

1/29/2016

Dr. Bradley Borum
Director of Research, Policy, and Planning
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 E.
Indianapolis, IN 46204-3407
Re: Indiana Michigan Power Integrated Resource Plan

Dear Dr. Borum:

I am writing to comment on Indiana Michigan Power's 20-year energy plan for Fort Wayne, South Bend, Elkhart, Muncie and other I&M service areas.

If Ball State University can build the world's largest geothermal plant and shut down carbon burning on campus altogether, then I&M can do shut down the AEP Rockport plant. I volunteer with individuals and groups trying to make Muncie the greenest city in Indiana. I recently edited a Rockefeller grant (100 Resilient Cities) proposal for the city of Muncie, which if awarded would help make our city more sustainable.

I am very concerned that under I&M's proposed plan, the AEP Rockport plant is the sixth largest carbon polluter in the U.S. and will continue to operate for at least another 20 years. AEP Rockport is the sixth worst polluter in Indiana and second most toxic power plant in Indiana. Not only is the Rockport plant bad for the environment and public health, is a bad deal for customers. I&M has opted not to invest in cheaper cleaner solar and wind energy. I&M's proposed plan is blind to its climate-change implications: heating up the atmosphere with a \$6 billion investment during the next 20 years to retrofit and install expensive pollution controls and locking us into an outdated technology for years to come.

I&M had to do better. In its own analysis, the same CONSUMER dollars invested in clean energy would reduce carbon pollution 57% by 2040. Such a plan would likely create hundreds of local green energy jobs and economic opportunities in communities like mine. It would also comply with the federal Clean Power Plan. Wind is also plentiful in I&M territory. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management estimates that Indiana potentially has five times the wind resources to meet the federal renewable energy requirement of 20.5 percent clean energy by 2030. According to the Indiana Office of Energy Development as of October 2015, residential and business customers have produced 118 megawatts (MW) of solar PV for the regional grid, most being sold to Indiana utilities through power purchase agreements. It's all the more reprehensible that recently I&M and other utilities have sponsored legislation to restrict energy freedom by increasing rooftop solar costs and giving less than fair return on power generated.

I also think that I&M-sponsored energy efficiency programs - which include home energy audits, rebates on efficient appliances and low-income weatherization programs should not be allowed to fall to 7 percent of their current levels by 2021, as I&M projects. Is I&M even thinking about saving energy?

I&M, and every other institution, and every individual, need to do everything possible to help reduce CO2 emissions globally if we are to maintain advanced civilization as we know it.

Sincerely,
Edward Wolner
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