

December 19, 2023

Jason Frisbie  
General Manager/CEO  
Platte River Power Authority

**Re: 2024 Integrated Resource Plan & the Clean Energy Plan statute, SB 23-198**

The undersigned individuals are writing to express our concern that in developing its 2024 integrated resource plan (“IRP”), PRPA may not be complying with a recent state law, Senate Bill (“SB”) 23-198. In 2023, Governor Polis signed into law a bill referred to as the Clean Energy Plan bill, SB 23-198, that is designed to ensure that Colorado’s electric utilities reduce greenhouse gas emissions (“GHG”) consistent with the State’s decarbonization goals.

SB 23-198 requires PRPA and its Board to do three things in the pending 2024 integrated resource plan:<sup>1</sup>

1. Model at least one portfolio that achieves at least a 46% reduction in GHG emissions by 2027 relative to PRPA’s 2005 baseline GHG emissions;
2. Model at least one additional portfolio that achieves greater GHG emission reductions by 2027 than PRPA’s prior integrated resource plan; and
3. PRPA’s Board must consider the two portfolios listed above.<sup>2</sup>

This provision of SB 23-198 is intended to harmonize the efforts of Colorado’s electric utilities so that they are all making the same minimum level of progress in decarbonizing their systems. Currently, out of the six Colorado utilities that have filed Clean Energy Plans, PRPA is

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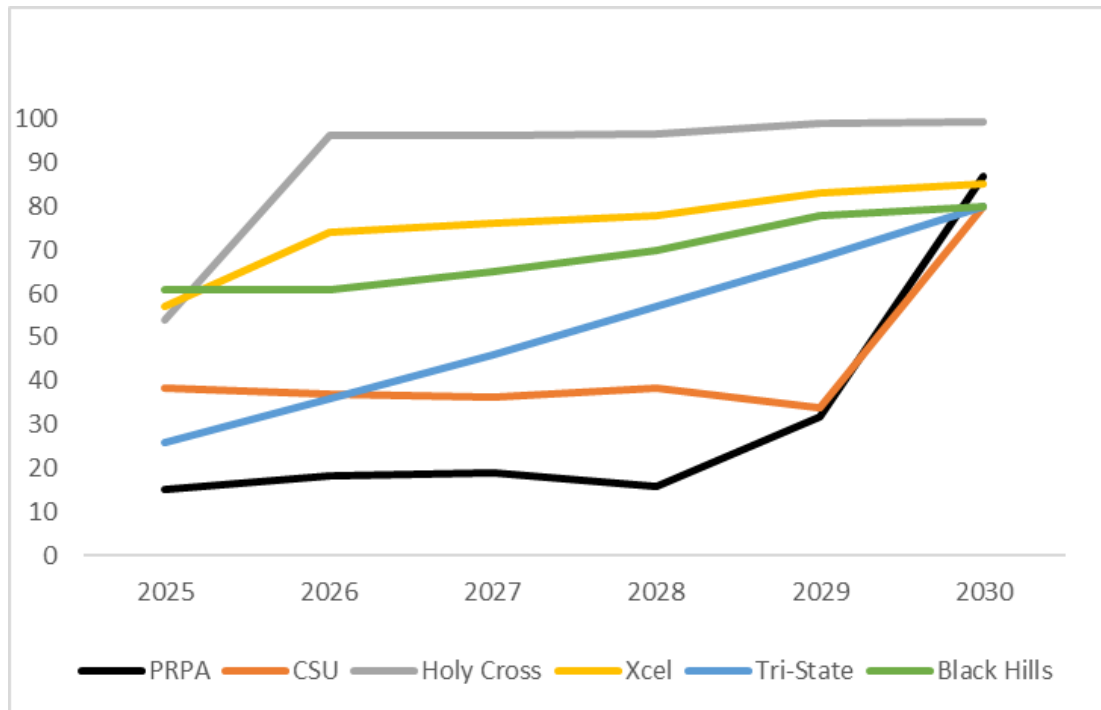
<sup>1</sup> Section 25-7-105(1)(e)(VIII.9)(C), C.R.S. applies to “any entity described in subsection (1)(e)(VIII.9)(B),” which in turn applies to “any entity that, before January 1, 2024, submits a Clean Energy Plan” to the Division and the verification workbooks show the Plan is not projected to achieve a 46% reduction in GHG emissions by 2027. PRPA submitted a Clean Energy Plan to the Division in 2022, and the Division’s verification workbook shows that PRPA’s Clean Energy Plan is not projected to achieve at least a 46% reduction in GHG emissions by 2027. As a result, PRPA is subject to the requirements of section 25-7-105(1)(e)(VIII.9)(C), C.R.S.

<sup>2</sup> Section 25-7-105(1)(e)(VIII.9)(C), C.R.S. The full text of this section reads as follows:

Any entity described in subsection (1)(e)(VIII.9)(B) of this section is encouraged to achieve the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions described in subsection (1)(e)(VIII.9)(A) of this section. As a part of any electric resource plan developed, finalized, or submitted on or after July 1, 2023, any entity described in subsection (1)(e)(VIII.9)(B) of this section shall model: At least one portfolio that achieves the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions described in subsection (1)(e)(VIII.9)(A) of this section and achieves at least an eighty percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions caused by the entity’s Colorado electricity sales by 2030 relative to 2005 levels; and at least one portfolio that achieves greater greenhouse gas emissions reductions than the reductions that the clean energy plan submitted before January 1, 2024, is projected to achieve by 2027 and achieves at least an eighty percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions caused by the entity’s Colorado electricity sales by 2030 relative to 2005 levels. The entity’s governing body shall consider these two portfolios as part of the electric resource planning process.

dead last in reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and is projected to remain in last place through 2029, as Figure 1 below shows. In other words, every other utility that has filed a Clean Energy Plan expects to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions much more between now and 2029 than PRPA.

Figure 1: Projected Reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions from Utilities with Clean Energy Plans<sup>3</sup>



Representatives from stakeholders who worked on Clean Energy Plans legislation have attended public meetings regarding PRPA’s 2024 IRP, and reviewed the written materials PRPA has made available. They have not seen any materials discussing how PRPA intends to comply with the requirements of SB 23-198 codified at section 25-7-105(1)(e)(VIII.9)(C), C.R.S. For example, they have not seen any documents explaining the level of GHG emission reductions that would be achieved by 2027 for each of the portfolios PRPA has presented.

It is critical that PRPA’s 2024 resource plan comply with the legal requirements the legislature enacted in SB 23-198. As noted above, to comply with SB 23-198, PRPA must model at least one portfolio that achieves greater reductions in GHG emissions by 2027 than its prior resource plan was projected to achieve, and must model a separate portfolio that would achieve at least a 46% reduction in GHG emissions by 2027.

We ask that PRPA comply with SB 23-198 and share with the public the results of modeling the portfolios required by SB 23-198 (which can be done through the website that PRPA maintains for its 2024 IRP). In particular, PRPA should explain which portfolio would

<sup>3</sup> Figure 1 is based on data in the Clean Energy Plans that have been verified by the Air Pollution Control Division to-date. Data for Tri-State are based on its 2020 resource plan and do not reflect the greater emission reductions Tri-State has proposed to achieve in its 2023 plan. Data for Xcel are based on the portfolio approved in its Phase I resource plan, 21A-0141E, as the PUC has not yet issued a written decision in Xcel’s Phase II resource plan.

achieve at least a 46% reduction in GHG emissions by 2027 and what additional actions PRPA would implement to achieve these reductions by 2027; and similarly, PRPA should identify the other portfolio that would achieve greater GHG reductions by 2027 than PRPA's last IRP, and identify the additional actions PRPA would implement to achieve this level of GHG reductions by 2027. We also ask that PRPA address this issue in its next public meeting for the 2024 IRP.

Finally, given that the legislature encouraged PRPA to achieve at least a 46% reduction in GHG emissions by 2027, we join the legislature in requesting that PRPA recommend, and its Board approve, a portfolio that achieves at least a 46% reduction in GHG emissions by 2027 while also reducing GHG emissions at least 80% by 2030.

Sincerely,

Senator Lisa Cutter, SD20

Senator Faith Winter, SD25

Representative Andrew Boesenecker, HD53

Representative Cathy Kipp, HD52

Representative Mike Weissman, HD36

Representative William Lindstedt, HD33

Commissioner Jody Shaddock-McNally, D3 Larimer County

Councilmember Kelly Ohlson, Fort Collins

Councilmember Aren Rodriguez, Longmont

*Cc PRPA Board of Directors*