

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH**

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In the Matter of the Application of	)	Docket No. 03-035-29
PACIFICORP for a Certificate of	)	
Convenience and Necessity Authorizing	)	DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
Construction of the Currant Creek	)	STEVEN SCHLEIMER
Power Project	)	

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**FEBRUARY 4, 2004**

1 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

2 A. My name is Steven Schleimer. My business address is 4160 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin,  
3 California 94568-3139.

4 **Q. By whom are you employed?**

5 A. I am employed by Calpine Corporation.

6 **Q. Please provide some background on Calpine Corporation.**

7 A. Calpine was formed in 1984. Its headquarters are located in San Jose, California.

8 Calpine is the largest independent power producer in the western U.S. Calpine's  
9 generation fleet consists of 99 power plants located in 23 states, 3 Canadian provinces,  
10 and the United Kingdom. It expects to produce nearly 30,000 MWs of power by 2005.  
11 Calpine has extensive experience in every aspect of natural gas fired power generation,  
12 from project development through construction to plant operation.

13 Of the 30,000 MWs, over 29,000 MWs are natural gas-fired. Of these gas fired  
14 plants 1,700 MWs are Simple Cycle Combustion Turbine (SSCT) power plants used in  
15 peaking applications and 27,600 MWs are Combined Cycle Combustion Turbine (CCCT)  
16 power plants used in intermediate and base load applications. Calpine builds the  
17 cleanest, most efficient, most reliable and least cost gas fired power plants for utility  
18 ratepayers in the U.S.

19 **Q. Please summarize your educational and professional experience.**

20 A. Prior to joining Calpine, I worked for Pacific Gas and Electric Company for twelve years  
21 in various roles. My responsibilities included managing a California Public Utilities  
22 Commission ("Commission") administered competitive bid process to acquire new  
23 generation on the San Francisco peninsula and assessing and developing proposals for

1 transmission pricing, interconnection and transmission policies for the restructured  
2 California energy market on behalf of the utility.

3 I have a B.A. in economics, with the highest honors, from the University of  
4 California at Santa Cruz ("UCSC"). I also have a Masters in Science in Applied  
5 Economics from UCSC.

6 **Q. What is your position with Calpine?**

7 A. Director of Market and Regulatory Affairs.

8 **Q. What are your responsibilities in that position?**

9 A. I am responsible for all regulatory activity within the jurisdictional territory of the  
10 Western Electricity Coordinating Council. I advise and participate on behalf of Calpine  
11 in state and federal regulatory proceedings that involve electric transmission and other  
12 forms of resource planning.

13 **Purpose of Testimony**

14 **Q. Why has Calpine intervened in this case?**

15 A. Calpine has intervened in this case because as a bidder to PacifiCorp in RFP 2003-A with  
16 our Vineyard Energy Center (VEC) project we must assure that the RFP process is  
17 administered in a Fair Manner in both the peaker and base load portions of the RFP as  
18 required by the 2003 RFP Stipulation. In Utah, the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and  
19 RFP processes that have been conducted over the past two years are relied upon by  
20 PacifiCorp, this Commission, ratepayer advocates, independent power producers,  
21 Legislators and others to assure that ratepayers receive the least cost, lowest risk and  
22 cleanest resources to meet their future power needs.

1 Calpine has spent in excess of \$1 million on development of the VEC project with  
2 the expectation that the IRP process acknowledged by this Commission would provide  
3 guidance on resource acquisitions and that the competitive resource acquisition process  
4 would be conducted in a Fair Manner as agreed to in the 2003 RFP Stipulation.

5 This CC&N Hearing is occurring as a result of those IRP & RFP processes. Had  
6 PacifiCorp selected one of the bidders in the Peaking portion of the RFP instead of the  
7 Currant Creek Power Project, this CC&N hearing would likely not be held. As such,  
8 much of the hearing will revolve around the fairness and legitimacy of the IRP & RFP  
9 processes. Calpine, as a bidder in the process, has a direct interest in the integrity of the  
10 RFP process and the outcome of this proceeding.

11 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

12 A The purpose of this testimony is to describe Calpine's response to PacifiCorp's 2003-A  
13 RFP. I will also present Calpine's recommendations to the PSC on how to proceed in  
14 this case.

15 **Q. What recommendations does Calpine have to make to the PSC in this case?**

16 A. If the Commission determines that the RFP process conducted to date by PacifiCorp was  
17 conducted in a Fair Manner as required by the Stipulation and that this process led to  
18 confirmation that the peaking portion of the Currant Creek Project is the lowest cost  
19 Peaking resource, then the Commission should approve only the first 280 MW "peaker"  
20 portion of the Currant Creek project, and approve only those costs associated that portion  
21 of the project, since that is what PacifiCorp requested in the peaking RFP. Calpine also  
22 recommends that the Commission allow the RFP process for the base load segment of the  
23 RFP to continue unaffected by the decision in this proceeding. Finally, Calpine

1 recommends that the base load RFP process should be concluded before approval of any  
2 subsequent phases of development of the Currant Creek project.

### 3 **Description of Calpine's RFP 2003-A Response**

#### 4 **Q. Can you describe the proposals Calpine submitted to PacifiCorp's RFP?**

5 A. Yes. Calpine submitted three bids in response to the RFP. These responses were  
6 designated as Bid Numbers 460, 213, and 839. Bids 213 and 460 were located in Utah at  
7 the Geneva Steel site. Bid 839 was located in Nevada. In Bids 213 and 460, Calpine  
8 offered "to provide base load and peaking capacity" to PacifiCorp under a phased  
9 construction approach. In this testimony I will describe the VEC project (Bid 213) in  
10 detail. Calpine is currently in negotiations with PacifiCorp on this bid.

### 11 **Description of Plant**

#### 12 **Q. Please describe Calpine's proposed VEC Project.**

13 A. Bid Number 213, the VEC Project consists of an 817 MW natural gas-fired "three-by-  
14 one" ("3x1") combined cycle combustion turbine (CCCT) power plant. The VEC Project  
15 will be located on the northwest corner of the Geneva Steel plant property immediately  
16 adjacent to PacifiCorp's 345 kV transmission line east of Utah Lake. The Geneva site is  
17 approximately 40 miles due south of Salt Lake City. The Project is located within what  
18 is known as the Tier 1 transmission-constrained "Utah bubble". Exhibit CAL-\_\_\_ (SS-1)  
19 is a copy of a map which illustrates the Utah Bubble and identifies the location of the  
20 VEC Project.

21 In Bid 213 Calpine offered PacifiCorp the option of a staged construction  
22 approach that would provide 450 MWs of simple cycle peaking capacity by June of 2005.  
23 This offer was made to accommodate PacifiCorp's stated need for additional peaking

1 capacity (see Exhibit UPL-\_\_\_\_ (MRT-3). Calpine could construct Phase 2 to be available  
2 by April 2006 if requested by PacifiCorp or April 2007 as requested in the RFP. Either  
3 PacifiCorp or its consultant (Navigant) determined that Calpine's bid should be evaluated  
4 in the Base Load bid category and did not include Calpine's bid among the peaker  
5 options considered for 2005.

6 **Q. Please describe the VEC Project in more detail.**

7 A. In the first phase of construction, three Siemens-Westinghouse 501 FD2 natural gas-fired  
8 combustion turbine-generators could be installed. Each gas turbine will provide a  
9 nominal 150 MW of capacity for a total of 450 MW. During this first phase, the three  
10 gas turbines would be operated by Calpine but dispatched by PacifiCorp in simple cycle  
11 mode and would have a net average heat rate of 10,500 Btu/kWh (HHV).

12 In the second construction phase, the three simple cycle combustion turbines  
13 would be converted to a 3x1 combined-cycle configuration and will have a nominal total  
14 capacity of 817 MW. The 3x1 plant would consist of three gas turbine-generators, three  
15 heat recovery steam generators (HRSGs), and a single steam turbine generator driven by  
16 steam produced by the three HRSGs. The HRSGs will be equipped with gas-fired duct  
17 burners, which provide the capability to generate additional steam in the HRSGs and,  
18 consequently, 145 additional MWs of power that can be generated by the steam turbine  
19 generator. The timing and level of duct firing is controllable and can be made available  
20 to PacifiCorp at their request as a peaking resource with less than one-hour's notice.

21 When converted to its final 3x1 configuration, the VEC Project will consist of 672  
22 MW of combined cycle capacity with an expected heat rate of 6,887 Btu/kWh and 145  
23 MW of duct-fired peaking capacity with an expected heat rate of 8,417 Btu/kWh, for a

1 total of 817 MW.

2 **Q. Would PacifiCorp have control over the dispatch of VEC?**

3 A. Yes, VEC will be designed for daily cycling to provide maximum flexibility as requested  
4 in the RFP by PacifiCorp. Calpine has successfully developed numerous power plants  
5 designed specifically to allow a utility to optimize plant dispatch. VEC will have the  
6 capability to be started as needed to meet the base load, intermediate load, heavy load and  
7 super peak load requirements of PacifiCorp. The plant can then either be taken off-line  
8 completely or be brought down to a reduced load depending on then prevailing energy  
9 prices and load conditions during the low load period of a day or month. PacifiCorp will  
10 be in total control of when the plant is dispatched, as requested in the RFP

11 **Q. When proposing such a plant how does Calpine typically protect ratepayers from  
12 various plant risks?**

13 A. PacifiCorp's ratepayers will enjoy the substantial benefits associated with the allocation  
14 of development, construction, operation and life-cycle risk to Calpine. For example,  
15 Calpine, not Utah ratepayers, bears the risk of project cost overruns and future plant  
16 major maintenance and capital upgrades. Ratepayers benefit from the price and  
17 performance certainty that long-term contractual commitments provide, and the  
18 incentives for Calpine to be cost efficient that are an inherent component of Calpine's  
19 proposal. Calpine will also bear the risks of changes to environmental regulations in the  
20 future. At the end of the contract term Calpine will bear the risk of environmental clean  
21 up costs associated with the plant or with the plant technology being obsolete.  
22 Furthermore, Calpine's heat rate and availability guarantees will insulate ratepayers from  
23 risks they bear if a utility constructs and owns a project itself. Finally, unlike a utility

1 rate base plant, if Calpine's project does not perform Calpine simply does not get paid  
2 and ratepayers save those costs.

3 **Q. What other attributes will VEC provide ratepayers?**

4 A. VEC will be the most efficient power plant in Utah. As a result, if a PPA is successfully  
5 negotiated between PacifiCorp and Calpine, it should be dispatched by PacifiCorp before  
6 Carrant Creek, and the Gadsby and West Valley peaking turbines, thus saving ratepayers  
7 significant additional amounts of money.

8 Because VEC is water-cooled and because of the elevation of the site it will  
9 provide up to 15 percent more output per unit cost than air-cooled projects built at higher  
10 elevations. The advantage is greatest during hot summer months, which are particularly  
11 important to ratepayers because peak demands coincide with higher summer  
12 temperatures.

13 **Q. Please describe the proposed site for the VEC Project.**

14 A. The VEC Project will be located on a 40-acre site approximately 40 miles south of Salt  
15 Lake City. The site is located in the far northwest corner of 1,800 acres owned by  
16 Geneva Steel. The 40 acres parcel is a clean site that has never been used as part of  
17 Geneva's or its predecessor's historic steel making operations. As part of Calpine's  
18 development activities it has negotiated an exclusive purchase agreement with Geneva  
19 Steel for land, water and emission reduction credits (ERCs). As part of the property  
20 acquisition process, Calpine has spent significant amounts of money and has performed  
21 extensive environmental due diligence on the site.

22 VEC will be interconnected to the PacifiCorp transmission system within the  
23 Wasatch Front South (the transmission-constrained Utah Bubble) load center to a 345 kV



1 line that physically runs across the VEC site.

2 **Q. Please describe why the Geneva Site was selected.**

3 A. After the RFP 2003-A pre-bidders meeting in March 2003, which outlined PacifiCorp's  
4 need for 200 MWs of Peaking and 570 MWs of Base Load capacity, Calpine determined  
5 that it would look for sites on which a large plant could be built.

6 Calpine identified potential sites at Mona, Elberta, on the west side of the Salt  
7 Lake Valley and other locations. For a number of reasons outlined below, these sites  
8 were rejected in favor of the Geneva site.

9 As management's interest grew in responding to the RFP, Calpine opened  
10 discussions with Geneva and initiated a siting study. Calpine's siting study determined  
11 that a plant could be permitted and constructed within the time frame that would make  
12 the project capable of meeting PacifiCorp's growing needs in 2005 and beyond.

13 After completing its preliminary project development activities and siting study,  
14 Calpine was convinced the Geneva site was a prime location for its power plant for the  
15 following reasons:

- 16 1. The site is located immediately adjacent to a 2-circuit 345 kV transmission line  
17 allowing power to move to the Wasatch Front load center or to flow south to  
18 other markets.
- 19 2. The site is located inside the import transmission constraint referred to as the  
20 Wasatch Front South as identified by PacifiCorp in its IRP.
- 21 3. Natural gas supply from both the Questar and Kern systems can be made  
22 available at the required pressures and volumes.

- 1           4. Sufficient land is available at the former steel plant and the land has been
- 2                   determined to be clean as a result of Calpine's efforts.
- 3           5. Sufficient air emission allowances were available for plant operation.
- 4           6. Ample water supplies exist from Geneva and other sources to allow Calpine to
- 5                   construct an efficient water-cooled combined cycle plant. Calpine is
- 6                   particularly interested in using recycled waste water for this plant.
- 7           7. Economic development could take place in an area suffering from the demise of
- 8                   a large industrial employer in Utah County.
- 9           8. There is significant Utah County and Vineyard community support for a project
- 10                   sited at Geneva. Calpine has presented the project profile to the Vineyard
- 11                   Mayor, the Mayor and senior staff of Orem City, Utah County Commissioners,
- 12                   several Utah County Legislators and business leaders.

13 **Q. Please describe how fuel will be provided to the VEC Project.**

14 A. As proposed, the VEC Project would be under a tolling agreement/PPA between Calpine  
15 and PacifiCorp. Under this tolling arrangement, PacifiCorp would be responsible to  
16 deliver natural gas to the Project, thus the fuel supply for the VEC Project would be  
17 managed by PacifiCorp. Calpine has proposed to construct gas laterals from the plant to  
18 either Questar Gas or the Kern River Pipeline for the physical delivery of gas. Questar  
19 Gas has an existing lateral that supplied the furnaces at the Geneva Steel plant, for years  
20 the largest user of natural gas in Utah. An alternate source of gas for the VEC Project is a  
21 direct tap to the Kern River Gas Transmission System. Because both the Questar and  
22 Kern River systems are high-pressure gas transmission lines, no on-site natural gas  
23 compression will be required.

1 **Q. What other fuel attributes is Calpine willing to provide at the VEC site?**

2 A. Calpine has designed and constructed gas-fired projects to be able to be converted from  
3 natural gas to gasified coal gas in the future. While coal gasification is not economic  
4 today, Calpine believes it is prudent to be sure that, when it is economic, ratepayers are  
5 not precluded from taking advantage of a potentially lower cost and less volatile fuel  
6 which is derived from coal. In this project Calpine is willing at its cost to design and  
7 construct this project to have the capability to later utilize fuel gas from coal without  
8 major modifications.

9 **VEC Project Permit Status**

10 **Q. What is the status of permits required for construction of the VEC Project?**

11 A. The key permit is the Approval Order to Calpine's Notice of Intent that is issued by the  
12 Utah Department of Air Quality. The application was filed in November 2003, and we  
13 expect the final approval to be issued soon. We believe the application is materially  
14 complete and meets "Best Available Control Technology" requirements. All necessary  
15 ERCs have been secured pursuant to our agreement with Geneva. The National Park  
16 Service has confirmed in writing that, following its initial review of the application, it  
17 does not expect any significant impacts on Class I areas and has indicated it will not  
18 require any further review of the Calpine's application. Other various permits and  
19 approvals are pending, and are expected to be granted in due course. These include (but  
20 are not limited to) the Army Corp of Engineer concurrence of the wetlands study, water  
21 discharge approvals by DEQ, and completion of the subdivision process by the City of  
22 Vineyard.

23 **Calpine's Request and Recommendation to the Utah PSC**

1 **Q. In light of the foregoing testimony, what request and recommendation does Calpine**  
2 **make to the Utah PSC?**

3 A. Calpine wants to provide Utah ratepayers with the least cost, lowest risk, and cleanest  
4 power plant possible. In this proceeding PacifiCorp has requested that the Currant Creek  
5 Project should be approved by the PSC to meet the 200 MW Peaking requirements  
6 outlined in the 2003-A RFP. Calpine’s proposal was not included by PacifiCorp or  
7 Navigant for evaluation in the peaker portion of the RFP.

8 If the Commission determines that the RFP process conducted to date by  
9 PacifiCorp was conducted in a Fair Manner as required by the Stipulation and that this  
10 process led to confirmation that the peaking portion of the Currant Creek Project is the  
11 lowest cost Peaking resource then the Commission should approve the first 280 MW  
12 “peaker” portion of the Currant Creek project, and only those costs associated that  
13 portion of the project, since that is what PacifiCorp requested in the RFP. Calpine also  
14 recommends that the Commission allow the RFP process for the base load segment of the  
15 RFP to continue unaffected by the decision in this proceeding. Finally, Calpine  
16 recommends that the base load RFP process should be concluded before approval of any  
17 subsequent phases of development of the Currant Creek project.

18 Calpine is concerned that if Currant Creek is approved as both a peaker and a base  
19 load project, with the capability to expand even further, that such approval could  
20 effectively preempt consideration of other competing Greenfield base load projects. A  
21 new base load project could be preempted because a fair comparison cannot be made  
22 between a new Greenfield project and the expansion of the then existing Currant Creek  
23 peaking plant which would already have infrastructure that could be shared.

1                    In addition, approval of the Currant Creek base load portion could obviate the  
2                    need for future lower cost base load resources due to changes in loads forecast or other  
3                    events.

4                    Calpine believes that either scenario described above would not be in the best  
5                    interests of Utah ratepayers.

6    **Q.    Does that conclude your direct testimony?**

7    A.    It does.