

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WYOMING

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSION'S) INVESTIGATION PURSUANT TO WYO. STAT. § 37-2-117) TO ASSURE FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE ORIGINS,) METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS OF THE COAL STUDY) UNDERTAKEN BY PACIFICORP, DBA IN WYOMING AS) ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER)	Docket No. 90000-144-XI-19 (Record No. 15280)
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ORDER INITIATING INVESTIGATION
(Issued June 20, 2019)

This matter came before the Wyoming Public Service Commission (Commission) pursuant to due notice at its Open Meeting on June 20, 2019, to consider initiation of an investigation pursuant to Wyo. Stat. § 37-2-117 to assure that long-term resource decisions made by PacifiCorp, D/B/A in Wyoming as Rocky Mountain Power (RMP or the Company), are consistent with applicable Wyoming public utility law and the public interest, including specifically that the origins, methodology and results of The Coal Study conducted or produced and reference variously by the Company in connection with the development of its 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) is sufficiently understood by the Commission and other interested parties.

Having considered information presented by Commission Staff, the comments of RMP and other interested parties, its files pertaining to RMP, applicable Wyoming law, and being otherwise fully advised in the premises, the Commission FINDS and CONCLUDES:

1. Wyo. Stat. § 37-2-117 authorizes the Commission to summarily investigate any act or omission of a public utility to secure compliance with Wyoming public utility law.
2. RMP is a division of PacifiCorp, an Oregon corporation, engaged in the business of supplying electric utility service to customers throughout its six-state service territory, including Wyoming. RMP is a public utility, as defined in Wyo. Stat. § 37-1-101(a)(vi)(C), subject to the Commission's jurisdiction pursuant to Wyo. Stat. § 37-2-112 and is required to file an IRP pursuant to Commission Rule Chapter 3, Section 33.
3. RMP, in connection with the development of its IRP, anticipated to be filed on before August 1, 2019, has engaged in "an economic analysis of its coal units that will inform the subsequent portfolio-development phase of the 2019 IRP, including an assessment of regional haze compliance alternatives and a broad range of sensitivity studies." (*See* letter from Yvonne R. Hogle, Assistant General Counsel for Rocky Mountain Power, dated January 28, 2019, in Docket No. 20000-552-EA-19.)
4. RMP's economic analysis, commonly referred to as The Coal Study, has been referred to by the Company and interested parties in connection with public discussions of the relative cost of

continued operation of coal-fired power generation, including coal-fired generation units located in Wyoming.

5. The Coal Study has been reported and otherwise cited by various entities as demonstrating, at least preliminarily, economic justification for accelerated retirement of certain coal-fired generation units located in Wyoming.

6. Any decision to retire coal-fired generation units prior to the end of their planned useful lives may have extraordinary and profound consequences on the cost and reliability of service provided to RMP's Wyoming customers and may produce significant negative economic impacts within the State that may not be in the public interest.

7. Given the potential influence of The Coal Study's results on the development of RMP's preferred generation portfolio, expected to be included with the Company's 2019 IRP filing, it is necessary and desirable that a public process be commenced to provide a mechanism for the Commission and other interested parties to explore all aspects of The Coal Study, including but not limited to, its origins, methodology and results.

IT IS NOW, THEREFORE, HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The Commission, on its own motion, consistent with its decision at Open Meeting on June 20, 2019, hereby initiates an investigation to assure that long-term resource decisions made by PacifiCorp, D/B/A in Wyoming as Rocky Mountain Power, are consistent with applicable Wyoming public utility law and the public interest, including specifically that the origins, methodology and results of The Coal Study conducted or produced and referenced variously by the Company in connection with the development of its 2019 Integrated Resource Plan is sufficiently understood by the Commission and other interested parties.

2. Rocky Mountain Power is directed to file, on or before July 8, 2019:

a. The Coal Study, any part or product thereof, conducted by Rocky Mountain Power in response to, or compliance with, any order or other directive of any regulatory body having jurisdiction over the Company's provision of electric service as a public utility, together with such order or directive.

b. An inventory of all documents related to The Coal Study that Rocky Mountain Power has in its possession or has provided to the public, stakeholders, media representatives, including such entities in other states in the Company's service territory together with any responsive comments or other public filings.

3. Public Notice of this proceeding shall be published, to include a deadline for written comments and intervention by interested parties, no more than thirty days from issuance hereof.

4. This Order is effective immediately.

MADE and ENTERED at Cheyenne, Wyoming, June 20, 2019.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WYOMING


KARA B. FORNSTROM, Chairman


MARY A. THRONE, Deputy Chair


MICHAEL M. ROBINSON, Commissioner




CHRISTOPHER PETRIE, Secretary and Chief Counsel