



Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Subj: Docket Number: E-99999A-22-0046

Dear Chairman O'Connor and Commissioners,

As the Goldwater Institute's Director of Municipal Affairs, I urge you to support joint proposed amendment No. 1, submitted by Commissioners Nick Myers and Kevin Thompson.

The Four Corners power plant is critical in ensuring that Arizonans receive consistent and reliable energy. When Four Corners shuts down, the energy that will be lost must be replaced with equally reliable, cost-effective, and dispatchable sources.

One need only look to California to learn this lesson. Shifting toward "renewable energy" without due consideration for these factors has deprived Arizona's western neighbors of dependable energy. The California Independent System Operator, the entity that manages the flow of electricity in California and a portion of Nevada, must regularly send "Flex Alerts" to residents, urging them to drastically reduce or cease using energy during peak hours of the day (often between 4:00 – 9:00 pm). During those times, when most families are at home and need to do chores, Californians are discouraged from using major appliances like washers, dryers, and ovens; encouraged to use fans instead of an air conditioning unit; and asked to avoid charging their electric vehicles. Such a scenario would be unimaginable in Arizona's blistering and sometimes life-threatening heat.

In fact, despite being one of the hottest states in the U.S., Arizona's power grid has kept up with demand. Indeed, Arizonans experienced no major power outages during this summer's historic heat wave, despite record electricity use.¹ Because Arizona has prioritized the diversification of its energy sources, its grid has proven trustworthy. California has not taken this approach, and its residents have suffered.

Moreover, California's approach has been costly for its residents. According to the US Energy Information Administration, Californians pay more than double what Arizonans pay per kilowatt hour, and their power is far less reliable.²

¹ <https://www.axios.com/local/phoenix/2024/04/26/arizona-power-outages-electric-grid>

² https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.php?t=epmt_5_6_a



Arizonans deserve reliable, cost-effective energy. To ensure Arizona residents don't share the fate of their California neighbors, it is imperative to replace the energy lost from closing the Four Corners Power Plant with equally reliable, dispatchable, and cost-effective energy.

We urge the commission to pass this amendment, which will protect Arizona's power grid and consumers.

Sincerely,

Austin VanDerHeyden
Director of Municipal Affairs