

### *The Future of Port Neal under Mid-American*

On two separate occasions, citizens have voiced concerns over what would happen to the Port Neal plant in Sioux City where approximately 140 of our Sioulanders are employed here in Woodbury County. The fear has been that not only will these jobs and the families that are supported by them not be sustained but that an energy portfolio that is not diverse will put America increasingly at risk. Namely, citizens have voiced that shuttering thermal generation in coal plants here at home is a microcosm of a larger national problem leaving American at risk for weather events such as what happened to wind-reliant Texas in the unprecedented polar vortex (February of 2021).

In order to address these issues and have a conversation rather than a confrontation, we had a very good visit at the Siouxland Chamber of Commerce. I attended this meeting with Barbara Sloniker from the Chamber and Sam Wagner representing Mid-American.

Sam made the following points:

1. Port Neal is not going away, nor are the jobs that come with it.
2. Mid-American is committed to a diverse energy portfolio and recognizes the critical need for all energy sources including coal, wind, and nuclear.
3. The reason that two of four of the units were taken off-line is that approximately 20 years ago, the cost of compliance to retrofit coal plants to meet new federal government regulations became cost-prohibitive. To retrofit the two oldest units no longer made logical sense from a business perspective. Mid-American did, however, spend \$90 million for "pollution control" compliance (not "clean coal" technology) on two of the four units.
4. Mid-American recognizes that dispatchable generation has changed and can fluctuate to meet demand so that when needed coal-fired plants spin up they do so to demand level, especially as more renewables enter into the system such as the \$14 billion in wind as a supplement to base load generation.
5. Wind cannot eliminate coal with constraints such as batteries, redundancy, transmission, etc.
6. Because Texas was brought up, Mid-American has a very different view than what may be assumed and was problematic there in February of 2021. First, Texas had non-winterized turbines that were built far differently than ones built for Iowa weather. Texas has a limited market circumscribed to its own area which caused rolling blackouts and curtailment, neither of which Mid-American had to engage in because of being a part of MISO. With all of that said, Mid-American again recognizes the importance for this reason of a diverse energy portfolio.
7. Mid-American believes that if citizens want to shape policy regarding energy usage at the state or federal level either from an advocacy or individual standpoint, people can and should exercise their power to affect change whether at the Iowa Utilities Board, the State of Iowa's Legislature, or in Congress.

Mid- American reiterated that Mid-American's Port Neal is not going away, nor are the valuable 140 citizens who work there and are a part of Woodbury County's community.