



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Letter Regarding PacifiCorp IRP, Docket# 21-035-09

1 message

Chris Steinkamp <csteinkamp@snowsports.org>

Fri, Mar 4, 2022 at 11:50 AM

To: "tlevar@utah.gov" <tlevar@utah.gov>, "rcallen@utah.gov" <rcallen@utah.gov>, "drexclark@utah.gov" <drexclark@utah.gov>

Cc: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>

Commissioners Levar, Clark, and Allen,

I represent Snowsports Industries America, the national trade association for the U.S. winter outdoor sports industry, based in Park City.

On behalf of the undersigned Utah businesses, I respectfully submit the attached letter for your consideration regarding PacifiCorp's 2021 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). The letter was sent to PacifiCorp leadership, however, we also thought it prudent to share the letter with the Commission due to the current evaluation of the IRP, and its implications for Utah consumers, businesses, and the environment.

Thank you for the important work you do and for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Chris Steinkamp
Snowsports Industries America
Park City, UT



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**RMP Letter Final 030422.pdf**

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Snowsports
Industries
America

March 4, 2022

Gary Hoogeveen
President and Chief Executive Officer PacifiCorp/ Rocky Mountain Power
1407 W. North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Stefan Bird
President and Chief Executive Officer PacifiCorp/ Pacific Power
825 NE Multnomah Street
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Mr. Hoogeveen and Mr. Bird:

Thank you for your efforts to address PacifiCorp's greenhouse gas emissions through plans to add significant new renewable energy generation sources and transmission in the next few years while continuing your participation in the Western Energy Imbalance Market to optimize use of low-cost renewable resources. Here in Utah, public support for addressing climate change, improving air quality, and increasing renewable energy use is strong and gaining momentum.

We represent Utah's winter outdoor industry which drives over \$1.4 billion in spending, the largest segment of Utah's tourism economy. We have located our businesses in Utah to become part of the state's thriving outdoor culture and its proximity to world-class winter sports venues and ski resorts. But climate change poses a material threat to the future of our industry, our jobs, and our communities like Park City where local businesses depend on the revenue that winter tourism generates. The impacts of climate change—including reduced snowpack, more intense wildfires, and diminished water resources—pose an overwhelming risk to the future of our industry and the communities where we live and work. Utah's unhealthy air quality and changing climate also hinder our ability to recruit and retain employees and grow our businesses in the state.

While the integrated resource plan that PacifiCorp filed in September includes important steps toward adding renewable energy resources and storage that will help reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change, it is concerning that PacifiCorp intends to keep fossil fuel generation in the years ahead, with some of its coal plants running well past 2030.

The world's top scientists say that to avoid catastrophic climate change, we must reduce economy-wide emissions at least 50% by 2030 and achieve complete decarbonization by 2050. The most cost-effective way to achieve those reductions is to accelerate reductions in the power sector, where proven, deployable technology already exists. Greenhouse gas pollution from the power sector must decline at least 80% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels and ideally achieve net-zero emissions by 2035, to support decarbonizing the rest of the economy. Although we welcome PacifiCorp's planned emissions reductions, they are not sufficient to tackle the mounting climate crisis.

We see a need for innovative solutions to maintain Utah's quality of life and economic growth, and one of those solutions is for the state to embrace a clean energy future and reduce our reliance on fossil-fueled power that causes harmful emissions. We also recognize that clean, renewable energy is now the most cost-effective form of electricity generation across the West, and policies to increase its use will economically benefit our companies and the state.

A recent report from the esteemed Utah Foundation notes that reaching the goal of cutting Utah’s annual carbon dioxide emissions would require major shifts in how Utah addresses electric power generation, and if the future brings a cost on carbon, utility-scale solar would likely be the cheapest electricity in every county in Utah. Wind projects would also be more competitive across a wider geography. Moreover, renewable-energy development through 2040 could create an estimated 39,000 construction jobs and 900 operations jobs in Utah, along with investment and tax revenue for local communities.

At the same time, recent laws passed in Oregon and Washington require coal-fired power to be removed from electricity rates in those states, and we understand that PacifiCorp in the years ahead may be asking Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming to take on additional fuel, operating, and maintenance costs associated with running those coal plants, as well as potential future reclamation costs. This could make renewable energy goals much harder and more expensive to achieve for Utah municipalities and businesses working to address climate change. It would also saddle Utahns with even more coal-related financial risks.

We respectfully request that PacifiCorp accelerate its clean energy commitment, and that starts by committing to end its fossil-fuel generation by 2035. Recent polling results show this is the future a majority of Utahns want. We urge PacifiCorp to continue with forward-thinking investments that will lead to a healthier and more resilient future, by shifting away from coal generation and embracing the economic opportunities of clean and renewable energy.

We ask PacifiCorp to commit to ending its fossil-fuel generation by 2035 and avoid shifting any additional and ongoing coal costs to its Utah customers in the years ahead. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Alpine Sports

Atomic Ski

Autumn Headwear

Baselayer Group

Black Tie Ski Rentals

Garbett Homes

Groupe Rossignol

Handout Gloves

L1 Premium Goods

Lone Pine Gear Exchange

Mark Miller Subaru

Nitro Snowboards

POC North America

Scott Sports

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