



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Comment on RMP IRP, Docket # 23-035-10

1 message

Eric Gardner (erockandriver@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal MessageWed, Aug 16, 2023 at
7:27 PM

<kwautomail@phone2action.com>

Reply-To: Eric Gardner <erockandriver@gmail.com>

To: psc@utah.gov

Dear Utah Public Service Commission,

I am deeply concerned about Rocky Mountain Power's recently submitted 2023 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), which does little to reliably commit to reducing our state's greenhouse gas emissions in a cost-effective manner. Instead, this plan maintains our reliance on fossil fuels by continuing to rely on some coal plants well past 2030 while converting others to natural gas, which is infamous for volatile price swings. The plan also relies heavily on new nuclear power, which the company is stating will be crucial for its transition off of fossil fuels. Nuclear hasn't been a viable solution for our nation's energy needs in decades, and it faces significant hurdles before it can even be considered an option, not least of anticipated costs. Unlike the proposed Natrium plant in Wyoming, the proposed nuclear plants in Utah do not have a cost-share arrangement with the federal government.

I strongly urge the Commission to consider these shortcomings when making a decision regarding Rocky Mountain Power's IRP. Please remember that it's the Utah ratepayers who will be stuck paying the costs when investments in risky technology like nuclear and carbon capture don't bear fruit. Renewable energy, like wind and solar, are both cost effective and ready to roll out now. Let's take advantage of this moment and the opportunities in legislation like the Inflation Reduction Act to bring real solutions here to Utah. I urge the Utah Commission to not acknowledge the riskiest aspects of Rocky Mountain Power's plan, including continued reliance on coal, despite increasing federal regulatory pressure, and unrealistic optimism that three first-of-their-kind nuclear facilities will materialize on time and on budget.

Sincerely,

Eric Gardner
341 Garfield Ave
Salt Lake City, UT 84115
erockandriver@gmail.com
(252) 412-5955

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