



Perspectives from a rural community in the Tri-State Service Area.

Chris Menges, High Country Citizens' Alliance



Who we are

High County Citizens' Alliance (HCCA)

- Based in Crested Butte, CO
- Grassroots conservation organization
- 600 local, regional & national members
- Many of our members are also members of the Gunnison County Electric Association (GCEA) and other regional REA's served by Tri-State (such as DMEA, SMPA & LPEA)

HCCA's Mission compels interest in Tri-State Resource Plan

- **Climate Change threatens ecosystems**
 - Without addressing it's causes and seeking mitigation, we can't achieve our mission
 - Our members are demanding reductions in GHG emissions from the energy generation powering our communities



Climate Change threatens Gunnison Valley's Economy

- Bottom line: We must mitigate climate change to protect economy, ecology and way of life
- Climate Change forecasts in our region:
 - 5.7 degree increase in temp. by 2070
 - 30% reduction in streamflow by 2030
- Local economy reliant on snowpack and stream flow. Affected cornerstone industries include: Recreation & Tourism, Cattle Ranching, Agriculture

Gunnison Valley Commitment to GHG Emissions Reduction

- City of Gunnison, Town of Crested Butte, & Town of Mt. Crested Butte signed Mayors Climate Protection Agreement to reduce GHG emissions 20% by 2020
- City of Gunnison, Gunnison County & Town of Crested Butte adopted Energy Action Plans
- Many local residents support the efforts of HCCA's CCEP to address baseload power production – our largest per capita source of emissions
- Reducing GHG emissions attributed to electric production is necessary to meet Community's target reduction goals

Public Component of Tri-State's Resource Planning Process

- Appreciate Tri-State's commitment to and engagement in process
- Perceived lack of transparency in resource planning prior to process
- HCCA & our members are enthusiastic about Tri-State/WRA agreement and quality of this process so far
- Encouraged by quality and engagement of public participants in the room today

HCCA's Concerns with perceived Tri-State direction

- Proposed 800 MW Coal plant at Holcomb, KS
- Local REA members upset about \$53 million to date invested in Holcomb
- Principle reliance on coal, exposing members to rate increase risks (assuming a price on Carbon)

Recognizing positive strides over the past two years

- What we've liked:
 - Nexant system-wide Energy Efficiency study
 - 51 MW wind, 30 MW Solar planned
 - Renewable Energy Incentive Program
 - Together We Save campaign and website
 - This public participation component of the Resource Planning process

HCCA's Recommendations to Tri-State p.1

- Dedicated implementation of Nexant EE/DSM study recommendations
- Tri-State should move beyond 'least cost principle'
 - And also consider least cost to human health, environment and local economies
 - Coop principles supersede 'least cost'
 - Coop principle 7 mandates 'concern for community'

“Concern for Community – While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies adopted by their members”

HCCA's Recommendations to Tri-State p.2

- Align with Colorado Climate Action Plan to reduce GHG emissions 20% by 2020
- Take full advantage of expert testimony given in today's session
- For Holly, Colorado Power Project, consider non-coal sources with higher priority
- Continually improve and expand Renewable Energy Incentive Program for member coops
 - “Rural communities are rich in solar, wind, biomass, small hydro and geothermal resources, and with financial support, we can help our members invest in local renewable energy projects that support our rural economies.” – Ken Anderson, Tri-State General Mgr.

Thank you & Questions

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