

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY COMMISSION

City of Columbia & County of Boone

City Hall, Conference Room 1A

December 18, 2012

Mayor McDavid and Council Members,

The City Council is considering purchasing a 20 MW contract for fossil-fuel electricity. No consideration of alternatives, including solar photovoltaic arrays and of a "Virtual Power Plant" built with aggressive conservation measures have been made.

The Environment and Energy Commission (EEC) recommends that no decision on the contract for electricity from a fossil-fuel-fired generator be considered until alternatives, including solar photovoltaics, and reduction in electricity demand through energy efficiency improvements, have been thoroughly developed. Direct cost comparisons between the alternatives and purchased electricity options are needed. The Water and Light Department should provide cost comparisons between purchased electricity and aggressive conservation measures before the council makes its decision. The EEC recommends that the economics of aggressive conservation and widespread use of solar generation be considered.

Issues related to other impacts on Columbia should be considered in addition to the price. Local jobs, Columbia's image, impact on lower income citizens, community development, and impact on the goals of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (Resolution 106-06 A) are all issues worth considering.

Respectfully Yours,

Karl Skala,

Chair