

March 17, 2021

To: Jana Saba, PacifiCorp

From: Utah Office of Consumer Services (OCS)

RE: Questions for the March 23, 2021 Tech Conference in Docket No. 16-035-36
Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) STEP Phase VI – Uinta Basin Study

Questions:

1. If most oil and gas well facilities in the Uinta Basin were electrified, what percentage of Uinta Basin NOx and other polluting emissions would be eliminated? How would this impact Uinta Basin air quality – e.g. would this solve the basin’s air quality issues and would it no longer be a non-attainment zone?
2. Assuming the study shows electrification to be feasible:
 - a. Approximately how long would it take to gain approval for and to construct the necessary facilities? Please describe the kind of work that RMP would need to do and any hurdles that would have to be overcome.
 - b. How does RMP envision the new electrical facilities would be paid for and by whom? Is it likely that the owners of the oil and gas wells would be required (or willing) to foot some of the costs?
 - c. What would RMP need to file with the PSC in order to move forward with an electrification project in the Uinta Basin? Does RMP believe that moving forward with electrification would require any action by the Utah legislature? Please explain.
3. How many oil and gas wells are there in the Uinta Basin? What percentage of the oil and gas wells in the Uinta Basin are in RMP’s service territory? Of those in RMP’s service territory, what percentage could be electrified – 100% or less? Is there “low hanging fruit” and if those wells were electrified would it have a meaningful impact on air quality?
4. Even though the study has not been performed, can RMP provide some cost estimates for typical or standard electrical equipment that would be needed to serve each well or each location – e.g. costs for new utility equipment at the well site, for new distribution feeder lines, for new transformers or substations, etc.

5. What is the cost to convert one oil well pump from running on fossil fuels to running on electricity? This question just seeks the cost of the pump – swapping it out or converting it to run on electricity.
6. If an oil/gas facility converted to electricity, approximately how many kWh would it consume in one year? On average, how many wells would such a facility be serving? What service schedule would such an electric customer be billed under?
7. If RMP were to serve the Uinta Basin oil and gas industry, does the company have any concerns about dealing with potential outages in this remote region? Could outages be more frequent in this region? Would it be more difficult to restore outages in this region? Would electric well pumps be more or less reliable than the current pumps? Do the current pumps ever experience outages due to lack of fuel supply?
8. Concerning the proposed budget for the Uinta Basin Study, how do the costs provided in the application and in RMP's response to OCS 28.3 compare to other RMP STEP project costs for work performed by university and/or consultant personnel? Are the hourly rates, the overhead, the total hours and the total costs higher, lower or similar to what RMP has paid in other STEP projects? Please explain.