

August 7, 2017

Commissioner Thad LeVar
Commissioner David Clark
Commissioner Jordan White
Utah Public Service Commission
Heber M. Wells Building
160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Dear Commissioners:

As you are aware, Ticaboo Utility Improvement District (“TUID”) is seeking to expand its certificated electrical service area. I am writing on behalf of Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (“UAMPS”) to express support for this proposed expansion. TUID is one of UAMPS’ 46 members.


TUID serves the very small unincorporated town of Ticaboo in southern Garfield County. Ticaboo is unique in that the town is very remote and completely “off the grid,” meaning the town has no ability to receive power from the existing electrical grid that delivers power to nearly every other full-time residence in Utah. This also means that PacifiCorp and Garkane Power are unable to provide power to Ticaboo without a significant investment in new transmission infrastructure. As a connection to the nearest existing electrical line is prohibitively expensive, TUID will likely remain off-grid for the foreseeable future and beyond and will continue to self-generate the power used in Ticaboo. UAMPS assisted with the creation of TUID and continues to offer support and expertise to TUID when called upon.

Ticaboo is located about 13 miles from Bullfrog Marina, which is on Lake Powell and within the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Bullfrog and the other marinas on Lake Powell—like Ticaboo—are not connected to the electrical grid and must generate all of their own power. UAMPS believes that this situation provides an opportunity for TUID to provide power to some or all of these facilities. This arrangement would lead to lower power prices and be to the benefit of the National Park Service, which manages the Glen Canyon NRA, and to the residents of Ticaboo.

UAMPS supports the proposed expansion of TUID’s service area. The expansion of TUID’s service area is the first step in what will surely be a multi-year process. While the precise boundaries of the proposed service area may need to be modified and the logistics of actually bringing power to the federal facilities have yet to be completely worked out, UAMPS believes that TUID’s plan has merit and deserves the Commission’s support.

Please let me know if UAMPS can assist with this proceeding in any way.

Sincerely,


Doug Hunter
Chief Executive Officer