

SOCORRO COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION
RESOLUTION No. 2012-34

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING EPA'S FEDERAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
FOR THE SAN JUAN GENERATING STATION

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completed a Federal Implementation Plan for reducing impacts from visibility-impairing pollution on nearby national parks and wilderness areas; and

WHEREAS, visibility is an aesthetic issue and not a human health issue; and

WHEREAS, the EPA's Federal Implementation Plan includes a Best Available Retrofit Technology determination for the San Juan Generating Station requiring Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) technology at all four of the plant's coal-fired electric generating units; and

WHEREAS, PNM, the part-owner and operator of San Juan Generating Station, estimates SCR technology on all four units would cost in excess of \$750 million; and

WHEREAS, PNM and the other owners of San Juan Generating Station have recently completed a \$320 million upgrade of the facility that lowered emissions of NO_x, SO₂, particulate matter and included an activated carbon injection technology to reduce mercury emissions; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico already submitted a plan in accordance with the *Clean Air Act* to reduce impacts from visibility-impairing pollution and the State's plan, at approximately \$77 million, would cost nearly one-tenth of the EPA's plan and would require selective non-catalytic reduction and installation within five years; and

WHEREAS, an analysis performed by a reputable third-party engineering firm concluded that the recently installed environmental controls at the San Juan Generating Station met EPA's Best Available Control Technology guidelines for reducing visibility impact; and

WHEREAS, a requirement to invest \$750 million or more into a generating facility that is approximately 40 years old could make the energy it produces uneconomic compared to power from other existing resources or even potentially new resources not yet built; and

WHEREAS, the full economic impact of the EPA's Federal Implementation Plan is not known and the required high-cost investment could have an extremely negative impact on end-users in communities within Socorro County by resulting in increased energy costs in an already high-poverty area; and


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Socorro County Board of County Commission

opposes the EPA's Federal Implementation Plan and calls upon the EPA to fully consider and approve the State of New Mexico's plan, which will be more cost-effective while still being protective of the environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Socorro County Board of County Commission beseeches New Mexico's federal Congressional delegation to intervene in this issue and encourage the EPA to consider the more cost-effective New Mexico Plan and prevent significantly increased energy costs in our rural areas while still being protective of the environment.

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED on this 14TH day of February, 2012.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



DANIEL P. MONETTE, CHAIR
DISTRICT IV

Absent


PAULINE JARAMILLO, VICE-CHAIR
DISTRICT I



PHILLIP ANAYA, COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT III

Absent

RUMALDO J. GRIEGO, COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT II



JUAN JOSE GUTIERREZ, COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT V

ATTEST BY:



REBECCA (BECKY) VEGA, COUNTY CLERK

