

10/23/25

Sierra Club staff, members, volunteers, and supporters are deeply disappointed and troubled by CenterPoint's decision to keep FB Culley coal unit operating past 2027. In the 2022/2023 IRP, CenterPoint chose a future that moves past old, polluting, uneconomic coal towards the path of affordable, clean energy for customers<sup>1</sup>. Sierra Club supported CenterPoint's decision to retire all coal by 2027 and to be a leader in the state for selecting a portfolio with a significant amount of renewable energy in the previous IRP. But now, CenterPoint's decision to keep burning expensive and polluting coal in our community past 2030 shows the lack of regard for customers' wallets, our environment, and the climate.

Culley is an aging, polluting, coal plant<sup>2</sup> that is costing us not only in our bank accounts, but in our health outcomes every time we breathe air polluted by coal. Throwing money into the Culley coal plant will just leave us customers paying for expensive and polluting energy that results in costly harms to our health and environment. In your previous IRP, where coal burning would cease by 2027, it says: "CEI South's preferred portfolio is projected to save customers nearly \$80 million over the next 20 years compared to continuing with this last existing coal unit operated by CEI South." With an extension of Culley, how much are we as CenterPoint customers projected to lose? When Culley breaks down again how much will that cost us and how long will it be down? Where will replacement parts come from? How much money, how many days of work lost, or inhalers burned through will result in this decision?

Wind and solar are now cheaper than coal plants. The average levelized cost of energy for coal is \$118/MWh while utility-scale solar is \$61/MWh<sup>3</sup>. Wind and solar do not require fuel to run, unlike coal plants, and renewable energy outputs result in energy generated without pollution. CenterPoint says they are community partners, yet fail to actualize a 20-year energy plan that is good for our community. Over 400 people have contributed to the Sierra Club Indiana Beyond Coal petition asking CenterPoint to move beyond coal and to invest in more affordable, renewable energy. Retiring coal and increasing renewables is popular and what many in the community want.

Even with this lackluster portfolio presented today, CenterPoint still has the opportunity to make the right decision. Despite a push from the Trump administration to keep coal plants online, coal plants like the New Hampshire Merrimack Station<sup>4</sup> are closing down, because these are common sense decisions. CenterPoint's poor reputation in our community is no secret, and by charging us more than we can afford, to buy power that pollutes our air and water is not a popular decision. CenterPoint can still retire coal before 2030 and should do everything in its

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<sup>1</sup> 2022/2023 CenterPoint Energy Indiana Integrated Resource Plan, [https://www.centerpointenergy.com/en-us/Documents/Integrated-Resource-Plan/2022-2023-IRP-Materials/2022-2023\\_IRP\\_Non-Technical\\_Summary.pdf](https://www.centerpointenergy.com/en-us/Documents/Integrated-Resource-Plan/2022-2023-IRP-Materials/2022-2023_IRP_Non-Technical_Summary.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Sierra Club Comments on CenterPoint Energy Indiana South's 2022/2023 Integrated Resource Plan, <https://www.in.gov/iurc/files/Sierra-Club-Comments-on-CenterPoint-Indiana-2023-IRP.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> The Climate Reality Project, <https://www.climateRealityproject.org/blog/how-do-renewables-lower-cost-electricity>

<sup>4</sup> New England's final coal plant shuts down years ahead of schedule, <https://www.canarymedia.com/articles/fossil-fuels/new-englands-last-coal-plant-shuts-down>

power to do so. CenterPoint's customers, our environment, and climate are at a breaking point. Not only is our future at risk, but so is our present, and coal is most certainly not the answer to our problems.

Signed,  
Sierra Club Supporters, Members, and CenterPoint Customers

# It's time for CenterPoint to move beyond coal and invest in affordable clean energy!

*July 18 update: [The Evansville Courier & Press recently covered our work](#) and what EPA rollbacks could mean for our region. Centerpoint will unveil its long-term energy plan this Fall. If you haven't already, please submit your comment now to ensure our voices are heard!*

CenterPoint Energy Indiana South is currently engaged in their Integrated Resource Planning process (IRP) where they will create their energy plan for the next 20 years. While we have seen some progress with the planned retirement of F.B. Culley 2 this year, CenterPoint can do better in moving beyond coal and bringing more renewable, affordable energy online.

**CenterPoint customers have faced some of the highest utility bills in the state** for years now as the utility has relied on costly coal power and neglected building out more affordable renewable energy infrastructure. The cost of wind and solar have decreased dramatically in the last decade and per Megawatt/hour utility solar and wind is cheaper than coal and gas. Investing in renewable energy infrastructure now will save us money in the long run while reducing our impact on our environment.

**Submit a comment to the IURC and CenterPoint now, calling for less polluting coal and more affordable clean energy!**

# Take Action: Hoosiers shouldn't foot the bill for Big Tech's data centers!

Indiana leaders are welcoming data center development with open arms and that comes with unprecedented energy demand and likely higher electric rates for everyday Hoosiers.

Data centers use enormous amounts of energy and utilities and Indiana legislators are proposing keeping old, polluting coal online and building insanely expensive gas plants to power them.

**Take action with the Sierra Club: Tell Indiana's electric companies, the IURC, and Governor Braun to say no to increasing electric bills to pay for dirty energy to power data centers.**

Dear Governor Braun and Indiana Utility Leaders and Regulators,

Hoosiers deserve transparent processes, clean energy, and affordable and reliable power. Charging Hoosiers for the costs for an onslaught of loosely regulated and speculative data center projects sets us up to have less reliable power, higher electric bills, and more pollution in our communities.

We are opposed to extending the use of old, dirty, uneconomic coal plants and increasing the monthly energy costs of Hoosiers to fund the construction of new expensive gas plants solely to power data centers.

Our electric companies planned a transition to less polluting power, this trajectory should be maintained to make our state a place where everyone wants to live, work and invest. Utilities and state leaders should focus on making our power more reliable by:

- Deploying measures that decrease energy waste in existing energy infrastructure and focusing on renewable energy that can power our communities today.
- Encouraging data centers to procure around-the-clock clean energy and incentivize the use of on-site battery backup, solar power and geothermal energy. Without encouraging these measures, data centers are utilizing on-site diesel generators which contribute to local air pollution.
- Ensuring Big Tech pays for their power needs, not Hoosier families and small businesses by requiring data centers to have large-load tariffs with front-loaded costs or commitments prior to

committing power resources. This will protect Hoosier communities from speculative projects and power additions.

- Focusing on renewable energy that can be built today, not the use of speculative Small Modular Nuclear Reactors which will further increase electric bills and fail to meet our near-term energy needs.
- Creating space for robust public participation and feedback on how the state plans to meet challenges associated with data centers.

If unchecked, data center development will saddle Indiana families with higher energy bills and more harmful fossil fuel pollution. We need you to protect Hoosier electric customers and advance clean energy solutions instead of doubling down on dirty, expensive fossil fuels.