

**For Immediate Release**  
Tuesday, February 3, 2003

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## **BEWARE HIDDEN COSTS IN SENATE BILL 21, CLEAN ENERGY ADVOCATES WARN**

### **Loophole-riddled Bill Could Leave Utah Powerless in Face of West Coast Demands**

**SALT LAKE CITY**—While Senate Bill 21 has been promoted as an economic development initiative, clean energy advocates have warned that it will generate more harm than benefits for Utah in the long run, using Utah's resources and shipping Utah's electric power to the West Coast even during peak periods. The bill, scheduled for committee hearing tomorrow, undermines existing consumer safeguards that were meant to protect Utah's energy production from West Coast domination. Senate Bill 21 will be considered at 8 AM by the House Public Utilities and Technology Standing Committee, in room 225.

"This bill will allow out-of-state purchasers to claim most of the power from the proposed new 950-megawatt coal plant at the Intermountain Power Plant (IPP) near Delta, Utah. In return, Utahns get stuck with the mess," said Joro Walker, Utah Office Director for the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies. "We'll see Utah's scarce water diverted to out-of-state electricity production, when it could otherwise be used to meet the water needs of 21,000 Utahns. Visibility in our national parks and other incredible areas will go down, and global warming gasses will go up."

"This old-style, inefficient, polluting, coal-fired power plant addition could not be built in California," said Nina Dougherty, energy spokesperson for Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club. "New power plants in California are more efficient and emit less pollution. This bill is about promoting the use of Utah coal – a dangerous path, given that burning coal is the main source of global warming gases."

The proposed IPP expansion would increase Utah's total SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from electricity generation by 14%, NO<sub>x</sub> emissions by 4%, and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 20%. SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> are the primary contributors to smog and haze, and CO<sub>2</sub> is a primary greenhouse gas affecting climate change. It would also consume an estimated 2.3 billion gallons (7,100 acre-feet) or more of water annually.

"Senate Bill 21 is full of loopholes that could really damage Utah's best interests," adds the Land and Water Fund's Eric Guidry, a legal expert on energy issues. "Current law requires that at least a majority of the electricity from the IPP remain in-state to serve Utah consumers. SB 21 would flip that around and allow a majority of the electricity to be exported outside Utah even during peak periods when Utah needs it most." Specifically, Guidry explained, the bill would amend the Interlocal Cooperation Act to:

- Allow out-of-state interests to take a majority of the electric energy generated by the proposed new IPP coal-fired power plant near Delta, Utah.
- Enable out-of-state utilities to take a greater share of the power from the new IPP power plant during peak periods when Utah needs it most.

- Weaken existing consumer safeguards ensuring that Utah can call back exported electricity from the new IPP facility if it needs that power in the future.

“This bill short-changes Utah consumers,” added Guidry. “In 2001, when electricity prices skyrocketed, Utah was able to call back the power from the existing IPP units to meet Utah demand. This bill would undermine that consumer safeguard by weakening the Utah’s ability to call back power from the new IPP unit in the future. Utah would be better served by taking steps to increase the use of the state’s abundant renewable energy and energy efficiency resources.”

“Utahns should not have to sacrifice our clean air, water, and scenic landscapes for a dated technology—so that out-of-state speculators can hope for a big profit,” said Kathy Van Dame, from the Wasatch Clean Air Coalition. “What do we get out of it? Less water for our own use, more asthma-causing pollution, and diminished views that will hurt tourism. All that and a loss of safeguards for Utah consumers.”

The Land and Water Fund of the Rockies is a regional environmental law and policy center serving the Interior West. From its offices in Utah and Colorado, it uses law, economics, and policy analysis to protect land, air and water resources and assure that energy demands are met in an economically and environmentally sound manner.

The approximately 5,000 members of the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club are volunteers involved in preserving wilderness and protecting environmental quality in Utah through a powerful combination of education, advocacy and litigation. They work for clean air, clean water, healthy wildlife populations and the integrity of public lands.

The Wasatch Clean Air Coalition is a grassroots group working in Utah to improve air quality. Its activities include reviewing air quality permits and related issues.

The Grand Canyon Trust is a regional conservation organization working from its offices in Arizona and Utah to protect the canyon country of the Colorado Plateau – its spectacular landscapes, flowing rivers, clean air, diversity of plants and animals, and areas of beauty and solitude.

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