

COMMENTS TO ODEQ RE PSO COMPLIANCE PLAN TO IMPROVE OKLAHOMA'S AIR QUALITY

My name is Bob Rounsavell. I'm here today as a resident of Oologah, as a Sierra Club member and as president of the Carrie Dickerson Foundation.

I think this agreement reached between PSO and EPA, Oklahoma and Sierra Club is a great start in improving our air quality. Although I wish that the 2nd coal fired unit could be phased out much sooner than 2026, I realize the most important significance is the collaboration by these stakeholders in reaching this agreement.

The agreement will bring about environmental benefits resulting in significant health benefits. By 2026 sulfur dioxide emissions from the northeastern plant will be eliminated. Elimination of mercury and other toxins with phasing out of the two coal units will help improve health conditions, especially for Oologah residents. Mercury may very well have been the cause of my wife's colon cancer after residing for a decade only a mile from the two coal units and half a mile from the train tracks with the many coal trains every week. Fortunately, her indomitable spirit prevailed.

And then we have carbon dioxide, the main cause of global warming and severe climate disruption. Reducing CO₂, which this agreement will accomplish, will greatly improve chances for human survival. Unfortunately, many are still in denial about this well-researched phenomenon.

Economically the PSO rate plan is most beneficial as it offers the lowest impact on commercial, industrial and residential customers.

I understand that some large industrial users want scrubbers installed so the coal units can continue operating until 2041, thus extending the dirty emissions while reaping high profits.

The plan paves the way for solving public health concerns about pollution from burning coal. I live near the northeastern plant and it's high time my health was protected. ODEQ should approve the PSO plan. It's cleaner, it will support Oklahoma jobs, and it will keep ratepayer money close to home.

If you live in Oologah, own a white motor vehicle and leave the windows in your house open, then you have problems. I can go outside many days and write my name on my white car. Leaving the windows open for fresh air invites a whole bunch of coal dust inside the house. This soot coming into the house is not the same as normal dust; it's highly toxic. This plan is a necessary start to improving air quality for the future.

Carrie Dickerson saw the need for cleaner, renewable energy sources which we have in abundance in Oklahoma. She spent much of her life promoting clean, renewable energy, especially wind power.

So as president of the Carrie Dickerson Foundation and on its behalf, I thank PSO, Oklahoma, EPA and Sierra Club for having the courage and foresight to change the status quo. We'll all live longer because of this proposed plan.

Thank you.

Bob D. Rounsavell