

Public Service Commission
Heber M. Wells Building
160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

In the Matter of: Rocky Mountain Power's 2015 Integrated Resource Plan

Docket Number: 15-035-04

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the undersigned, are writing to express our concern with Rocky Mountain Power's latest Integrated Resource Plan. Rocky Mountain Power's IRP places too little emphasis on integrating renewables into the company's fuel mix, while allowing a continued reliance on carbon intensive fossil fuels to dominate resource planning for the next 20 years.

According to the IRP, as of right now, Rocky Mountain Power remains reliant on coal with 61 percent of power generated by that resource. While the IRP projects that in 20 years the amount of power generated from coal will slowly drop and natural gas will make up the difference, the plan includes zero voluntary investments in new renewable energy projects for the next 20 years.

Utahns have made very clear that they want more clean energy – and they're willing to pay for it – in poll after poll dating back several years. Most recently, Envision Utah's "Your Utah, Your Future" survey of nearly 53,000 Utahns found that 65 percent support rate hikes if it resulted in more renewable energy sources, in data released earlier this month.

Back in 2013, a bipartisan survey for Colorado College found that Utahns, when allowed to identify their preferred energy sources, overwhelmingly selected solar and wind. 43 percent of voters chose solar and wind generation while only 5 percent identified coal power generation as preferable.

Incorporating more renewable energy into Rocky Mountain Power's fuel mix isn't just what ratepayers want, but it's good business: A diverse resource base guards against rising fuel costs, fuel price volatility, the costs of complying with carbon rules, and the growing costs of a warming planet.

We urge the Public Service Commission to order Rocky Mountain Power to significantly increase the percentage of power coming from wind and solar in their Integrated Resource Plan.

Sincerely,

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Executive Director
HEAL Utah

Tim Wagner
Executive Director
Utah Physicians for a Healthy
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