



Case No. PAC-E-17-03

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Comment deadline set for Rocky Mountain Power's Integrated Resource Plan

BOISE (Nov. 16, 2017) – Rocky Mountain Power expects to transition away from coal over the next 20 years, according to the utility's long-range planning document filed with state regulators.

Rocky Mountain Power's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) calls for the retirement of more than 3,500 megawatts of coal-fired generation.

That generation is expected to be replaced primarily with renewables such as wind and solar, according to the IRP. Efficiency measures, two new natural gas facilities and wholesale power purchases are also expected to help meet the demand for energy through 2036.

Regulated utilities are required to file an updated IRP with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission every two years.

The IRP serves as a status report outlining the company's ongoing plans for providing adequate and reliable electric service to its customers at the lowest cost and least risk for the next 20 years.

The Commission's acknowledgement of the plan does not necessarily mean the projects highlighted will be completed, but rather that the utility has met its long-range planning requirements.

The Commission is accepting written comments on Rocky Mountain Power's IRP through Jan. 12, 2018.

In addition to the retirement of 3,650 MW of generating capacity at several coal-fired plants through 2037, the utility's preferred course of action calls for 1,959 MW of new wind resources, 905 MW of upgraded or "repowered" wind resources and 1,040 MW of new solar generation through 2036.

The IRP indicates more than half of the new wind (1,100 MW) will be in service in Wyoming by the end of 2020, along with upgrades to 905 MW of existing wind resources.

These facilities must be operational by the end of 2020 in order to receive the full benefits of federal wind production tax credits.

The electricity generated at the new wind facilities would be carried via a new 140-mile, 500-kilovolt transmission line in Wyoming that is expected to relieve congestion on Rocky Mountain's transmission system.

After 2020, the utility's preferred portfolio calls for 859 MW of new wind, including the addition of 774 MW in Idaho in 2036.

The IRP also calls for 1,040 MW of new solar resources to come online between 2028 and 2036, with the majority installed in Utah beginning in 2031.

The first new natural gas-fired resource is expected to be added in 2029, a year later than anticipated in the 2015 IRP.

Demand-side management resources (DSM), which include energy efficiency and conservation, are expected to play a key role in helping the company meet customers' demand for electricity.

The IRP indicates incremental energy-efficiency resources are expected to provide a 2,077 MW reduction, enough to meet 88 percent of the forecasted load growth through 2026.

The company's DSM resources also include load control programs capable of shifting energy use among customers away from periods of peak demand for energy. This shift helps the utility avoid or defer the need for new power plants.

Customers enrolled in load control programs allow the utility to remotely curtail their energy use – shutting down irrigation pumps, for example - in exchange for incentives such as reduced rates or a bill credit.

The 2017 IRP calls for load control to be capable of reducing the demand for energy, or load, by 365 MW by the end of the planning period. The company's previous IRP called for load control programs to have a load-shedding capacity of less than 50 MW.

Rocky Mountain's 2017 IRP does not anticipate upgrades to coal plants in order to meet environmental regulations, a decision that will "save customers hundreds of millions of dollars," according to the company. Instead, the IRP calls for the retirement of those coal-fired units.

The company expects to offset a portion of that lost generation with market purchases, although Rocky Mountain intends to construct two new natural gas facilities – a 200-MW

frame simple cycle combustion turbine in 2029, and a 436-MW combined combustion turbine in 2030.

Over the life of the IRP, the preferred portfolio includes 1,313 MW of new natural-gas capacity. That is a reduction of 1,540 MW relative to the 2015 IRP.

Comments on Rocky Mountain's IRP can be sent via e-mail [here](#), or by accessing the commission's web site at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click on "Case Comment Form" under the "Consumers" heading, enter the case number (PAC-E-17-03) and enter your comments. Comments may also be mailed to P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID, 83720-0074 or faxed to (208)334-3762.

The company's application, IRP and other documents related to the case are available on the Commission's web site. To review them, click on "Open Cases" under the "Electric" heading and scroll down to the case number, PAC-E-17-03. Or go [here](#).