

From: Kristyn Muniz <kristyn_muniz@rswy.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2021 2:09 PM
To: NRC-EJReview Resource
Cc: randall.luthi@wyo.gov; Tim Kaumo
Subject: [External_Sender] Letter of Comment
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Good afternoon,

Attached please find a letter from Mayor Kaumo at the City of Rock Springs in Rock Springs, Wyoming, containing comments related to 86 FR 36307 Systematic Assessment for How the NRC Addresses Environmental Justice in Its Programs, Policies, and Activities.

Please contact Mayor Kaumo with any questions regarding these comments at tim_kaumo@rswy.net, or (307) 352-1510.

Thank you,

Kristyn Muniz

Deputy City Clerk

City of Rock Springs

212 D Street

Rock Springs, WY 82901

Office: (307) 352-1502

Fax: (307) 352-1516

www.rswy.net

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Comment Number: 78

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Sent Date: 10/28/2021 2:09:27 PM
Received Date: 10/28/2021 2:10:10 PM
From: Kristyn Muniz

Created By: kristyn_muniz@rswy.net

Recipients:

"randall.luthi@wyo.gov" <randall.luthi@wyo.gov>

Tracking Status: None

"Tim Kaumo" <tim_kaumo@rswy.net>

Tracking Status: None

"NRC-EJReview Resource" <NRC-EJReview.Resource@nrc.gov>

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Options

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Expiration Date:



Timothy A. Kaumo, Mayor
212 D Street, Rock Springs, WY 82901
(307) 352-1510 · Fax (307) 352-1516

October 26, 2021

Submitted via email: NRC-EJReview@nrc.gov

RE: Comments related to 86 FR 36307 Systematic Assessment for How the NRC Addresses Environmental Justice in Its Programs, Policies, and Activities

Dear Nuclear Regulatory Commission Staff:

On July 9, 2021, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published a request in the Federal Register for comments on its "Systematic Assessment for How the NRC Addresses Environmental Justice in Its Programs, Policies, and Activities." I am writing on behalf of Rock Springs, Sweetwater County, Wyoming. Rock Springs is very interested in hosting the TerraPower Sodium reactor as part of the Department of Energy's Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program (ARDP). Our community sees great value that this project, and other projects like it, can offer: high-paying, quality jobs and tax revenue for our communities, which is a critical need as we face the loss of coal-related jobs, and preventing relocation of families in search of new jobs. As the NRC considers how it will address environmental justice, we hope that it will recognize that there are communities who strongly support the development of these sorts of projects.

Rock Springs has a large skilled workforce available, and an aggressive community college capable of providing programs to re-train this workforce, which will help fill jobs that may become available in the nuclear sector, should this become reality. Loss of jobs and families is never good for any community. Schools funding is based on the number of students who attend; this ripple effect would result in funding reductions to our school district. The housing market is strong at the current time, but the loss of jobs and families would also result in many homes left on the market and valuations reduced. As Mayor of the City of Rock Springs, Wyoming, I support this project wholeheartedly. I have researched the design of the facility and the operation process, which is much safer than the antiquated construction and operations that everyone remembers from the past. The temperatures and pressures are much lower, which contribute to a safer environment. This is the answer to meeting the needs of the high-demands for power from a clean and efficient source.

As described by TerraPower in a recent presentation to the NRC, we represent communities with coal-fired power plants that could be retired between now and 2039, which are:



Timothy A. Kaumo, Mayor
212 D Street, Rock Springs, WY 82901
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1. Naughton - 4 miles southwest of Kemmerer in Lincoln County - three-unit plant with a total generating capacity of 700 MW (Units 1 and 2 are coal-fired and Unit 3 was converted to natural gas in 2019). The 2021 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) reports that Units 1 and 2 are slated to be retired in 2025.
2. Jim Bridger - 25 miles east of Rock Springs in Point of Rocks, Sweetwater County - four-unit plant with generating capacity of approximately 2110 MW (all units are coal-fired). The 2021 IRP reports that Units 1 and 2 will be converted to natural gas in 2024; and Units 3 and 4 are slated to be retired in 2037.
3. Dave Johnston - On the banks of the North Platte River near Glenrock in Converse County - four-unit plant with a total generating capacity of 755 MW (all units are coal-fired). The 2021 IRP reports that all units are scheduled for retirement in 2027.
4. Wyodak - 5 miles east of Gillette in Campbell County - one-unit, air-cooled plant with generating capacity of 362 MW (coal-fired). The plant is scheduled for retirement in 2039.

Should the retirements happen as currently envisioned, the loss of these four generating facilities will mean a loss to our communities in the form of quality jobs and tax revenue, and we need to find a way to replace those jobs and revenue quickly before families are forced to relocate. Nuclear power plants are an attractive solution. The technical overlap between coal and nuclear plant jobs is a benefit to companies seeking to operate the nuclear power plants as well as the communities where they will be sited.

Additionally, nuclear power plays to the strengths of coal generation and the workforce available in those areas, which is why our communities are excited to work with TerraPower and PacifiCorp in developing this new technology. The Sodium reactor, which operates flexibly by utilizing molten salt energy storage, will also provide resilience to the grid in the same manner as the current coal-fired power plants.

Our community is excited to host advanced nuclear power facilities because we recognize the promise of quality jobs, much needed tax revenue, and a place at the forefront of demonstrating a meaningful and replicable use of this new technology for the United States. While there may be people outspoken against nuclear energy, the towns of Glenrock, Gillette, Kemmerer, and Rock Springs are ready to embrace it. Our town, specifically, appreciates the benefits that nuclear energy can bring to our local community. Sweetwater County has always been known as a strong leader in energy and we have what is needed to meet these needs successfully.

While only one community will be selected to host the initial Sodium reactor, we hope that a successful demonstration will make advanced nuclear energy an accessible energy option in Wyoming and throughout the rest of the country.



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It should be noted that our communities are excited about this opportunity, not reluctant. I am also confident that there are other Mayors across the country who agree that there are benefits to building advanced nuclear reactors in their backyards. We are raising our hands to participate in this comment process and hope that the NRC recognizes this fact as it updates how it incorporates environmental justice standards in its licensing processes. As the Mayor of Rock Springs, Wyoming, and from someone who lives where the "rubber meets the road," I can assure you that we support this opportunity and feel it will begin to build back a better nation by producing clean energy to meet the needs of an ever-growing population.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments and feel free to contact me with any questions you may have at tim_kaumo@rswy.net or via phone at 307-352-1510.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy A. Kaumo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Timothy A. Kaumo
Mayor