



Center for Climate and Energy Solutions
3100 Clarendon Blvd.
Suite 800
Arlington, VA 22201

April 2, 2020

Dear UAMPS Elected Official,

The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) is writing in support of Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS) Carbon Free Power Project.

C2ES, is the successor to the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, which was founded in 1998 and is widely recognized as an influential and pragmatic voice on climate issues. Our mission is to advance strong policy and action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote clean energy, and strengthen resilience to climate impacts. We believe a sound climate strategy is essential to ensure a strong, sustainable economy.

We recognize that communities' immediate focus is on the battle against the spread of COVID-19, strengthening our health care system, providing support to affected individuals and businesses, and helping our economy emerge strongly from the pandemic. And, we wish you well in your efforts. We encourage you to do your utmost to protect yourself, your families and your communities.

As we get a handle on this health crisis and plan the recovery in the months ahead, we believe that there are opportunities to improve the environment, reduce emissions, build resilience to climate change while creating jobs and advancing our economy.

As the nation's first small modular reactor (SMR), UAMPS Carbon Free Power Project will be building on a solid half-century record of reliable, safe, emission-free nuclear power in the United States. And, since the early 1990s nuclear has been consistently providing 20 percent of U.S. electricity, while helping to avoid millions of tons of carbon pollution and other criteria pollutants, e.g., nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide.

A strong body of scientific evidence underscores the imperative of decarbonizing the global economy in order to avoid the worst potential impacts of climate change. This monumental task will require reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent or more by mid-century. To date, the U.S. has only managed to reduce its net emissions 13 percent below 2005 levels. That leaves a significant margin yet to account for.

Modeling to date clearly shows that we need nuclear power, renewables, carbon capture, and improved energy efficiency to achieve large-scale, economy-wide emission reductions. It is absolutely necessary to pursue all

promising zero-emissions technologies with equal vigor. **Importantly, the same modeling shows that a having a diverse, 100 percent carbon-free portfolio (e.g., SMRs, wind, solar, hydro and battery storage) is far more cost-effective in terms of total system cost and future electricity prices when compared to a renewables only portfolio (e.g. wind, solar, hydro and battery storage).**

Projects like this are a key part of helping us achieve this deep decarbonization. As the existing nuclear fleet begins to retire over the next few decades, SMRs and other advanced nuclear designs will be critical in helping the United States continue to reduce emissions and avoid backsliding, as in the case where a nuclear power plant is replaced by a fossil fuel generator.

Not only are SMRs carbon free, but they have other important attributes. SMRs designs are simpler and even safer than today's large light water reactors, incorporating many passive safety features. Also, SMRs are scalable. So, you can add more power when you need it.

Additionally, they are a firm, dispatchable source of power generation, but they can be operated much more flexibly than today's large light water reactors, which make them an ideal complementary power source to variable renewable generation.

And, nuclear power remains one of the most energy dense power sources. So, very little land is required relative to the power output of the facility. SMRs can be built largely out of site of the customers that they serve.

By supporting this historic first-of-a-kind project, you will be setting an important example for communities across this nation. We view SMRs as a key tool in the set of zero-emission technologies that can help us achieve deep decarbonization by mid-century. We stand with you in support of clean electricity.

Best regards,

Bob Perciasepe
President, C2ES