



May 29, 2025

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

RE: 2024 Renewable Energy Standard Annual Compliance Report, Qualifying  
Wholesale Utility  
Proceeding No. 25M-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 ("2024 RES Report") to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission ("Commission").

A copy of 2024 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, 2022 and 2023, as described below, will be retiring sufficient Renewable Energy Credits (“RECs”) to achieve compliance with the RES in 2024.

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 2024, Tri-State provided 8,252,527 MWh<sup>1</sup> of wholesale energy to delivery points in Colorado for its Members. Twenty (20%) percent of this amount equates to 1,650,506 MWh or RECs from eligible energy resources required for compliance in the year 2024.

Section 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).”

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<sup>1</sup> 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.



For 2024, 788,426 RECs will be retired on behalf of Colorado members for compliance with the RES. Thus 862,080 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.



<b>Tri-State Renewable Retirements</b>	<b>Retirements (MWh)</b>	<b>Resource Multiplier</b>	<b>Retirements w/ Multiplier (RECs)</b>	<b>Resource Vintage</b>
Member Retirements	633,170	various	788,426	2024
WAPA Small Hydro, <30MW – LAP	346,678	1.25	433,348	2021
WAPA Small Hydro, <30MW – LAP	342,986	1.25	428,733	2022
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,322,834</b>		<b>1,650,506</b>	

If you have any questions concerning Tri-State’s 2024 RES Report, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

/s/Elizabeth C. Stevens

Elizabeth C. Stevens  
Senior Regulatory Attorney