

## Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems

The Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS) is planning to build the [Carbon Free Power Project](#) (CFPP) using the small modular reactor designed by NuScale Power. Set for completion by the end of this decade, this project will serve as a catalyst for advanced reactor deployment and will provide key insight into the economic viability and public demand for deep decarbonization through advanced nuclear energy.

UAMPS is a public power consortium of community-owned power systems throughout the western United States. UAMPS member utilities are located in Utah, California, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming. Many of them rely heavily on aging coal facilities and are looking at options to develop or buy clean energy to meet their future energy needs.

In 2015, UAMPS introduced the CFPP, an initiative to reduce carbon emissions in their portfolio by phasing out aging fossil fuel capacity and replacing it with nuclear power. The CFPP features a small modular reactor (SMR) at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) site near Idaho Falls, Idaho. The NuScale SMR design, a series of 77-megawatt light-water nuclear power modules grouped in 4-pack, 6-pack, 8-pack, or 12-pack module configurations, was selected for the project.

Shortly after the CFPP was introduced in 2015, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) awarded NuScale \$16.6 million in cost-shared funding for the preparation of a combined license application with UAMPS. In 2016, DOE issued a site use permit to UAMPS which allowed UAMPS to identify and select its preferred site at the INL. The final site was selected in 2019 after careful study, environmental review, and cost analysis. In October 2020, DOE approved a \$1.355 billion multi-year cost-share award to UAMPS to fund construction of the CFPP.

The CFPP is structured to support community collaboration, with UAMPS participating members able to vote to stay in or exit the project any time there is a budget amendment or cost update. After several of these votes since 2015, the project continues to have sufficient buy-in to distribute and de-risk the cost of siting and constructing this first-of-a-kind reactor concept. This is indication that many public power utilities recognize the economic and environmental value of incorporating advanced nuclear energy into their electric generation mix.

During the 2020s, the CFPP is expected to bring [significant economic benefits](#) to the region. The project will create an estimated 1,600 jobs in the Idaho Falls area over the construction period. Through indirect and induced economic effects, the plant will also bring an additional 667 jobs to the region over its estimated lifetime. It is estimated that labor income in the region will increase by nearly \$48 million and regional economic output will increase by \$81 million, adding nearly \$3 million to local and state tax revenues. The economic potential of the CFPP has led to overwhelming support from state policymakers in Idaho. In 2018, [the Idaho legislature](#) passed bills that would provide tax incentives for the deployment of advanced nuclear reactors in the state, further signaling the state's commitment to the project and potentially other advanced nuclear reactor projects.