



May 31, 2024

Ms. Rebecca E. White, Director
Colorado Public Utilities Commission
1560 Broadway, 2nd Floor, Suite 250
Denver, CO 80202

RE: 2023 Renewable Energy Standard Annual Compliance Report, Qualifying
Wholesale Utility
Proceeding No. 24M-0014E

Dear Ms. White,

Pursuant to 4 CCR 723-3-3662(f), this letter serves as Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.'s ("Tri-State"), a Qualifying Wholesale Utility, 2023 Renewable Energy Standard Annual Compliance Report ("2023 RES Report") to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission ("Commission").

A copy of 2023 RES Report can be found on the Tri-State corporate website at:
<https://tristate.coop/resource-planning>

Background

Senate Bill 13-252 ("SB-252") was signed into law on June 5, 2013 and codified at § 40-2-124, C.R.S.; among other modifications, SB-252 established a twenty percent Renewable Energy Standard ("RES") for Qualifying Wholesale Utilities beginning in the year 2020 and continuing thereafter. The Commission adopted new rules implementing SB13-252 in Proceeding No. 13R-0901E specific to Qualifying Wholesale Utilities to existing Rule 3662, which defines the requirements for Annual Compliance Reports.

In the years prior to 2020, the only applicable reporting requirement for Tri-State was to describe what steps it had taken in the previous year toward achieving compliance beginning in 2020 and whether such progress was sufficient toward meeting future compliance obligations. Since 2014, Tri-State has filed a report each year, detailing its efforts with the 2020 RES Report filed in 2021 being the first report to quantify Tri-State's compliance with the RES as a Qualifying Wholesale Utility. The requirements for Qualifying Wholesale Utilities under Rule 3662(f) are outlined below.

Annual Reporting Requirements for Qualifying Wholesale Utilities (Rule 3662(f)(I) through (III))

- (I) Describe the steps it took during the most recently completed compliance year to comply with the renewable energy standard of 20 percent of retail sales by 2020 as established in § 40-2-124(8), C.R.S.**



On June 30, 2023, the Commission issued Decision No. C23-0437 in Tri-State’s 2020 Electric Resource Plan (“ERP”) in Proceeding No. 20A-0528E where the Commission issued its Phase II decision approving Tri-State’s preferred portfolio.

(II) For the compliance years before 2020, describe whether it is making sufficient progress toward meeting the standard in 2020 or is likely to meet the 2020 standard early.

Tri-State filed its first RES Report in May 2014, which described the activities taken during 2013 toward compliance with the RES. A similar annual report was filed in the subsequent years prior to 2020; each report affirming its progress toward meeting the RES in 2020.

(III) For the 2020 compliance year and each compliance year thereafter, describe whether it has achieved compliance with the RES and whether it anticipates continuing to do so.

Tri-State achieved RES compliance for 2020, 2021, and 2022 and, as described below, will be retiring sufficient Renewable Energy Credits (“RECs”) to achieve compliance with the RES in 2023.

As mentioned above, Tri-State has been engaged in the ERP process since its 2020 ERP in Proceeding No. 20A-0528E. Tri-State issued a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) on May 18, 2022, for additional capacity and energy supply resources to be online prior to 2027. Considering the additional renewable resource approved by the Commission in Phase II and Tri-State’s current ability to fulfill the RES, Tri-State fully anticipates being able to comply with the standard in the future. Tri-State filed its 2023 ERP on December 1, 2023.

The RES established in §40-2-124(8)(b), C.R.S. states, “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each qualifying wholesale utility shall generate, or cause to be generated, at least twenty percent of the energy it provides to its Colorado members at wholesale from eligible energy resources in the year 2020 and thereafter.” In 2023, Tri-State provided 11,046,330 MWh¹ of wholesale energy to delivery points in Colorado for its

¹ Rule 3662(f)(l) mentions a RES of 20 percent of retail sales, however relying on the intent of the statute, Tri-State interprets the RES to apply to wholesale energy provided to its members at delivery points located in Colorado. This amount of energy is greater than the total Colorado member retail sales because it includes the member’s own use and member resales and has not been reduced for member distribution losses. It is also uncertain as to what qualifies as a Colorado member under Rule 3662. The headquarters of High West Energy is located in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming, and Highline Electric Association is headquartered in Holyoke, Colorado. While headquartered in Wyoming, High West has retail customers in Colorado; Highline, while headquartered in Colorado, has retail customers in Nebraska. The reported value includes all Colorado sales and excludes any sales outside Colorado.



Members. Twenty (20%) percent of this amount equates to 2,209,266 MWh or RECs from eligible energy resources required for compliance in the year 2023.

§ 40-2-124(8)(c), C.R.S. further states, “A qualifying wholesale utility may count the energy generated or caused to be generated from eligible energy resources by its Colorado members or by the qualifying wholesale utility on behalf of its Colorado members pursuant to subparagraph (V) of paragraph (c) of subsection (1) ((1)((c)(V)) of this section toward compliance with the energy resource standard established in this subsection (8).” For 2023, 1,394,092 RECs will be retired on behalf of Colorado members for compliance with the RES. Thus, 815,174 additional RECs will be retired to meet the RES for Tri-State as a Qualifying Wholesale Utility to achieve the 20 percent compliance level. The following table details the sources, vintages, multipliers, and quantities of RECs to be retired for Tri-State’s compliance obligation.

Tri-State Retirements	Renewable	Retirements (MWh)	Resource Multiplier	Retirements w/ Multiplier (RECs)	Resource Vintage
Boulder Canyon – Boulder Canyon		9,871	1.25	12,339	2019
Vallecito Hydro Electric Project		22,462	1.25	28,078	2019
Member Retirements		1,135,680	various	1,394,092	2019/2022/2023
Basin Wind		329,339	1.25	411,674	2018
Garland Canal Power Plant		8,028	1.00	8,028	2019
Basin Waste Heat Recovery		22,326	1.25	27,908	2019
Basin Solar		31	1.00	31	2019
Basin Wind		256,734	1.25	320,918	2019
Williams Fork Hydro Plant		4,960	1.25	6,200	2019
Total		1,789,431		2,209,266	

If you have any questions concerning Tri-State’s 2023 RES Report, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

/s/Elizabeth C. Stevens

Elizabeth C. Stevens
Senior Regulatory Attorney