



Comments on Docket 15-035-04

1 message

Chris Cline <cee2ski@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 7, 2015 at 9:27 AM

Reply-To: cee2ski@gmail.com

To: psc@utah.gov

I'm writing to express my concern that PacifiCorp's latest resource plan would continue investments in aging coal plants, putting ratepayers on the hook for as much as 1.3 billion dollars over the next decade to prolong the lives of over a dozen coal plants.

There is widespread public support for investing in wind and solar. Wind is the cheapest form of electricity generation and utility scale solar projects are competitive with fossil fuels and becoming steadily cheaper each year. Beyond that, it is the responsibility of public utilities to plan for situations that they know will occur. And if PacifiCorp's executives and professionals do not know that increased growth will lead to increased CO2 pollution if a strategy of coal-burning is pursued (as well as PM2.5 pollution for people who live downwind of coal-burning power plants, and increased mercury pollution of our air and water), they are being irresponsible public servants, or irresponsibly pursuing profits over people. It could be argued that this will not even be profitable (and therefore they are being irresponsible towards present and future stock-holders), because renewable energy technology and capacity will flow around these "stranded asset" power plants like water flows around rocks in a river. Despite PacifiCorp's future-denying strategy, people will continue to pursue renewables as they become more available. I see no reason for the PSC to enable PacifiCorp's short-term, short-sighted strategy, at great cost to Utah consumers' pocketbooks, health, environment, and quality of life of our grandchildren.

Please reject PacifiCorp's preferred portfolio which tethers Utah's to coal for the next two decades and locks ratepayers into a billion dollars in coal costs. Instead, please demand that PacifiCorp come up with a new plan that takes advantage of our state's bountiful renewable resources and decreases our reliance on risky coal.

Chris Cline
1727 Edward Ave.
Salt Lake City, UT 84106