

Public Service Commission - Comments on Docket # 10-035-124

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Subject: Comments on Docket # 10-035-124 2922291
Attachments: References Jan. 2011.rtf

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Dear Commissioners:

In previous comments submitted by the Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment (UPHE) and HEAL Utah on the 2011 PacificCorp Draft Integrated Resource Plan, we criticized the IRP draft for being deficient in its consideration of the negative health effects in an electricity generation portfolio that heavily relies on fossil fuels. Specifically three studies were cited to make that case. These studies focused almost exclusively on the cost of well studied impacts of coal combustion pollution on the heart and the lungs. The economic impacts of this pollution in these studies were startling.

However, in the last five years it has become well established through thousands of medical research articles in the medical community's most prestigious journals, that this pollution has a much greater impact on a much wider array of chronic diseases than were evaluated and monetized in these studies. In other words, these studies significantly underestimate the economic liability of coal combustion emissions. Unfortunately, it will be a long and difficult project to assess monetary correlations to all the impacts now known. But this information is relevant, in fact critical, and reinforces our contention that PacificCorp does not consider the health costs of its coal fired power plants and those health considerations are not adequately factored into the decision regarding PacificCorp spending money to retrofit its coal power plants versus building new renewable sources to replace them entirely.

Attached is a document that is the result of several years of research by the physicians of UPHE, giving a bullet point summary of the currently known health impacts of pollution from fossil fuel combustion, organized by organ systems. Each category of bullet points is followed by dozens of references. Were the three studies mentioned above, able to monetize all these health impacts, the economic liability of coal combustion would have been significantly higher.

Please factor into your decision this important information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian Moench
President, Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment
member, Union of Concerned Scientists