



PublicService Commission&lt; psc@utah.gov&gt;

**Docket No. 12-035-100**

1 message

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Thu, May 2, 2013 at 12:37 AM

To: psc@utah.gov

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To Utah Public Service Commission,

In considering the rates appropriate for Rocky Mountain Power's electricity, I beg you to take into consideration the "externalities" of electricity production. Those so-called "externalities" are rapidly becoming central to our energy planning for the future.

I write as a professional Biologist (Research Professor of Biology, University of Utah, for over thirty years), who observes the impacts of our energy surge upon our environment and upon our health. The reality of climate change is indisputable. Its coincidence in time with industrialization is not accidental. If we are to continue our high-energy life styles, we must be willing to invest in energy production that is non-toxic to biology, i.e. to life. That investment may cost more for the moment, but before long its impacts on saving Nature will more than repay the investment.

When electrical power is generated by burning fossil fuels, the greenhouse gases produced cause Earth's temperature to rise, i.e. Climate Change. Already we are experiencing costly consequences: storm surges, ocean acidification, melting of glaciers and polar ice caps with consequent rise in sea levels, movement of infestations, e.g. beetle kills of Rocky Mountain forests, increase of forest fires, etc.

The impacts of fossil fuel mining and combustion upon our air quality include both toxins and fine particles, resulting in evident haze over Utah valleys. Dr. Philip Landrigan, Director of Children's Environmental Health Center at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York, explained the dire effects of polluted air on child health, when he spoke to the Stegner Symposium at University of Utah in March, 2012.

The economics of fossil fuels also speaks for inevitable change. As more accessible sources become depleted, costs of extraction will rise, and cruder sources will be considered, using more water, requiring more costly refining, with the release of more pollution. All at higher cost.

Happily, the universe still offers us its pure, virgin original energy source, that direct from our sun. The technology exists to harvest solar energy, and other such free, clean and sustainable sources as wind, tides, and geothermal. If we are investing in the future, should we not be moving towards the harness of those pure and enduring sources?

The opportunity is there, if only today's economics will be tweaked to encourage the future-wise options. A tax on carbon would be one wise approach. Another, with respect to Rocky Mountain Power, would allow the cost of its energy to rise above rock bottom. Please take steps towards a viable future!

Respectfully,  
Naomi Franklin