



ENERGY VENTURES ANALYSIS

Providing the energy industry with expert advice since 1981

1901 N. MOORE STREET
SUITE 1200
ARLINGTON, VA 22209-1706

TEL: (703) 276-8900
FAX: (703) 276-9541
WEB: www.evainc.com

September 28, 2018

Study Finds Changes to PRPA Would Drive Up Electricity Rates, Hurt Reliability

Adopting policies for zero net carbon or zero carbon fuel sources by the Platte River Power Authority (PRPA) would lead to significant customer rate increases and reliability issues. Those are the key findings in a study titled “Review of Platte River Power Authority’s Zero Net Carbon Energy Study” published by Energy Ventures Analysis (EVA), a national energy consulting firm.

Released in September, the study reviewed a zero net carbon study released by PRPA in late 2017 and subsequent related information. Among EVA’s findings:

- Implementation of the ZNC study would require PRPA to overbuild renewable resources without a guarantee that it would actually achieve “zero net carbon.”
- Under the ZNC portfolio, PRPA residential customer electric bills would increase by 39% over 2016 actual rates.
- Replacing PRPA’s existing coal plants with new natural gas generation will not reduce lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions.
- Implementing the PRPA’s ZNC study would mean replacing one of the most reliable and lowest-cost resources in the country with less reliable and higher-cost resources.
- 100% renewable electricity supply for PRPA is not achievable, would jeopardize reliability, and would increase costs.

“The data from PRPA’s Rawhide coal unit is compelling,” according to Seth Schwartz, President of EVA. “Rawhide Unit #1 is one of the lowest-cost power generation resources in Colorado and the entire United States,” he said. “It also provides extraordinary reliability.”

Schwartz also commented on the suggestion of 100% renewable power. “Wind and solar are good options for supplementing base load generation, but they are intermittent. There are new storage battery technologies with promise, but for the foreseeable future they are not affordable and reliable. Using them at scale to meet the needs of large communities is unrealistic.”

The EVA study was commissioned by major power users in Northern Colorado.

###

Energy Ventures Analysis – EVA – is a world-class energy consulting firm located in the Washington, DC area. EVA energy experts offer cutting-edge energy consulting services including energy market fundamentals, economic analysis, and operational management. EVA has been recognized by [Forbes](#) magazine as a top energy consulting firm with outstanding energy consulting services and customer satisfaction.

Contact Seth Schwartz at schwartz@evainc.com