As a concerned citizen of Colorado, I do not support the 21A-0096E - Application for approval of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Colorado's Power Pathway 345 kV Transmission Project, and the 2021 Clean Energy Plan. I strongly believe that the plan will create excessive cost to the local consumer, and result in unreliability of the electrical grid that could experience rolling blackouts or brownouts as we have seen in California and Texas.

Storm Uri in Texas was a utility nightmare that resulted in extended rolling blackouts for 3 consecutive days that cost hundreds of people’s lives. If an event such as Storm Uri occurred in the wintertime in Colorado, the deaths would be in the thousands if not hundreds of thousands if we lost power for 3 consecutive days in subzero weather.

With the current plans for early retirements of the Pueblo, and Hayden coal fired generators (~1200 MW) and the recent addition of the Comanche coal fired plant (~750 MW), there will be nearly 1950 MW of reliable base-load generation that is planned on being replaced with intermittent wind and solar generators.

Even John Welch, the Vice President for Commercial Operations for Xcel Energy, quoted in his direct testimony on the clean energy plan that he has concerns regarding the issues around intermittency and how to keep the grid viable for multiple days with little to no production from wind or solar:

[https://www.xcelenergy.com/staticfiles/xe-responsive/Company/Rates%20&%20Regulations/Resource%20Plans/Clean%20Energy%20Plan/HE\_106\_-Direct\_Testimony-John\_T\_Welch.pdf](https://www.xcelenergy.com/staticfiles/xe-responsive/Company/Rates%20%26%20Regulations/Resource%20Plans/Clean%20Energy%20Plan/HE_106_-Direct_Testimony-John_T_Welch.pdf)

All Colorado citizens want to have a cleaner environment, but we also need warm homes and reliable energy in a northern environment.

Nothing in the Clean Energy Plan, nor in the Power Pathway plan addresses the following:

* Reliable dispatchable energy for every MW of installed intermittent MW (wind and solar)
* Emergency back-up power generation plans in case of an extended severe winter storm
* The cost of peak shaving simple cycle units required to back up the massive build out of wind and solar to the Colorado utility consumer
* What legal recourse citizens of Colorado will have if the implementations of the PUC result in significant loss of property (freezing damage to homes due to loss of heat and power), or loss of life

Responses to these concerns would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,