

1 **Q. Please state your name, business address and present position with**
2 **PacifiCorp dba Utah Power & Light Company (the Company).**

3 A. My name is D. Douglas Larson. My business address is Suite 2300, 201 South
4 Main Street, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84111. My present position is Vice President,
5 Regulation.

6 **Qualifications**

7 **Q. Briefly describe your educational and professional background.**

8 A. I graduated from Brigham Young University with a Bachelor of Science Degree
9 in Accounting. In addition, I have also attended various educational, professional
10 and electric industry related seminars during my career. I am currently a member
11 of the board of directors of the Intermountain Electric Association, President of
12 the Utah Foundation, and I am a licensed CPA in the State of Utah. I joined the
13 Company in 1981 in the Financial Accounting Department and have held various
14 accounting and regulatory-related positions prior to assuming my current position.

15 **Q. What are your responsibilities as Vice President of Regulation?**

16 A. I am responsible for the development and execution of the Company's regulatory
17 policy across the six states in which the Company does business. This includes
18 management of regulatory proceedings in each of the six states, including revenue
19 requirement, cost-of-service, rate design and all other proposed changes to the
20 Company's tariffs. In addition, I have responsibility for developing regulatory
21 policy on issues that the commissions must address and making recommendations
22 to management on policy decisions.

23 **Purpose and Summary of Testimony**

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

25 A. I will describe the power cost adjustment mechanism (“PCAM”) that is being
26 requested by PacifiCorp. If authorized by the Commission, the PCAM would
27 reflect in rates, a portion of the variations in net power costs experienced by the
28 Company. I will discuss the policy issues underlying this request and explain
29 how the PCAM appropriately balances risk between the Company and its
30 customers. I will further explain the reasons for the Company’s request and
31 discuss how PacifiCorp’s proposed mechanism will return the Company to a
32 reasonable level of earnings volatility and rebalance the overall interests of
33 ratepayers and shareholders. I will also introduce the other witnesses providing
34 direct testimony in this application.

35 **Description of Proposed PCAM**

36 **Q. Please describe the PCAM being proposed by PacifiCorp.**

37 A. Under the provisions of the PCAM, base net power costs will be established in a
38 general rate case. Once the base has been established, each month the Company
39 will calculate the difference between Adjusted Actual Net Power Costs and Base
40 Net Power Costs. (These terms are defined in Mr. Widmer's testimony, where the
41 operation of the PCAM is discussed in greater detail.) Utah's allocated share of
42 the difference between these two amounts will be recorded as Deferred Net Power
43 Costs. If the deferred amount is positive, the Company has collected more from
44 customers than the actual costs incurred and the full amount of the net excess will
45 be returned to customers over a 12-month period. If the deferral is negative, the

46 Company has collected less from customers than the actual costs incurred, and 90
47 percent of this shortfall will be recovered from customers over a 12-month period.
48 The risk of a 10 percent under-recovery will provide PacifiCorp with an incentive
49 to keep total net power costs as low as possible. Rather than establishing a fixed
50 schedule for these filings, the Company proposes that a plus or minus \$20 million
51 accrued balance on a Utah basis be established as a trigger.

52 **Q. Has the Company's PCAM proposal previously been discussed with Utah**
53 **parties?**

54 A. Yes. In accordance with the terms of the Stipulation dated February 14, 2005 in
55 Docket No. 04-035-42, the Company, the Division of Public Utilities, the
56 Committee of Consumer Services, and other interested parties held a number of
57 meetings to discuss all aspects of power cost adjustment mechanisms. The
58 PCAM being filed at this time was discussed in general terms in the course of
59 those meetings.

60 **Q. Is the Company seeking to implement PCAMs in all of its state jurisdictions?**

61 A. Yes. PacifiCorp has already or will soon file PCAM applications in California,
62 Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. A PCAM will be sought in Idaho in
63 connection with the next general rate case there.

64 **Q. Has PacifiCorp made any commitments that affect the timing of the filing of**
65 **this PCAM proposal?**

66 A. Yes. The Stipulation in Docket No. 05-035-54, which was established for
67 approval of the sale of PacifiCorp to MidAmerican Energy Holding Company
68 (MEHC), the Company committed to file its PCAM application at least three

69 months prior to filing its next general rate case.

70 **Reasons for Request**

71 **Q. Why is the Company seeking to implement a PCAM at this time?**

72 A. Since 1999 the level of market prices has increased substantially and wholesale
73 market prices have fluctuated tremendously, sometimes as much as five to ten
74 times. As a result, the Company's net power costs, which represent a large
75 proportion of the Company's total operating costs and are largely outside of the
76 Company's control, are subject to a high degree of volatility. Historically, the
77 possibility of under-recovering net power costs between general rate cases was a
78 risk that the Company could be reasonably expected to bear. The Company
79 believes net power costs will continue to fluctuate in the future and believes that it
80 is necessary to have a power cost recovery mechanism in order to allow changes
81 in net power costs to be reflected between general rate cases.

82 **Q. How has the wholesale market price level and volatility changed the risk of**
83 **under-recovering net power costs?**

84 A. The actual net power costs incurred by PacifiCorp can change dramatically from
85 the net power costs recovered in rates for reasons beyond the Company's control.
86 For example, hydro and weather conditions, variations in loads, the timing of
87 forced outages, and wholesale market prices for gas and electricity are
88 uncontrollable. Historically, the Company has been able to absorb the risk of cost
89 increases resulting from fluctuations in these factors because the cost of
90 replacement power was relatively low. However, since the energy crisis, the
91 market price level and volatility have made the cost exposure related to lost

92 generation untenable for PacifiCorp. Replacement power that might have
93 averaged \$17/MWh prior to 2000 would have cost \$80/MWh in 2004, an increase
94 of nearly 500%.

95 **Q. Has the Company's exposure to wholesale gas price volatility also increased**
96 **significantly in recent years?**

97 A. Yes. Prior to 2000, the only gas-fueled generating plant in PacifiCorp's fleet was
98 Hermiston. In recent years gas plants have become a much more significant
99 component of the Company's resource portfolio. As a result, the continuing
100 instability of gas prices will only add to the overall volatility of net power costs.

101 **Q. You referred to uncertain hydro conditions as a major contributor to net**
102 **power cost volatility. Doesn't the MSP allocation method ensure that only a**
103 **relatively small portion of hydro-related costs impact Utah?**

104 A. The continuing drought in the Pacific Northwest has greatly reduced the
105 Company's low cost hydro generation which must be replaced with more
106 expensive market or thermal resources. While it is true that under the Revised
107 Protocol allocation method only a small percentage of those costs are allocated to
108 Utah, even a small share of a large reduction in what is virtually a zero-cost
109 resource results in a significant increase in net power costs.

110 **Q. Please describe the significance of net power costs relative to the Company's**
111 **total cost of service.**

112 A. In the Company's last general rate case (Docket 04-035-42), Utah-allocated net
113 power costs were approximately \$299 million or 24 percent of the Company's
114 total Utah revenue requirement. We expect this percentage to grow due to load

115 growth and the significant increase in wholesale energy prices. As net power
116 costs become a larger portion of total revenue requirement, the fluctuation of
117 these costs makes it increasingly important that we balance net power cost
118 exposure between the Company and customers.

119 **Q. Might the existence of a PCAM reduce Company management's incentive to**
120 **optimally manage your portfolio?**

121 A. No. The sharing applied to positive variances leaves a significant portion of risk
122 with PacifiCorp and its shareholders. The Company and its management will
123 have every incentive to continue to optimally manage our portfolio to avoid the
124 risk associated with net power cost volatility. Furthermore, as testified to by Mr.
125 Widmer, the collections under the PCAM will be subject to prudence review.

126 **Introduction of Witnesses**

127 **Q. Please name additional witnesses and provide a brief description of their**
128 **testimony.**

129 A. The Company witnesses filing direct testimony are:
130 **Mark T. Widmer**, Director, Net Power Costs, will provide a detailed explanation
131 of the Company's proposed PCAM and provide quantitative support for the
132 Company's assertion of increased levels of risk.
133 **David L. Taylor**, Manager, Regulatory Affairs - Utah, describes the allocation
134 methodology utilized in the PCAM to apportion net power cost variances to the
135 Company's Utah jurisdiction.

136 Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

137 A. Yes.