

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

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IN RE:  MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	DOCKET NO. SPU-2021-0003
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**ORDER OPENING DOCKET AND PROPOSAL TO TAKE OFFICIAL NOTICE**

On March 24, 2021, the Utilities Board (Board) issued an order approving MidAmerican Energy Company's (MidAmerican) emissions plan budget update in Docket No. EPB-2020-0156, concluding that its electric power generating facilities fueled by coal complied with state and federal emissions requirements in a cost-effective manner. As part of that order, the Board ordered a new docket, Docket No. SPU-2021-0003, be opened to review MidAmerican's generating fleet, including the potential retirement of coal plants, and to consider the matters identified in the joint statement of issues and any other issues as provided in Iowa Code §§ 476.6(12) and 476.6(16).

Iowa Code § 476.6(12) allows the Board to evaluate the reasonableness and prudence of MidAmerican's procurement and contracting practices related to the acquisition of fuel for use in generating electricity. Iowa Code § 476.6(16) allows the Board to address a forecast of future gas requirements or electric generating needs. Iowa Code § 476.2(4) authorizes the Board to inquire into the management of the business of all public utilities, requires the Board to keep itself informed as to the manner and method in which the same is conducted, and allows the Board to obtain

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from any public utility all necessary information to enable the Board to perform its duties. The February 2021 polar vortex has raised numerous concerns about reliability and baseload generation, especially considering the rapid changes occurring to the national generation fleet. The concerns appear to be directly related to portions of the proposed settlement between MidAmerican and the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA), a division of the Department of Justice, and the intervenors' identified issues in Docket No. EPB-2020-0156. This docket will explore MidAmerican's long-term resource needs, including consideration of least-cost options for generation, environmental requirements, reliability, and economic development potential.

To begin the review of MidAmerican's long-term resource needs, the Board will require some initial information. Pursuant to Iowa Code § 17A.14(4), the Board proposes to take official notice of the filings in Docket No. EPB-2020-0156. In addition, the Board will request that MidAmerican provide information about its plans to address anticipated resource needs. The Board will request that MidAmerican file any current documents that provide details about its long-term resource requirements.

MidAmerican also will be requested to file within 60 days of this order: (1) an overview of its current generating fleet, including wind and solar, and how it meets the needs of MidAmerican's customers; (2) a least-cost analysis addressing options considered by MidAmerican to meet its long-term resource needs, the potential effects on reliability, and the economic development potential; and (3) an analysis of the issues identified in Docket No. EPB-2020-0156 that have been deferred to this docket. The analysis provided by MidAmerican should include consideration of fuel switching, generating unit retirement, modified dispatch, addition of new generation sources, wholesale market

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transactions, and the costs of alternative compliance options, as well as any economic development potential for those options.

Within 90 days of the date of this order, any interested person may file comments, provide additional information, or address the information filed by MidAmerican.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. Docket No. SPU-2021-0003 is opened to review MidAmerican Energy Company's long-term resource plans.
2. MidAmerican Energy Company shall file within 60 days of the date of this order the following information:
  - a. Any current documents that provide details about its long-term resource requirements;
  - b. An overview of its current generating fleet and how it meets the needs of MidAmerican's customers;
  - c. A least-cost analysis addressing options considered to meet its long-term resource needs, including the potential effects on reliability and economic development potential; and
  - d. An analysis of the issues identified in Docket No. EPB-2020-0156 that have been deferred to this docket. The analysis should include consideration of fuel switching, generating unit retirement, modified dispatch, addition of new generation sources, wholesale market transactions, and the costs of alternative compliance options, as well as any economic development potential for those options.
3. Comments, additional information, or responses to the information filed by MidAmerican Energy Company shall be filed within 90 days of the date of this order.

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4. The Utilities Board is proposing to take official notice of the filings in Docket No. EPB-2020-0156. Any objections to the taking of official notice shall be filed within 10 days of the date of this order.

**UTILITIES BOARD**

**Geri Huser** Date: 2021.05.13  
16:16:15 -05'00'

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**Richard Lozier** Date: 2021.05.13  
16:32:21 -05'00'

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ATTEST:

**Anna Hyatt** Date: 2021.05.13  
17:06:20 -05'00'

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**Josh Byrnes** Date: 2021.05.13  
16:50:21 -05'00'

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Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 13th day of May, 2021.