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Ms. Shannon Coleman
Supervisor, Resource Planning & Analysis
Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska
8377 Glynoaks Drive
Lincoln, NE 68516

Attn: MEAN_IRP@nmppenergy.org

Dear Ms. Coleman,

Please accept my comments on MEAN's 2022 draft IRP.

I have been a City of Gunnison ratepayer for seven years. I resent the fact that MEAN has neglected to take any comments from the end user, the ratepayer, during the last five years or is willing to have yearly public meetings in Colorado to receive public comments. To have Lincoln, NE as the only place to hold public meetings shows that the MEAN board and staff have no real desire to know ratepayer sentiment on important issues such as climate change and the need to pivot the MEAN energy portfolio quickly from coal assets to renewable energy production.

I will send a comment letter to WAPA that MEAN's IRP, as mandated by the *Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPAct)*, has not followed the spirit or intent of the law. One of the Acts requirements is to "*provide ample opportunity for full public participation.*" I am a very active citizen in Gunnison, reading most of the City Council packets every two weeks and attending the meetings. I have never been asked to comment by the City or MEAN on any electrical resource question. I find this appalling and disconcerting.

It is time that MEAN gets serious about ratepayer sentiment by holding at least one public meeting per year in a MEAN supplied municipality in each of the four states serviced by MEAN. This way, if you are interested, ratepayers can come together to make comments on the IRP in development or in draft form. These meetings should allow all commenters to speak, no matter the number who show up and that at least 5 minutes is allowed per speaker. MEAN needs to publicly notice these public meetings in local media and have the municipalities supplied by MEAN do the same. If you really want ratepayer comments you are going to have to spend more money to publicize and notice meetings so that many ratepayers will know there

is a public meeting in their state of residence that they can attend. This would help your problem of virtually no public ratepayer comments.

Your comment deadline on the draft IRP is another problem for ratepayers to read the document and send written comments. MEAN's comment period of 24 days is insufficient; I would recommend 45 days if you are truly committed to public input.

My biggest concern on the IRP is that climate change is here now with all the impacts of drought, floods, heat domes, derechos (linear high speed wind events, yes Nebraska has had some), and increase hazardous weather variability. These climate induced changes will be a challenge for MEAN's infrastructure, MEAN supplied city grids, and MEAN ratepayers. To not acknowledge these challenges is a liability for all concerned. MEAN describes none of these climate liabilities or risks and never mentions climate change in the IRP, with zero MEAN climate mitigation response or planning. Instead, what the IRP shows is that MEAN's 2022 coal assets at 54% of its energy portfolio and a very modest decrease in coal use by 2038 at 50% coal produced electricity. This is another acknowledgement that MEAN is a basic climate science denier that will have grave consequences for MEAN's infrastructure, municipal grids and ratepayer health and safety. The above climate dangers should be in the IRP, along with MEAN's thoughts on how they will deal with these challenges today and into the future.

MEAN's unwillingness to pivot away from coal to clean renewable energy is a danger to WAPA and their ability to supply hydroelectric power to cities and MEAN. The hydrology of Bureau of Reclamation dams continues to plummet as climate warming increases. It is in WAPA's best interest for all entities receiving WAPA resources to pivot quickly to renewable electric sources to maintain and enhance water supplies for clean hydroelectric generation.

Lastly, the City of Gunnison just passed a Climate Action and Sustainability plan which lays out a 100% renewable electric grid by 2024. MEAN's inability to quickly pivot to renewable energy put the City's energy goals into question. MEAN's "Renewable Energy Pools" is nothing but a shell game for the cities of Gunnison, Aspen, and Glenwood Springs that have fully subscribed the wind resource available. Soon, all three cities and their respective ratepayers will come to the conclusion that MEAN has tied them to a fraudulent pool of energy and that MEAN electric production will only be clean when a majority of the power is low carbon renewable energy.

I hope that you will take my comments seriously and rewrite sections of the IRP as other critical comments are received.

Thank you,

Steve Schechter

Cc: Russ Forest, Gunnison City Clerk, Parker Wicks, and Tracey Lebeau