



TRI-STATE GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION ASSOCIATION, INC.

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May 26, 2020

Mr. Doug Dean, Director
Colorado Public Utilities Commission
1560 Broadway
2nd Floor, Suite 250
Denver, CO 80202

RE: 2019 Renewable Energy Standard – Qualifying Wholesale Utility Compliance Report / Docket No. 20M-0014E

Dear Mr. Dean,

Pursuant to Section §40-2-124(8)(g)(II), C.R.S., this letter serves as Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.'s ("Tri-State") 2019 compliance report, as a qualifying wholesale utility, to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

A copy of this annual report can be found on the Tri-State corporate website at:
<https://www.tristate.coop/resource-planning>

(I) Tri-State is well-positioned to meet the Colorado Renewable Energy Standard (RES) requirements for Qualifying Wholesale Utilities (QWU) that will begin in 2020. Since the filing of our last annual compliance progress report, Tri-State has continued to acquire eligible energy resources to ensure its compliance with the QWU obligations originally set forth in Senate Bill 13-252, and which were subsequently incorporated into the above-referenced C.R.S. effective July 1, 2013.

Tri-State currently purchases power under long-term contracts from seven utility-scale renewable energy projects in Colorado and New Mexico – three solar facilities totaling 85 MW and four wind facilities totaling 367 MW. Tri-State also purchases the output from six small hydroelectric projects located in Colorado and Wyoming, totaling almost 27 MW.

As mentioned in last year's report, Tri-State signed long-term power purchase agreements for two new renewable energy projects resulting from a competitive bidding process initiated in 2018 -- the 104 MW Crossing Trails Wind Farm, and the 100 MW Spanish Peaks Solar Project.

In 2019, Tri-State issued another Request for Proposals (RFP) for renewable resources that resulted in Tri-State contracting for 200 MW of wind that is expected to be online by the end of 2021 and 615 MW of solar that is projected to be online by the end of 2023. Together with the projects resulting from the 2018 RFP, Tri-State will add over 1 GW of new wind and solar resources to its resource portfolio by 2024.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

A Touchstone Energy* Cooperative 

CRAIG STATION
P.O. BOX 1307
CRAIG, CO 81626-1307
970-824-4411

ESCALANTE STATION
P.O. BOX 577
PREWITT, NM 87045
505-876-2271

NUCLA STATION
P.O. BOX 698
NUCLA, CO 81424-0698
970-864-7316



In conjunction with these large-scale renewable energy projects, Tri-State's members continue to be active in developing local renewable and distributed generation projects. The development of these projects is facilitated by Tri-State board policies for members wanting to serve a portion of their local loads through projects they own or whose output they purchase. As of the date written above, 128 MW of these local renewable energy projects were in operation, up from 113 MW last year, with another 8 MW expected to be completed in the coming months. In December 2019, the Tri-State Board of Directors approved a new policy that will encourage the deployment of community solar projects in our member systems' service territories.

Looking ahead, Tri-State is evaluating laws enacted in 2019 in Colorado and New Mexico related to emissions reductions and increased renewable portfolio standards, and will continue to evaluate opportunities to expand its renewable resource portfolio based on economic conditions and statutory requirements.

(II) Given the progress described in this report, Tri-State remains confident in its ability to achieve full compliance by the required date set forth in the RES.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Timothy Woolley
Assistant General Counsel, Regulatory Affairs