

1 **Q. Please state your name.**

2 A. My name is Jeffrey K. Larsen.

3 **Q. Did you previously offer testimony in this proceeding?**

4 A. Yes, I have previously filed direct testimony in this case.

5 **Purpose and Summary of Testimony**

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

7 A. On March 7, 2006, PacifiCorp filed an application, together with revenue  
8 requirement, cost of service, rate spread and rate design testimony, for a rate  
9 increase of \$197.2 million based on a 12 month forecast test period ending  
10 September 30, 2007. On April 5, 2006, in compliance with the provisions of  
11 Commitment U23 of Appendix A to the Stipulation in Docket No. 05-035-54,  
12 PacifiCorp filed supplemental testimony that reduced the Company's proposed  
13 rate increase from \$197.2 million to \$194.1 million. As a result of settlement  
14 negotiations, the parties have reached agreement on the revenue requirement and  
15 rate spread issues in this proceeding as specified in the Stipulation which was  
16 filed with the Commission on July 26, 2006.

17 The purpose of my testimony is to walk through the terms of the  
18 Stipulation and explain why they are just, reasonable and in the public interest.  
19 Specifically, I will address the reasonableness of the stipulation as it pertains to  
20 revenue requirement, "stay-out" and price effective dates, rate spread, spending  
21 commitments and reporting requirements.

22 **Q. What factors are driving PacifiCorp's request for a rate increase in this**  
23 **proceeding?**

24 A. The need for this increase is driven by a few main cost areas: new plant  
25 investment, net power costs, generation-related operation and maintenance costs,  
26 Power Delivery program costs, and employee labor and benefits. The key factor  
27 driving the increases in these cost areas is the substantially increased investment  
28 needed to serve the growth in demand for electricity by Utah customers. The  
29 need to supply peak demand has required the Company to make large investments  
30 in new generating resources and transmission lines and to expand and upgrade its  
31 Utah distribution system. The Company projects that over \$2 billion of new  
32 capital investment, including \$1.3 billion in Utah, will be added to the system by  
33 September 2007.

34 **Q. Did the intervening parties conduct a thorough review of the Company's**  
35 **filing?**

36 A. Yes. The Stipulation was reached only after the Parties had fully analyzed the  
37 Company's requested increase. Review of the case began even before it was filed.  
38 Prior to filing the case, the Company met with the Division of Public Utilities  
39 (DPU), the Committee of Consumer Services (CCS), and key customers to  
40 explain the need for the case and the primary cost drivers of the proposed rate  
41 increase.

42 As a result of the work of the Filing Requirements and Discovery  
43 Taskforces, the Company provided significantly more background information  
44 and supporting documentation with the filing than in any previously filed case.

45 Significant detail supporting the projections of revenues, operating costs, labor  
46 costs, capital expenditures, regulatory adjustments, other rate base, and taxes was  
47 provided with the filing. In addition to the full revenue requirement presentation  
48 for the Company's proposed forward looking test period, the Company also  
49 provided results of operations with full revenue requirement detail for two  
50 additional periods; an historical test period and a mid period half way between the  
51 historical and the Company's proposed forecast test periods. Cost of service  
52 results for both the historical period and the Company's proposed test period were  
53 also provided. Responses to two sets of master data request, totaling 89  
54 additional areas of inquiry, were also submitted at the time of, or soon after the  
55 filing.

56 After the filing, the Division of Public Utilities ("DPU") and the  
57 Committee of Consumer Service ("CCS") conducted thorough audits of the  
58 Company's case. As a part of their audits, representatives for the DPU and CCS  
59 made on-site visits to PacifiCorp's Portland offices and the Currant Creek Plant  
60 and the Lake Side construction sites to review Company records and visit with  
61 key Company personnel. Other parties conducted their own review of the case.  
62 During this review period, the Company responded to an additional 678 discovery  
63 requests from the parties in the case.

64 **Terms of the Stipulation**

65 **Q. Please briefly summarize the terms of the Stipulation.**

66 A. Under the terms of the Stipulation, customer rates will increase by \$115 million,  
67 or 9.95 percent. That rate increase will be implemented in two steps with an \$85

68 million (7.35%) increase on December 11, 2006, and an additional \$30 million  
69 (2.60%) increase on June 1, 2007.

70 **Q. Please describe the significant elements of the Stipulation.**

71 A. Paragraphs 1 through 6 of the Stipulation lay the foundation and give the  
72 background behind the settlement. Paragraphs 7 through 11 detail the revenue  
73 requirement and rate spread elements of the Stipulation. Paragraphs 12 through  
74 17 list specific regulatory commitments the Company is making. Paragraphs 18  
75 through 22 cover the obligations of the parties related to the Stipulation. Each of  
76 these areas is explained in detail below.

77 **Revenue Requirement**

78 **Q. Earlier in your testimony you indicated that the rate increase will occur in**  
79 **two steps. What is the reasoning behind the two step increase and how will it**  
80 **work?**

81 A. The Parties agree that PacifiCorp should be allowed to increase its annual Utah  
82 jurisdictional revenue requirement by \$115 million effective on December 11,  
83 2006. Tariff rates will be designed to collect the full amount of the \$115 million  
84 rate increase. However, as a result of a compromise on many of the issues and in  
85 consideration of mitigating the impacts of the rate increase, \$30 million of that  
86 increase will be delayed until June 1, 2007. This will be accomplished by  
87 application of a rate credit ranging from 2.22 percent to 2.86 percent of a  
88 customers monthly bill depending on rate schedule. The net effect is that  
89 customer rates will increase by \$85 million on December 11, 2006. On June 1,

90 2007, the rate credits will end and the full \$115 million rate increase will be  
91 reflected in customer bills starting on that date.

92 **Q. Does the Stipulation specify the authorized cost of capital, adopt a specific**  
93 **test year, or identify individual revenue requirement components and**  
94 **adjustments?**

95 A. The Stipulation calls out two specific items. First, the Stipulation specifies a  
96 10.25 percent return on common equity, but does not adopt a specific capital  
97 structure or an overall weighted cost of capital. Second, the Stipulation states that  
98 IM Flash's projected load should properly be included in PacifiCorp's Utah retail  
99 load forecast for ratemaking purposes. Because different parties relied upon  
100 different test periods and adjustments in supporting the agreed upon \$115 million  
101 increase, there is no overall agreement as to the test period or revenue requirement  
102 adjustments which led to the stipulated revenue requirement increases.

103 **Q. Why do you believe the stipulated revenue requirement increase of \$115**  
104 **million is reasonable?**

105 A. The \$115 million increase is significantly less than requested by PacifiCorp in this  
106 case. It represents a very conservative projection of the assets that will be in  
107 service and the costs the Company will incur to serve our customers during the  
108 period the new rates will be in effect. As I indicated earlier in my testimony, the  
109 Company is experiencing unprecedented growth, particularly in the state of Utah.  
110 The \$115 million rate increase provides the minimum level of revenues necessary  
111 to cover the cost of building, operating and maintaining the generating plants,  
112 transmission lines and distribution facilities necessary to support that growth.

113 Additionally, because PacifiCorp does not have any type of power cost  
 114 adjustment mechanism, the Company will absorb within that level of revenue all  
 115 of the price risk associated with fuel and purchased power necessary to meet the  
 116 energy requirements of our growing customer base. Finally, as a result of the stay  
 117 out provisions in the stipulation, it is anticipated that customers will see price  
 118 stability through at least August 2008, or nearly one year beyond the period of the  
 119 cost projections used in the case.

120 **Rate Spread and Rate Design**

121 **Q. Under the terms of the Stipulation how will the \$115 million annual revenue**  
 122 **increase be apportioned among Utah customers?**

123 A. The full detail of the how the rate increase and the rate credits will be allocated to  
 124 customer classes is found in Exhibit 1 to the Stipulation. The stipulated rate  
 125 increase for the major customer classes is as follows:

126	<u>Customer Class</u>	<u>Tariff Increase<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Rate Credit<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Net Increase<sup>1</sup></u>
127	Residential	10.31%	-2.44%	7.62%
128	General Service			
129	Schedule 23	9.31%	-2.22%	6.88%
130	Schedule 6	9.31%	-2.22%	6.88%
131	Schedule 8	10.31%	-2.44%	7.62%
132	Schedule 9	10.31%	-2.44%	7.62%
133	Irrigation	9.95%	-2.36%	7.35%
134	(1 <sup>1</sup> Percent increases over current tariff rates. 2 <sup>2</sup> Percent of stipulated tariff rates)			

135  
 136 **Q. Please explain the stipulated rate spread.**

137 A. The proposed rate spread is designed to reflect cost of service results while  
 138 balancing the impact of the rate change across customer classes.

139 The cost of service results support a smaller than average increase to  
 140 Schedule 6 and Schedule 23. Based on these results, the Stipulation provides a

141 price increase for Schedules 6 and 23 one percentage point less than the uniform  
142 increase for the other major schedules. At the same time, some lighting schedules  
143 along with Schedule 25 warrant an increase well above the average. The  
144 Stipulation provides a price increase for these customers which is two percentage  
145 points more than the uniform increase for most other major schedules.

146 Consistent with the agreement of the parties presented in the Load  
147 Research Working Group Report to the Commission dated July 1, 2002, irrigation  
148 customers will receive the overall average percentage change to tariff customers.

149 Electric furnace service and other lighting schedules warrant price  
150 decreases. No price change is applied to these customers.

151 **Q. Have the parties reached agreement on how the rate increase will be applied**  
152 **to individual billing components for each rate schedule?**

153 A. The parties have not reached agreement on the rate design. The Parties continue  
154 to discuss rate design issues and we hope to reach agreement on rate design for  
155 most, if not all customer classes in the near future.

156 **Q. Will special contracts customers be assigned any of the rate increase?**

157 A. The Parties have agreed that the \$115 million rate increase will be collected from  
158 tariff customers. Special contract customers will also see price increases as a  
159 result of the general rate increase, but these increases will not occur at the same  
160 time and in some cases as much as two years following the price changes for tariff  
161 customers. Additionally in one case, because of ongoing contract negotiations, the  
162 amount of the increase is not yet known. The price increases for special

163 contracts, when they occur, will be in addition to the \$115 million increase to  
164 tariff customers.

165 **Spending Commitments**

166 **Q. Has PacifiCorp agreed to commitments regarding system maintenance**  
167 **spending?**

168 A. PacifiCorp has agreed to two specific spending commitments. First, during the  
169 period from October 2006 to September 2007, PacifiCorp's expenditures for  
170 distribution maintenance set forth in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
171 ("FERC") accounts 590 through 598 will be not less than 93% of \$67.5 million.  
172 Second, during the period from October 2006 to September 2007, PacifiCorp's  
173 capital costs for distribution pole replacements will be not less than \$5.1 million.

174 **Q. How will the actual spending level be verified and what is the remedy should**  
175 **the agreed level of spending not occur?**

176 A. PacifiCorp will provide a report of the status of its compliance with this  
177 commitment to DPU and the CCS on November 15, 2007. If the net revenue  
178 requirement impact of the two commitments falls below the amounts I identified  
179 above, the shortfall will be deferred for treatment in a future rate case.

180 **Stay-Out Provision**

181 **Q. Does the Stipulation place any restrictions on when PacifiCorp can file for**  
182 **another price change?**

183 A. Yes. As part of the Stipulation, PacifiCorp agrees that it will not file another  
184 Utah general rate case before December 11, 2007. Based on a normal suspension



185 period, tariff prices should not change any earlier than August 7, 2008. This  
186 "stay-out" provision provides customers with an extended period of rate stability.

187 **Filing Requirements**

188 **Q. Earlier in your testimony you indicated that additional filing requirements**  
189 **were followed in this case. Will those same requirements be followed in**  
190 **subsequent filings?**

191 A. The Parties agree that they will hold discussions regarding appropriate revenue  
192 requirement and cost of service information filing requirements and master data  
193 requests for PacifiCorp's next Utah general rate case. If PacifiCorp and the  
194 parties participating in those discussions are unable to reach agreement on new  
195 information filing requirements, PacifiCorp agrees that it will provide the same  
196 additional filing requirement information and master data request responses as  
197 were provided in this case.

198 **Reporting Requirements**

199 **Q. Has PacifiCorp agreed to any additional reporting requirements?**

200 A. Yes. As part of the Stipulation, the Company agrees to provide summary actual  
201 results of operations in total for the states of Utah, Idaho and Wyoming  
202 comprising Rocky Mountain Power's service territory in its semi-annual results of  
203 operations reports. In addition, through a separate letter agreement with the DPU  
204 and the CCS, the Company has agreed to provide subsequent to its year end  
205 results of operations filing forecasted results of operations that look out two years  
206 beyond the historical year.

207 **PCAM**

208 **Q. Does this Stipulation have any impact on the PacifiCorp's PCAM application**  
209 **in Docket No. 05-035-102?**

210 A. Yes. Upon approval of this Stipulation, PacifiCorp agrees that it will withdraw its  
211 application in Docket No. 05-035-102. PacifiCorp also agrees that it will not file  
212 another application for approval for any kind of a power cost adjustment  
213 mechanism prior to December 11, 2007.

214 **Conclusion**

215 **Q. Do you believe the Stipulation is a fair conclusion to this case and is in the**  
216 **public interest?**

217 A. Yes. I have explained why the revenue requirement proposed in the Stipulation is  
218 fair and reasonable. I have explained that the stay-out provisions of the  
219 Stipulation provide Utah customers with price stability for an extended period. I  
220 have also described the spending commitments and reporting requirements  
221 provided under the terms of the Stipulation and indicated how they will benefit  
222 the regulatory process in Utah. Finally, even with this rate increase, prices in  
223 Utah will be still be lower than they were twenty years ago and remain among the  
224 lowest in the west and in the country. For all of these reasons, I conclude that the  
225 Stipulation is just, reasonable and in the public interest and should be approved by  
226 this Commission.

227 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

228 Yes.