

Dear Public Service Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments regarding Rocky Mountain Power's 2012 Annual Report of the Blue Sky Program, Docket 00-35-T01.

HEAL Utah suggests exploring the possibility of significant revisions to the Blue Sky customer program. Specifically, we would like to see the adaptation of Rocky Mountain Power's Blue Sky program to allow program dollars to provide for long-term acquisition of utility-scale renewable energy resources, similar to Austin Energy's Green Choice program. Since that program's inception, 634 MW of Texas wind energy capacity has been acquired to serve Austin Energy customers' needs. This kind of program offers several advantages to customers, relative to the Blue Sky program. First, it allows the long-term acquisition of utility-scale green energy resources, and thus "greens" Austin Energy's overall fuel mix by reducing the amount of energy coming from fossil-fuel power plants. Second, it creates green jobs and economic development in its home state. Third, it appears to allow customers a degree of hedging against fossil-fuel price volatility, as it replaces the fuel charge on a customer's bill for the duration of the customer's participation in the program. We would like to see a new iteration of the Blue Sky program that meets these criteria.

HEAL Utah would like to note our extreme disappointment that PacifiCorp is not planning any new renewable resources until 2024. We believe this omission represents a staggering missed opportunity to acquire emissions-free resources that have no ongoing fuel costs. The Blue Sky program's popularity reveals that many PacifiCorp customers desire the development of new renewable energy resources and are willing to spend a little extra to see new renewable projects move forward. In light of this growing support for renewables and information about PacifiCorp's failure to translate this support into meaningful commitments to renewable energy, we would like to see the Blue Sky program transition into a means of enabling investments in utility scale renewable energy projects.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any further questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Christopher Thomas  
Executive Director  
HEAL Utah