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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The 34th Annual Western States Energy Conference:
“Decarbonization: Managing Future Resources”

SALT LAKE CITY — The **Utah Association of Energy Users (UAE)** is hosting its 34th Annual Western States Energy Conference, Thursday, May 2nd, at the **Marriott City Center Hotel**, in downtown Salt Lake City, followed by a golf tournament on May 3rd at **Eaglewood Golf Course**. The conference attracts representatives from commerce and industry whose energy costs are a major component of their operating budgets. Both operating and managerial executives who are interested in energy efficiency, policy, and technical issues are invited, as well as regulatory staff from western states, legislators, and utility representatives.

The conference is sponsored by: **American Pacific, Anadarko Petroleum Co., BP Energy, CIMA ENERGY LP, Energy Strategies, Hatch, James & Dodge, HEAL Utah, Hexcel Corp, Intermountain Healthcare, Intermountain Power Agency, Northrop Grumman, Rocky Mountain Power, Summit Energy, Utah State University Facilities, and Wheeler Power Systems.**

The conference topics will explore the path to decarbonization that has become a key subject in the United States, either through state or city policies, utility changes in resource planning, the public desire for cleaner air, or a mix of all three. As coal plants continue to age and be retired, the focus is turning to renewable and other cleaner energy resources to replace them. As utilities and power sectors grapple with the changing landscape – what does that mean for large energy users?

We are honored to have Kyle Danish as our keynote speaker. Mr. Danish is a partner at Van Ness Feldman, LLP, where he advises clients on environmental and energy matters. He is a co-author of the White Paper: “Assessing the Risks and Opportunities of Climate-Related Regulation and Litigation for the U.S. Power Sector”.

Utah’s major electricity provider – Rocky Mountain Power -faces a unique challenge due to the fact that it serves customers in six states, half of them with very significant clean air goals and laws that could or will require its parent utility – PacifiCorp – to accelerate the closing of a number of coal plants, or shift all the costs over to the remaining states in the system. This creates a very complex landscape for the utility to manage its vast resources. Chad Teply, Senior Vice President of Business Policy and Development at PacifiCorp, will discuss the changing resource stack needed to meet all of the utility’s diverse energy needs for its six-state jurisdiction.

As renewable energy resources continue surge into the marketplace, solar energy will play an important and changing role. John Sterling, Director, Market & Policy Affairs for First Solar, will provide an outlook on how utility-scale solar energy can be leveraged for flexible dispatch. Finishing the morning session, Brett Crable, General Manager, Customer Relations, from Dominion Energy Utah, will discuss how natural gas plays in the future energy landscape.

Our keynote luncheon speaker is Travis Kavulla. Mr. Kavulla is the director of energy and environmental policy at the R Street Institute. As a former chairman of the Montana Public Service Commission he will discuss the new challenges faced by commissions as

their responsibilities grow in number and complexity.

The afternoon session will kick off with an outlook on natural gas as demand and use of the fuel source grow. Our speaker, Jack Winters, is a Western Natural Gas and Power Analyst for S&P Global Platts. As more renewable energy enters the power market, cybersecurity for the grid will become an even greater concern. Romaine Marshall, a cybersecurity, privacy lawyer and partner at Stoel Rives LLP, will discuss how protecting the grid will change as renewables ramp up.

Attendees will also hear from an esteemed panel of facility and energy program managers at three of Utah's prominent public universities: Chris Benson from the University of Utah, Charles Darnell from Utah State University and Justin Owen from Weber State University. The panel will present what they are doing at their own facilities to decarbonize and/or become completely carbon neutral.

Our final speaker, Tyler Poulson, Sustainability Program Manager from Salt Lake City Corporation, will discuss Salt Lake City's plans to be served completely by renewable energy resources by 2032.

At the conference luncheon, UAE will present two "***Outstanding Leadership in Energy Efficiency and Conservation***" awards to the following organizations:

University of Utah

Utah State University

The afternoon will conclude with a reception. On May 3rd, the annual golf tournament will be held at the Eaglewood Golf Course.

Registration is required in advance. Contact Kelly Francone to register, at 801.355.4374 and for information about attending or look online at www.utahenergyusers.org.

UAE members spend over \$500 Million annually on energy, and provide 40,000 highly technical jobs to Utahns. Since 1986, UAE members have participated in all major regulatory and legislative activities that impact electricity and natural gas markets in Utah. Members of UAE are significant users of large amounts of electricity and natural Gas, and as a result are greatly affected by rulings of the Utah Public Service Commission.