

- BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH -

In the Matter of the Public Service
Commission's Process for Recognition or
Issuance of Renewable Energy Certificates

DOCKET NO. 17-999-06
REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

ISSUED: March 3, 2017

The Public Service Commission of Utah (PSC) observes that 2017 marks the approximate midway point between the 2008 enactment of Part 6, Carbon Emissions Reductions for Electrical Corporations of the Energy Resource Procurement Act (Act), codified at Utah Code Ann. §§ 54-17-601 to -607 (Part 6), and the PSC's July 1, 2027 deadline for its report to the Legislature required by Section 54-17-604(8)(a) of the Act.¹ The PSC has also reviewed the Division of Public Utilities' (DPU) 2011 and 2016 renewable energy progress reports filed with the Legislature pursuant to Part 6.² The PSC appreciates the DPU's work in preparing these reports as well as the DPU's collaboration with PacifiCorp, the Utah Rural Electric Association, and several rural electric cooperatives.

Part 6 of the Act, in pertinent part, directs the PSC to "establish a process for issuance or recognition of a renewable energy certificate [(REC)]."³ In recent years, the PSC has approved the use of the Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS) for management and tracking of RECs in PacifiCorp's Blue Sky Program⁴ and Subscriber Solar

¹ See Utah Code Ann. § 54-17-604(8)(a) (LexisNexis 2010) ("By July 1, 2027, the [PSC] shall submit to the Legislature a report summarizing the final progress reports and recommending any legislative changes.").

² See *id.* §§ 54-17-604(6) and -604(7).

³ See *id.* § 54-17-603(1).

⁴ See Rocky Mountain Power Electric Service Schedule No. 70 (Renewable Energy Rider – Optional) (Special Conditions 5: "Beginning February 1, 2008, all RECs purchased under the program must conform with Green-e Energy national standards and be Green-e certified or Green-e certifiable. Beginning January 1, 2009, all RECs purchased are expected to be registered with . . . (WREGIS) or as otherwise approved by the [PSC] of Utah given

Program,⁵ and in several power purchase agreements between PacifiCorp and qualifying facilities.⁶ Additionally, the PSC has recognized PacifiCorp's use of WREGIS for managing RECs for its Renewable Energy Balancing Account.⁷ These examples satisfy the Legislature's directive to the PSC, under Part 6 of the Act, to establish a process for recognition of RECs.⁸ Further, Part 6 permits the PSC to allow WREGIS to fulfill this statutory role.⁹

The PSC desires to ensure that parties have clear guidance on the PSC's established process for issuance or recognition of RECs. Accordingly, the PSC seeks comments on this issue and whether any stakeholder believes additional PSC action is appropriate with respect to Part 6 of the Act.

Any interested stakeholder may submit comments on or before **Thursday, June 1, 2017**.

market availability.”). *See also* Rocky Mountain Power Electric Service Schedule No. 72 (Renewable Energy Rider – Optional; Bulk Purchase Option) (stating same).

⁵ *See* Rocky Mountain Power Electric Service Schedule No. 73 (Subscriber Solar Program Rider – Optional) (Special Condition 9: “The Company will retain ownership of the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) and all other environmental attributes including but not limited to carbon emission reduction credits, which will be retired by the Company on behalf of subscribers. [C]ustomers may request to have RECs deposited in their own [WREGIS] account at their own expense.”).

⁶ *E.g., In the Matter of the Application of Rocky Mountain Power for Approval of the Power Purchase Agreement between PacifiCorp and Iron Springs Solar, LLC*, Docket No. 15-035-41; *In the Matter of the Application of Rocky Mountain Power for Approval of the Power Purchase Agreement between PacifiCorp and Granite Mountain Solar East, LLC*, Docket No. 15-035-42; and *In the Matter of the Application of Rocky Mountain Power for Approval of the Power Purchase Agreement between PacifiCorp and Granite Mountain Solar West, LLC*, Docket No. 15-035-43.

⁷ *See, e.g., In the Matter of the Application of Rocky Mountain Power for Authority to Revise Rates in Tariff Schedule 98, Renewable Energy Credits Balancing Account* (Direct Testimony of Bruce W. Griswold – Allocation of RBA Costs at 2, lines 38-39, filed March 15, 2016 (“[C]ontracts rely on the RECs that are transferred using . . . (WREGIS).”)), Docket No. 16-035-10.

⁸ *See infra* n.3.

⁹ *See* Utah Code Ann. § 54-17-603(3)(b) (“The commission may . . . allow use of a renewable energy certificate that is issued, monitored, accounted for, or transferred by or through . . . [WREGIS] . . . to fulfill this part’s provisions.”).

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DATED at Salt Lake City, Utah, March 3, 2017.

/s/ Gary L. Widerburg
Commission Secretary
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I CERTIFY that on March 3, 2017, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was delivered upon the following as indicated below:

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