testimony, ll. 102-4.

<sup>32</sup> Clements Direct Testimony, ll. 339-46. Whited Direct Testimony, ll. 484-512. Plagemann Direct Testimony, ll. 32-6, 100-2.

<sup>33</sup> Clements Direct Testimony, ll. 329-57.

<sup>34</sup> Leland R. Snook and Meghan H. Grabel, *Dispelling the myths of residential rate reform: Why an evolving grid requires a modern approach to electricity pricing*, THE ENERGY LAW J. 29:3 (Apr. 2016) at 72-76.

341 barely notice unless hundreds or thousands of other customers did the same thing at the  
342 same time,”<sup>35</sup> and compares this to an industrial customer. This ignores the fact the all  
343 non-residential classes, other than lighting, are subject to demand charges, not just large  
344 industrial customers and that applying the on-peak demand price signal to hundreds or  
345 thousands of customers is precisely how to discourage more costly on-peak usage. An  
346 individual customer reducing usage to the peak period demand price signal is of more  
347 value to the grid than if the same customer merely reduces his or her usage by the  
348 corresponding amount in non-peak periods during a billing month in response to tiered  
349 energy rates.

350 I similarly disagree with UCE witness Ms. Whited’s arguments that demand  
351 charges reduce incentives for energy efficiency, that a reduction in energy charges will  
352 lead to an increase in usage, and that the demand charges violate the Bonbright  
353 principle of simplicity.<sup>36</sup> While demand charges are a different signal for residential  
354 customers, they are still a price signal for efficiency—a more targeted and valuable  
355 signal for efficiency than tiered rates. The Company’s proposed rate design is also more  
356 simplistic than the current tiered rates and customers do not necessarily respond to  
357 individual billing components, but to average prices or overall bills.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> Clements Direct Testimony, ll. 322-26.

<sup>36</sup> Whited Direct Testimony, ll. 457-66.

<sup>37</sup> Koichiro Ito, *Do Consumers Respond to Marginal or Average Price? Evidence from Nonlinear Electricity Pricing*, Energy Institute at Haas (October 2012).

358 **Q. Several witnesses argue that if there were a new rate design adopted for customer**  
359 **generators, a residential TOU energy-based rate rather than a demand-based rate**  
360 **would be more appropriate.<sup>38</sup> How do you respond?**

361 A. In this rebuttal filing, the Company is proposing to offer an optional energy-based TOU  
362 rate in addition to the demand-based TOU rate initially proposed. The proposed rates  
363 are described in Section II of my testimony. These two options will help customers  
364 adjust to new time-based price signals and ultimately choose the rate that most  
365 advantageously reflects his or her desired consumption.

366 **Q. Several parties argue that the proposed new rates will result in an unacceptable**  
367 **bill increase for NEM customers.<sup>39</sup> Do you agree?**

368 A. No. The increase is only in comparison to what would otherwise occur. Put otherwise,  
369 just because a bill increases to an amount that is actually reflective of the costs imposed  
370 by a customer does not mean that the increase is unacceptable. In this context, as the  
371 Company's cost of service analysis shows, NEM customers have been receiving a  
372 windfall under the current program and have been paying substantially less than their  
373 cost of service. In addition, it's not an actual increase to customers because the  
374 Company proposes to apply Schedule 5 rate to only *new* NEM customers (submitting  
375 applications after December 9, 2016). When a customer opts for NEM after this  
376 proceeding, the overall average bill result would still be a decrease, as shown on pages  
377 2 and 3 in Exhibit RMP\_\_\_(JRS-1R).

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<sup>38</sup> Beck Direct Testimony, ll. 600-4; Daniel Direct Testimony, ll. 292-9; Whited Direct Testimony, ll. 564-8.

<sup>39</sup> Whited Direct Testimony, ll. 160-70. Clements Direct Testimony, ll. 358-414. Plagemann Direct Testimony, ll. 145-67.

378 Large Non-Residential Excess Energy Credits

379 **Q. Please summarize other parties' testimony in response to the Company's proposal**  
380 **to eliminate the option for the average retail rate credit for excess energy for large**  
381 **non-residential customers.**

382 A. Only the DPU and the OCS briefly addressed the Company's proposal in testimony.  
383 Mr. Faryniarz for the DPU doesn't make a specific recommendation but notes the  
384 importance of correctly valuing exports for all NEM customers, including non-  
385 residential.<sup>40</sup> For the OCS, Ms. Beck notes that it would be important to evaluate  
386 whether all NEM customers should receive the same compensation rate and whether  
387 additional changes are necessary in a post-NEM environment.<sup>41</sup>

388 **Q. Based on testimony, are you altering your proposal to eliminate the average retail**  
389 **rate option for large non-residential customers?**

390 A. No. As both the DPU and OCS note, there should be consideration of consistency in  
391 the value of exported energy across the classes, and the current large non-residential  
392 option for compensation of excess energy at the average retail rate is in excess of the  
393 benefits, and therefore should be eliminated. For example, Table 3 below compares the  
394 benefit of the net metering program at the system, state, and customer class level for  
395 Schedules 6, 8, and 10 from the updated analysis presented in Company witness Mr.  
396 Meredith's rebuttal testimony. This shows that the benefits provided by large non-  
397 residential net metering customers are all less than the average retail price option those  
398 customers can receive for their excess energy.

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<sup>40</sup> Faryniarz Direct Testimony, ll. 1197-1204.

<sup>41</sup> Beck Direct Testimony, ll. 466-73.

**Table 3**

<b>Benefit of the Net Metering Program (\$/MWh)</b>				
<b>At the System Level</b>	<b>At the State Level</b>	<b>At the Customer Class Level</b>		
		<b>Schedule 6</b>	<b>Schedule 8</b>	<b>Schedule 10</b>
27.18	57.21	54.12	69.88	45.80

<b>Average Retail Rate on Schedule 135 Special Condition 2.B.(iii) Effective July 1, 2016 (\$/MWh)</b>				
<b>Schedule 6</b>	<b>Schedule 6A</b>	<b>Schedule 6B</b>	<b>Schedule 8</b>	<b>Schedule 10</b>
84.50	117.87	108.91	75.51	75.62

- 399 **Q. If the average retail rates are more than the benefit of the net metering program,**  
400 **why isn't there a larger net cost for large non-residential customer classes?**
- 401 A. Schedule 6, Schedule 8, and Schedule 10 customers primarily receive value for their  
402 private generation through their onsite generation or the generation that is netted within  
403 the month at energy charges instead of at the full average retail rate. The full average  
404 retail rate is only available for excess credits that are banked from a prior month. Table  
405 4 below shows the average cost of bill credits for the large non-residential customer  
406 classes.

**Table 4**

<b>Net Metering Cost of Bill Credits (\$/MWh)</b>		
<b>Schedule 6</b>	<b>Schedule 8</b>	<b>Schedule 10</b>
46.82	38.55	46.52

407 Since large non-residential customers are subject to demand charges, the  
408 average cost of bill credits for these customer classes is well below the average retail  
409 rates shown in Table 3. The costs and benefits of the NEM program analysis shows a  
410 smaller net cost for large non-residential classes as compared to the residential class  
411 because of lower bill credit levels for large non-residential classes. This is a direct result  
412 of the more cost-based rate structures for large non-residential customers. The

413 Company recommends that the current rate structure for customers on Schedule 6, 6A,  
414 6B, 8, and 10 who choose to participate in the NEM program remain in place, since  
415 those structures do not cause these customers to pay amounts that are far off from what  
416 cost of service analysis indicates they should pay. Compensating these customers for a  
417 prior month's over-generation at a higher rate, however, has no basis in cost and should  
418 be eliminated as an option for future large non-residential NEM customers.

419 Application Fees

420 **Q. Did any party oppose the Company's proposed waiver of R746-312-13 and the**  
421 **implementation of new application fees for Level 1 interconnection requests and**  
422 **changes to the fees for Levels 2 and 3?**

423 A. No party opposed the waiver and implementation of the \$60 application fee for Level  
424 1 interconnection requests. The OCS, however, recommended that the proposed  
425 increases in the Level 2 and 3 fees should stay the same until the next general rate case.  
426 The OCS also recommends that the Commission consider a formal rulemaking to  
427 review R746-312-13 on a longer-term basis.<sup>42</sup>

428 **Q. Do you agree with the recommendations by the OCS?**

429 A. In part. The Company can agree to withdraw the proposed increases for Level 2 and 3  
430 interconnection applications at this time. The Company also supports the OCS's  
431 recommendation for the Commission to consider a formal rulemaking to review R746-  
432 312-13 on a longer-term basis. In fact, an update to the rule section may be appropriate  
433 to address the availability of battery storage at customer locations, in addition to  
434 interconnection of generation facilities. However, the Company believes that the

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<sup>42</sup> Martinez Direct Testimony, ll. 295-321.

435 rulemaking may consider changes in costs for Level 2 and 3, not just limit a change in  
436 fees to a general rate case as these are set in rules.

437 Proposed Deferral for Incremental Revenue from Schedule 5

438 **Q. Did any party comment on the Company's proposed deferral for incremental**  
439 **revenue from Schedule 5?**

440 A. Only one. The OCS opposes the Company's proposal to establish deferred accounting  
441 for any incremental amount associated with new rates until the next general rate case.  
442 The OCS witness Mr. Daniel argues that the proposal does not include enough  
443 information or specifics on the deferral account for the Commission to make a decision.  
444 The OCS's questions include: how will the increased revenues be calculated; when,  
445 and over what period would the increased revenues be returned to customers; how will  
446 the increased revenues be assigned or allocated to customer classes; and will there be  
447 a true-up provision and, if so, how will it work?<sup>43</sup>

448 **Q. How would the Company calculate the revenue difference?**

449 A. Each month, the billing components would be extracted for Schedule 5 customers from  
450 the billing system. From those billing components, actual base revenue under Schedule  
451 5 and what base revenue would have been under Schedule 1 would be calculated and  
452 compared. The incremental difference between Schedule 5 revenue and Schedule 1  
453 revenue for all bills during the month would be applied to the balancing account, plus  
454 any carrying charge on the balance. The Company would use the carrying charge rate  
455 approved by the Commission in Docket No. 15-035-69. Exhibit RMP\_\_\_\_(JRS-2R)  
456 provides an example of the calculation.

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<sup>43</sup> Daniel Direct Testimony, ll. 317-68.



457                   The Company would begin the deferral once customers begin taking service on  
458                   Schedule 5, following the first monthly billing. The deferral would continue with all  
459                   customer billings until the effective date of the Company's next general rate case.

460 **Q.    When and over what period does the Company propose to return the deferral to**  
461 **customers?**

462 A.    The Company proposes to begin amortizing the deferral at the time of the next general  
463       rate case. The Company would make a specific proposal in the general rate case filing,  
464       including, the proposed period over which to amortize the balance. Other parties would  
465       be able to propose an alternative at that time as well.

466 **Q.    How does the Company propose to allocate the deferral balance to customer**  
467 **classes?**

468 A.    The deferral revenue balance would be allocated back to the residential Schedule 1  
469       class.

470 **Q.    Does the Company propose a true-up provision?**

471 A.    The Company would make a specific proposal in the next general rate case filing. If  
472       amortization is embedded in base rates, there would not be a true-up. If the amortization  
473       is done through a separate adjustment, a true-up provision would likely be included.  
474       The size of a deferral balance is a factor that the Company would consider at the time  
475       of the next general rate case as it makes its proposal for amortization.

## 476 **II. Revised Schedule 5 Rate Design**

477 **Q.    Is the Company proposing any changes to the originally proposed Schedule 5**  
478 **rates?**

479 A.    Yes. The Company has two changes to the Schedule 5 rates I proposed in direct

480 testimony. First, the Company updated the Schedule 5 TOU demand-based rates in the  
 481 initial filing based upon the updated NEM Breakout COS analysis presented by  
 482 Company witness Mr. Meredith in his rebuttal testimony. The rates are calculated using  
 483 the same logic as discussed in my direct testimony, but they also reflect a correction to  
 484 the billing units for the on-peak demand charge.<sup>44</sup> Table 5 below shows the updated  
 485 prices compared to the proposed prices presented in direct testimony. The updates and  
 486 the correction to the demand charge billing units result in reductions to the customer,  
 487 demand, and energy charges as compared to Company’s direct filing.

**Table 5 – Proposed Prices Compared to Prices Proposed in Direct Filing**

<b>Schedule 5 - Residential Service for Customer Generators</b>		
	<b>Proposed Price</b>	
	<b>Direct Filing</b>	<b>Revised Rebuttal Filing</b>
<b>Customer Charge</b>		
<b>1 Phase</b>	\$15.00	\$13.00
<b>3 Phase</b>	\$30.00	\$26.00
<b>Demand Charge</b>		
<b>On-peak (\$/kW)*</b>	\$9.02	\$8.25
<b>Energy Charges</b>		
<b>All kWh (¢/kWh)*</b>	3.8143	3.6374
*On-peak periods: Monday-Friday (except holidays) October - April: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. May - September: 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.		

488 **Q. What is the second proposed change to Schedule 5?**

489 A. In response to the testimonies of other parties, the Company proposes to include an  
 490 optional TOU energy-based rate in addition to the TOU demand-based rate. Providing  
 491 both a demand-focused TOU option and an energy-focused TOU option gives

<sup>44</sup> See Joelle R. Steward Direct Testimony, ll. 289-304 and 399-422.

492 customers more flexibility to choose an option that works for their household.

493 **Q. How were the rates designed for the energy focused TOU option?**

494 A. The off-peak energy charge was set to the same 3.6374 cents per kilowatt hour energy  
495 charge as in the demand focused TOU option, and the customer charge was set at \$28  
496 per month instead of \$13 per month. The on-peak energy charge was then set to recover  
497 the remaining revenue requirement. The on- and off-peak TOU periods are identical  
498 between both options. Table 6 shows the proposed prices for both of the Company's  
499 proposed options.

**Table 6**

Schedule 5 - Residential Service for Customer Generators		
	Proposed Price	
	Option 1 - Demand Focused Time-of-Use	Option 2 - Energy Focused Time-of-Use
<b>Customer Charge</b>		
<b>1 Phase</b>	\$13.00	\$28.00
<b>3 Phase</b>	\$26.00	\$56.00
<b>Demand Charge</b>		
<b>On-peak (\$/kW)*</b>	\$8.25	N/A
<b>Energy Charges</b>		
<b>On-peak kWh (¢/kWh)*</b>	3.6374	28.5533
<b>Off-peak kWh (¢/kWh)*</b>	3.6374	3.6374
*On-peak periods: Monday-Friday (except holidays) October - April: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. May - September: 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.		

500 **Q. Why is the Company proposing a higher customer charge for the energy focused**  
501 **TOU option?**

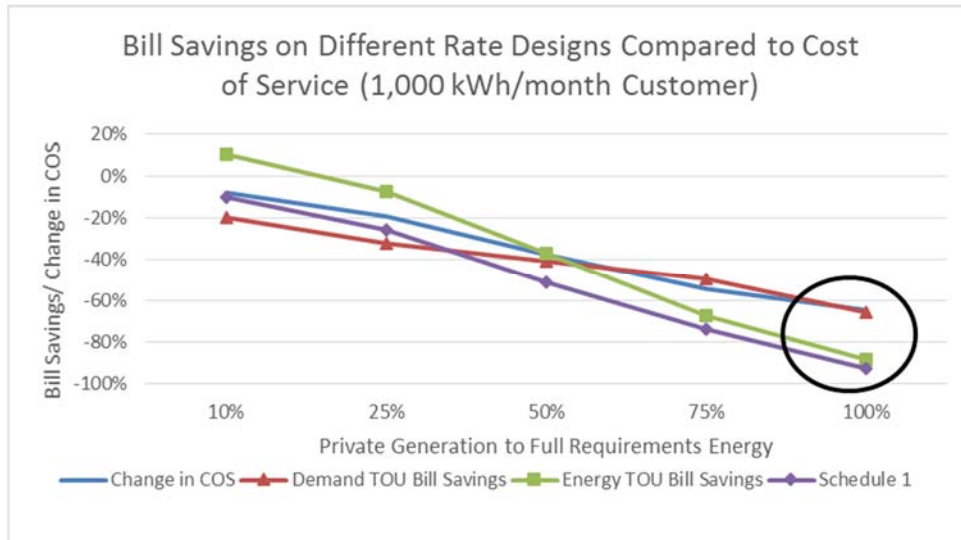
502 A. Without a higher customer charge, an energy focused TOU rate that still includes  
503 netting and banking does not provide a sufficient level of fixed cost recovery.  
504 Customers on such a rate can offset all of their bill except for the customer charge by

505 simply installing enough rooftop solar panels. The proposed \$28 customer charge for  
506 the energy-focused TOU option is designed to recover all customer services and  
507 distribution costs.

508 **Q. What evidence shows that an energy focused TOU rate without a higher customer**  
509 **charge provides an insufficient level of fixed cost recovery?**

510 A. To understand how well different rate options track the recovery of costs incurred to  
511 serve a customer, the Company prepared an analysis that examines how the cost of  
512 service would change for a customer who installs different sized rooftop solar systems  
513 relative to the bill savings that customer would achieve from different rate options.  
514 Specifically, the Company examined a typical NEM customer with 1,000 kWh of  
515 monthly energy consumption against different levels of generation that would offset 10  
516 percent, 25 percent, 50 percent, 75 percent, and 100 percent of full requirements usage.  
517 To estimate cost of service at these levels of solar adoption, the change in the  
518 customer's overall share of cost-causing customer characteristics was measured after  
519 applying the estimated solar profile at different magnitudes. See Figure 1 below for a  
520 comparison of bill savings and change in cost of service at different levels of rooftop  
521 solar penetration for both the Company's proposed demand focused TOU option and  
522 an energy focused TOU option that has the same \$13 customer charge, as well as the  
523 current Schedule 1 rates.

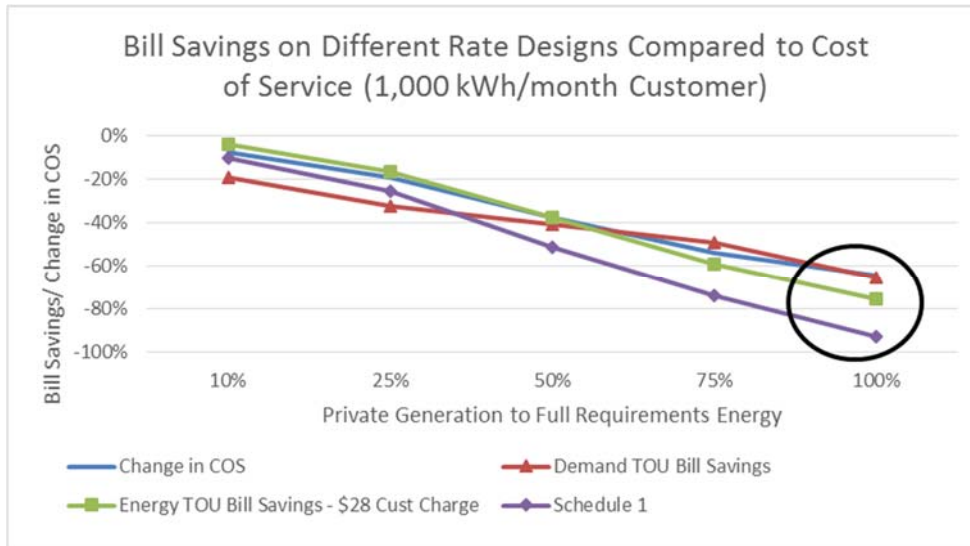
**Figure 1. Cost of Service Compared to Bill Savings on Demand Focused TOU and Energy Focused TOU**



524 Figure 1 shows that the demand-based TOU option tracks more closely to cost  
525 of service than an energy-based option or the Schedule 1 rates, particularly when a  
526 customer installs larger private generation systems.

527 To achieve better fixed cost recovery, the Company recommends that a \$28  
528 customer charge be used for an energy focused TOU option. Figure 2 below shows how  
529 an energy focused TOU with a higher \$28 customer charge better tracks cost of service.

**Figure 2. Cost of Service Compared to Bill Savings on Demand Focused TOU and Energy Focused TOU with a \$28 Customer Charge**



530 **Q. Have you prepared an exhibit that shows examples of the potential bill impacts**  
 531 **for net metering customers on Schedule 5 compared to current Schedule 1**  
 532 **residential rates?**

533 **A.** Yes. Exhibit RMP\_\_\_(JRS-1R) shows the proposed rate and a monthly bill comparison  
 534 at different usage for the proposed Schedule 5 rates in the same format as in Exhibit  
 535 RMP\_\_\_(JRS-7), which was provided with my direct testimony. Page 2 of Exhibit  
 536 RMP\_\_\_(JRS-1R) shows the potential bill impacts for the Company’s proposed  
 537 demand-based TOU option. Page 3 shows the potential bill impacts for the Company’s  
 538 proposed energy-based TOU option.

539 **Q. How does the Company propose to implement these rate options?**

540 **A.** The Company will add a provision to the application for interconnection for the  
 541 customer to elect which rate option they would like to choose. If the customer does not  
 542 indicate a selection at that time, the default will be to place the customer on the demand-  
 543 based option. The customer will be allowed to change his or her selection at any point

544 during the first year. After the first year, a customer may change rate options once in a  
545 12-month period. The Company will work with stakeholders to develop educational  
546 materials to be available to customers to assist their understanding of the new rates.

547 **Q. Several parties argue that the Commission should not or cannot approve new rates**  
548 **outside of a general rate case.<sup>45</sup> Do you agree?**

549 A. No. This argument runs counter to the Commission’s decision on the intervenors’  
550 motions for summary judgment and motions to dismiss, in which the intervenors made  
551 the same assertion. In its February 23, 2017, Consolidated Order Denying Dispositive  
552 Motions, the Commission specifically ruled that the Legislature did not intend for the  
553 Commission “to refrain from fulfilling its obligations under the Statute until and unless  
554 a general rate case is initiated.”<sup>46</sup> Rather, the Commission explained:

555 As they are now, the issues of the cost to serve net metering customers  
556 and the appropriate pricing for their services were matters of substantial  
557 controversy. In our view, the Statute constitutes the instructions and  
558 authority the legislature elected to give the PSC for the purpose of  
559 addressing these issues. As numerous parties have pointed out, as long  
560 as these issues remain unresolved, the rooftop solar market is operating  
561 under uncertainty and consumers are without accurate price signaling in  
562 deciding whether to invest in rooftop solar. These issues are better  
563 resolved sooner rather than later. If the legislature had intended for us to  
564 act only in the context of the then pending or a later filed general rate  
565 case, it could have made its intentions plain. Instead, we believe the  
566 legislature was responding to the specific circumstances and  
567 controversy surrounding net metering and empowered the PSC to act to  
568 resolve it.<sup>47</sup>

569 Given this, intervenor arguments to the contrary are further attempts to re-  
570 litigate issues and are irrelevant to this proceeding. The Company agrees with the

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<sup>45</sup> Whited Direct Testimony, ll. 599-603; Daniel Direct Testimony, ll. 377-85.

<sup>46</sup> Docket No. 14-035-114, Consolidated Order Denying Dispositive Motions, at 7 (Utah P.S.C. February 23, 2017).

<sup>47</sup> *Id.* at ll. 8.

571 Commission that the rooftop solar market is in need of certainty and stability and that  
572 the Commission should not wait for a general rate case to make a decision on the NEM  
573 rate structure.

574 **III. Net Metering Successor Program**

575 **Q. Please summarize the proposals by the DPU and OCS for a successor program to**  
576 **NEM for customer generators.**

577 A. Both the DPU and the OCS recommend that the Commission lower the cap on the NEM  
578 program and initiate the development of a new program for customer generators with  
579 a separate compensation rate for exported energy. They propose that the Commission  
580 initiate a new proceeding to develop a methodology or formula for calculating the  
581 compensation rate.<sup>48</sup>

582 The DPU recommends that the Commission immediately lower the program  
583 cap on the NEM program to reflect the approximate size the program will be on January  
584 1, 2018, and close that program to new customers, and request that the legislature  
585 eliminate the NEM program altogether January 1, 2025. DPU proposes a transition plan  
586 for new customers with distributed generation after the NEM program closes until  
587 January 1, 2025, after which all residential distributed generation customers would be  
588 subject to whatever new rate structure(s) the Commission determines for consumption  
589 in this proceeding or a general rate case and separate compensation rates for exported  
590 power. During the transition period and until the proceeding has been completed to  
591 establish the compensation methodology and export rate, DPU recommends a  
592 compensation rate for exported power that is the mid-point between the average retail

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<sup>48</sup> Powell Direct Testimony, ll. 454-582; Beck Direct Testimony, ll. 337-653.



593 rate for energy and the avoided cost rate. The DPU also recommends that the  
594 Commission adopt at least two rate structures for the post-NEM program, one with  
595 rates similar to the Company's proposed three-part rates and one TOU with on- and off-  
596 peak energy prices.

597 The OCS recommends that the Commission lower the NEM program cap to  
598 approximately 10 percent. The OCS also proposes a transition plan pending a future  
599 proceeding, but advocates extending the transition period for 12 years, until January 1,  
600 2030. The compensation rate would start at 9 cents/kWh for new post-NEM distributed  
601 generation customers, and decrease every year or two, transitioning into the new rate  
602 that would be determined in the new proceeding to establish a compensation method  
603 and rate. For rate design, the OCS recommends the Commission approve TOU rates  
604 for residential and small commercial customers, to be calculated and implemented in  
605 the next general rate case. OCS also recommends that a new facilities charge be  
606 calculated in the next general rate case to apply to NEM program customers beginning  
607 January 1, 2030.

608 **Q. Do you agree with their recommendations to lower the cap on the NEM program?**

609 A. Yes. The Company agrees that the most appropriate path forward is to lower the NEM  
610 program cap and put in place a new program that separately considers the costs for  
611 consumption from the grid and a rate for exported power. In light of the costs of the  
612 NEM program, the Company recommends that the Commission initiate the transition  
613 to a new program paradigm and adopt the DPU's recommendation to lower the NEM  
614 program cap as of the estimated program size on January 1, 2018.

615 **Q. Please elaborate on why the Company supports the DPU’s recommendation to**  
616 **lower the cap to the program size expected January 1, 2018.**

617 A. The Company estimates that, by the end of 2017, the NEM program will have  
618 interconnected or have pending applications for installations that equate to nearly 5  
619 percent of NEM program cap, which is 231 MW. At 231 MW, assuming residential  
620 comprises 75 percent of installed capacity, the annual residential cost shift would be  
621 \$12.5 million. At a 10 percent threshold, as proposed by the OCS, the annual cost shift  
622 would double to \$25.0 million. The Company estimates that the program will reach the  
623 10 percent threshold, or 462 MW, during 2020 or early 2021. Waiting to take action  
624 would not be in the public interest and would continue the incorrect market signals,  
625 over-value the power exported to the grid, and perpetuate the customer confusion that  
626 currently exists. In addition to the DPU and OCS explicitly recognizing that the current  
627 NEM program regime results in cost shifting, other parties—notably EFCA, UCE,  
628 Vivint Solar, and Vote Solar—implicitly acknowledge that equating the export credit to  
629 the retail rate is problematic and recommend that, if modification to the current  
630 program is necessary, changes should be made to the export compensation.<sup>49</sup>  
631 Transitioning away from the current NEM program sooner would help provide a more  
632 certain pathway for both customers and solar developers, while minimizing negative  
633 impacts on other customers.

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<sup>49</sup> See e.g., EFCA argues that adjusting the export rate may resolve the Company's concerns requiring a separate class. Gilfenbaum Direct Testimony, ll. 414-20. UCE recommends that, if a change in the NEM program is necessary, compensation for excess generation should be reduced. Whited Direct Testimony, ll. 559-63. Vivint proposes an alternative that would step down the value for exported energy. Plagemann Direct Testimony, ll. 281-3. Vote Solar proposes a declining compensation rate for net excess energy to address the Company's concerns about cost shifting. Gilliam Direct Testimony, ll. 760-3.

634 **Q. Does the Company support establishing a new program with a separate**  
635 **compensation rate for exported power and a new proceeding to set the**  
636 **methodology for that compensation rate?**

637 A. Yes. The Company supports the framework adopted by the Commission in Phase 1 of  
638 this proceeding that uses the cost of service study to evaluate the NEM program  
639 because NEM equates the value of customer generation to the retail rate. In other  
640 words, the Company believes that, so long as retail rates are applied to NEM, the same  
641 model used in setting retail rates is appropriate to assess the costs and benefits of NEM  
642 and formulate an appropriate rate structure. However, if the export rate is separated out  
643 from consumption, i.e., netting and banking are eliminated, the Company would  
644 support a renewed look at how to set the rate to compensate exported power from  
645 customer generators.

646 **Q. If the Commission opened a new proceeding, what should the proceeding**  
647 **consider?**

648 A. The proceeding should consider how or if the value of exported power is different than  
649 the value already determined by the Commission for calculating avoided costs for small  
650 power producers under Schedule 37. The Commission has already determined that the  
651 customer generation equipment is not a system resource as the Company has little if  
652 any control over the systems and the customer is under no obligation to maintain the  
653 system or supply the utility with electricity.<sup>50</sup> Moreover, customer generation exported  
654 to the grid is incidental to the purpose of the installation, which is to support or self-  
655 supply the customer's own needs. Nevertheless, exported power is essentially a must-

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<sup>50</sup> Docket No. 14-035-114, Order, at Section 2.7 (Utah P.S.C November 10, 2015).

656 take obligation by the Company. Thus, the proceeding should consider the value of  
657 exported power against this backdrop and the Commission's previous determinations  
658 for the avoided cost rates for other power the Company is obligated to purchase. It  
659 should also consider the frequency of updates to the compensation rate to stay current  
660 with changes in the market or other changes in quantifiable costs and benefits.

661 **Q. Do you agree with the DPU's proposal to establish a transitional compensation**  
662 **rate that is the mid-point between the average retail rate and avoided costs?**

663 A. No. This proposed transitional rate would be approximately 6.7 cents/kWh. This is far  
664 in excess of the rates the Commission has already determined for the Company's  
665 purchases of electricity from third-party suppliers through avoided costs or through the  
666 competitive wholesale market. The Commission is required to set just and reasonable  
667 rates. Without evidence or data that there is additional value of this must-take  
668 generation, the Commission should not arbitrarily set a new rate for energy or merely  
669 split the difference. Accordingly, the Company proposes that the Commission use  
670 approved Schedule 37 rates for a fixed solar facility, adjusted for losses at the primary  
671 or secondary voltage levels, until a new proceeding is completed.

672 **Q. How would the export compensation be treated on the customer's bill and through**  
673 **ratemaking?**

674 A. The Company's current meters separately register the electricity a customer takes from  
675 the grid and the electricity the customer's generation exports to the grid. The Company  
676 would multiply the measured exported power by the compensation rate set by the  
677 Commission to calculate a monthly bill credit for the customer. The credit would be  
678 applied against the customer's monthly energy and power charges on the bill. The bill

679 credit would not be applied against any monthly fixed charges or minimum bills in  
680 order to ensure recovery of non-by passable costs. In order to provide an economic  
681 signal for the customer to properly size his or her facility (i.e., a system sized to serve  
682 on-site needs), any dollar credits would carry over to the next monthly bill during an  
683 annual program period, such as the end of March. At the end of the 12-month program  
684 period, any excess bill credits would expire with the remaining balance donated to the  
685 low income program, similar to the current treatment under the NEM program.  
686 Customer generation that is used to serve the customer's on-site usage (i.e., stays  
687 behind the meter) would result in a reduction in usage from the utility and would  
688 effectively receive the value of retail rates.

689 As noted by Dr. Powell, recovery of the exported power compensation would  
690 flow through the Energy Balancing Account, or other mechanism, as a purchased power  
691 expense on a situs Utah basis.<sup>51</sup>

692 **Q. What is the Company's recommendation for rates for consumption under the new**  
693 **program?**

694 A. Even under a new program that eliminates netting and banking of exported power, a  
695 new customer rate structure would be appropriate in order to capture the change in the  
696 customer profile. Rate structures such as those proposed for Schedule 5 in this rebuttal  
697 filing—a demand-based TOU and an energy-based TOU rate design—would be  
698 appropriate for the reasons already addressed above.

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<sup>51</sup> Powell Direct Testimony, ll. 546-8.

699 **Q. Please summarize why the Commission should move to adopting a new program**  
700 **for customer generation that does not rely on kWh netting and banking of**  
701 **exported power.**

702 A. One of the most significant causes of cost shifting due to the NEM program is that it  
703 conflates the retail rate with a value for exported energy. The retail rate, however,  
704 recovers significantly more costs that are necessary for the provision of safe and  
705 reliable energy from the utility than just the value of purchased energy. In order to  
706 create more sustainable, economic price signals, the Company, along with the DPU and  
707 OCS, proposes establishing a new program for private generation customers that  
708 eliminates netting and banking and provides a compensation rate for exported energy  
709 from private generation systems. The compensation rate should consider the value of  
710 this must-take energy to the utility based on treatment consistent with how other power  
711 purchases are valued. Separating the compensation rate for exported power from the  
712 retail rate will also allow it to change as the market or other quantifiable values change.

713 **Q. Does this conclude your rebuttal testimony?**

714 A. Yes.