

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

2 A. My name is Thomas B. Specketer, MidAmerican Energy Company ("MEC"), 666  
3 Grand Avenue, Suite 2900, Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

4 **Q. What is your position with MEC and your previous work experience?**

5 A. I am currently vice president U.S. regulatory accounting and MEC controller. My  
6 primary duties include responsibility for all accounting, financial reporting,  
7 regulatory reporting, tax and budgeting activities for MEC, and regulatory  
8 accounting oversight for all domestic regulated entities in the MidAmerican  
9 Energy Holdings Company ("MEHC") group. I have been employed by MEC, or  
10 one of its predecessor companies, for over 25 years. During this time, I have held  
11 various staff and managerial positions within the accounting, tax and finance  
12 organizations.

13 **Qualifications**

14 **Q. What is your educational background and your involvement in professional  
15 associations?**

16 A. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from Morningside  
17 College. In addition to formal education, I have also attended various  
18 educational, professional and electric industry related seminars during my career  
19 at MEHC. I am a member of Edison Electric Institute's Chief Accounting  
20 Officers Committee and a past member of the Tax Executives Institute, Iowa  
21 Association of Tax Representatives and Institute of Management Accountants.

22 **Purpose and Summary of Testimony**

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

24 A. My testimony is submitted in compliance with the provisions of Commitment  
25 U23 of Appendix A (“Appendix A”) to the Stipulation in Docket No. 05-035-54  
26 (the acquisition of PacifiCorp by MEHC) which states that within fifteen days  
27 after the transaction closes, PacifiCorp ("the Company") will file supplemental  
28 testimony by an MEHC witness to discuss and update the revenue requirement in  
29 PacifiCorp's general rate case and to incorporate any additional adjustments that  
30 are appropriate as a result of the transaction.

31 **Q. Are you proposing additional adjustments to the total price change of \$197.2**  
32 **million requested by PacifiCorp in its initial filing in this case?**

33 A. Yes. I am proposing adjustments that will reduce the Company's proposed price  
34 increase from \$197.2 million to \$194.1 million and identify adjustments that  
35 comprise the majority of the \$6.7 cost reduction contingency addressed by Mr.  
36 Richard Walje. Now that the MEHC-PacifiCorp transaction has closed, a number  
37 of adjustments for the forecast test year October 1, 2006 through September 30,  
38 2007 are appropriate and should be included in the revenue requirement for  
39 PacifiCorp. These adjustments are described as follows:

- 40 • The weighted cost of debt is being adjusted to reflect a 10 basis point  
41 reduction to the yield on incremental long-term debt projected to be issued  
42 following the close of the transaction and prior to the end of the forecast  
43 test period.
- 44 • The amount of the corporate overhead cross-charge included in the test  
45 year is being reduced to the level committed to by MEHC.

- 46           • The amount of test year expense related to the non-fuel cost of the West  
47           Valley lease is being reduced.
- 48           • The effect of MEHC commitments to increase the capacity of the Blundell  
49           Geothermal Plant and transfer steam ownership rights to PacifiCorp are  
50           reflected in test year expense where appropriate.
- 51           • Forecast test year labor expense is being reduced to reflect lower expected  
52           annual wage increases for non-union and exempt employees.
- 53           • Forecast test year labor expense is being reduced to reflect workforce  
54           reductions associated with MEHC's ownership of PacifiCorp. This  
55           reduction is offset by the amortization of associated employee severance  
56           costs.

57           The change in the Rate Mitigation cap relating to these adjustments has also been  
58           calculated. In addition, my testimony includes a discussion of the Utah  
59           commitments related to the Accelerated Distribution Circuit Fusing Program and  
60           Saving SAIDI Initiative. My testimony concludes by explaining how my  
61           proposed adjustments relate to the \$6.7 million reduction to test year revenue  
62           requirement in anticipation of the closing of the MEHC transaction.

63           **Weighted Cost of Debt**

64           **Q. Please describe MEHC's commitment with respect to the yield on**  
65           **incremental long-term debt issuances.**

66           A. Commitment 37 of Appendix A provides in part that:  
67           MEHC commits that over the next five years it will demonstrate that PacifiCorp's  
68           incremental long-term debt issuances will be at least a spread of ten basis points

69 below its similarly rated peers. If MEHC is unable to demonstrate to the  
70 Commission's satisfaction that PacifiCorp has achieved at least a ten-basis point  
71 reduction, PacifiCorp will accept up to a ten (10) basis point reduction to the yield  
72 it actually incurred on any incremental long-term debt issuances for any revenue  
73 requirement calculation effective for the five-year period subsequent to the  
74 approval of the proposed acquisition.

75 **Q. How do you propose to demonstrate the expected reduction in the cost of**  
76 **long-term debt issued during the forecast test year due to PacifiCorp's**  
77 **association with Berkshire Hathaway?**

78 A. The proximity of this case to the close of the MEHC transaction does not allow  
79 for an empirical demonstration that the cost of new debt issuances has declined or  
80 will decline. Therefore, PacifiCorp has imputed a 10 basis point reduction from  
81 the forecast market rate for new debt issuances as described below.

82 **Q. Please describe your proposed adjustment to the yield on incremental long-**  
83 **term debt issuances.**

84 I have proposed an adjustment to reduce the expected cost of debt on new  
85 issuances prior to the end of the forecast test period in this case by 10 basis points.  
86 The cost of these new issuances was based on a forecast market interest rate that  
87 was developed using the forward 20-year U.S. Treasury rate and adjusting for the  
88 spread between Treasury rates and A-rated corporate secured debt. This forecast  
89 market rate was then reduced by 10 basis points before adding expected  
90 underwriting fees and other issuance costs. This adjustment will reduce the  
91 Company's embedded cost of long-term debt from 6.407% to 6.400% and reduce

92 Utah test year revenue requirement by slightly more than \$0.1 million. The  
93 calculation of the adjustment to the cost of debt is described in Exhibit UP&L  
94 \_\_\_\_ (TBS-1S).

#### 95 **Corporate Overhead Cross-Charge**

96 **Q. Please describe your proposed adjustment to the amount of the corporate**  
97 **overhead cross-charge included in the forecast test year.**

98 A. Commitment 38 of Appendix A provides that:

99 MEHC commits that the corporate charges to PacifiCorp from MEHC and MEC  
100 will not exceed \$9 million annually for a period of five years after the closing of  
101 the transaction. In accordance with this commitment, I am proposing an  
102 adjustment to reduce the corporate overhead cross-charge included in the forecast  
103 test year from \$11.7 million, based on ScottishPower's cost structure, to \$7.6  
104 million on a total company basis. This adjustment will reduce Utah-allocated  
105 expense by \$1.7 million. The calculation of the corporate overhead cross-charge  
106 adjustment is described in Exhibit UP&L \_\_\_\_ (TBS-2S).

#### 107 **Accelerated Distribution Circuit Fusing Program**

108 **Q. Please discuss the impact on forecast test year distribution O&M expense of**  
109 **providing increased funding for the Accelerated Distribution Circuit Fusing**  
110 **Program.**

111 A. Commitment 35(c) of Appendix A provides that:

112 O&M expense for the Accelerated Distribution Circuit Fusing Program across all  
113 states will be increased by \$1.5 million per year for five years after the close of  
114 the transaction. Utah's share of the increased circuit fusing program costs will be

115 \$650,000 annually. However, cost savings will offset the additional circuit fusing  
116 expense. Therefore, I am not proposing an adjustment to increase Utah's forecast  
117 test year distribution O&M expense to recognize the cost of the Accelerated  
118 Distribution Circuit Fusing Program

119 **Saving SAIDI Initiative**

120 **Q. Please discuss the impact on forecast test year distribution O&M expense of**  
121 **extending the Saving SAIDI Initiative.**

122 A. Commitment 35(d) of Appendix A provides for extension of the O&M investment  
123 across all states for the Saving SAIDI Initiative for three additional years at an  
124 estimated cost of \$2 million per year. Utah's share of the cost of continuing the  
125 Saving SAIDI Initiative will be \$625,000 annually. However, cost savings will  
126 offset the Saving SAIDI expense. Therefore, I am not proposing an adjustment to  
127 increase Utah's forecast test year distribution O&M expense to recognize the cost  
128 of continuing the Saving SAIDI Initiative.

129 **West Valley Lease**

130 **Q. Please describe the nature of the West Valley lease.**

131 A. The West Valley lease is a 15-year operating lease between PacifiCorp and West  
132 Valley Leasing Company, LLC, for the output of a 200 MW gas-fired, simple-  
133 cycle combustion turbine electric generating station located in West Valley, Utah  
134 near Salt Lake City. West Valley Leasing Company, LLC is a subsidiary of PPM  
135 Energy which is owned by ScottishPower.

136 **Q. Please describe MEHC's commitment to reduce test year expenses related to**  
137 **the non-fuel cost of the West Valley lease.**

138 A. Commitment U 46 of Appendix A to the Amendment to Stipulation in Docket No.  
139 05-035-54 ("the Amendment to Stipulation") provides:

140 a) MEHC and PacifiCorp commit to reduce the annual non-fuel costs to  
141 PacifiCorp customers of the West Valley lease by \$0.417 million per month (total  
142 company) or an expected \$3.7 million in 2006 (assuming a March 31, 2006  
143 transaction closing), \$5 million in 2007 and \$2.1 million in 2008 (the lease  
144 terminates May 31, 2008), which shall be the amounts of the total company rate  
145 credit. Beginning with the first month after the close of the transaction to  
146 purchase PacifiCorp, Utah's share of the monthly rate credit will be deferred for  
147 the benefit of customers and accrue interest at PacifiCorp's authorized rate of  
148 return.

149 b) This commitment is offsetable, on a prospective basis, to the extent  
150 PacifiCorp demonstrates to the Commission's satisfaction, in the context of a  
151 general rate case, that such West Valley non-fuel cost savings:

152 i) are reflected in PacifiCorp's rates; and  
153 ii) there are no offsetting actions or agreements by MEHC or  
154 PacifiCorp for which value is obtained by PPM or an affiliated  
155 company, which, directly or indirectly, increases the costs  
156 PacifiCorp would otherwise incur.

157 In accordance with that commitment, beginning with the close of the transaction,  
158 Utah's share of the monthly rate credit will be deferred for the benefit of  
159 customers and accrue interest at PacifiCorp's authorized rate of return.

160 **Q. What is the amount of your proposed adjustment to reduce test year**  
161 **expenses related to the non-fuel cost of the West Valley lease?**

162 A. The effect of this adjustment is to reduce Utah's forecast test year revenue  
163 requirement by \$2.7 million. Of this amount, \$1.8 million is related to the annual  
164 decrease in costs and \$0.9 million is related to the amortization of the decrease  
165 from the close of the transaction to December 11, 2006. The calculation of the  
166 West Valley lease adjustment is described in Exhibit UP&L \_\_\_\_ (TBS-3S).

167 **Blundell Geothermal Plant**

168 **Q. Please describe the commitments that MEHC has made with respect to the**  
169 **operation of the Blundell Plant that could potentially affect the forecast test**  
170 **year revenue requirement in this case.**

171 A. Intermountain Geothermal Company ("IGC"), a subsidiary of MEHC, owns  
172 approximately 70% of the working interests in the geothermal field serving the  
173 Blundell Geothermal Plant, which is owned and operated by PacifiCorp. IGC has  
174 an existing contractual obligation to provide its proportionate share  
175 (approximately 70%) of the steam need to service the plant. As part of the  
176 Settlement Agreement in Docket No. 05-035-98 that was approved by the  
177 Commission on April 3, 2006, MEHC agreed to transfer to PacifiCorp the stock  
178 ownership in IGC and the associated steam rights. The relevant commitments  
179 with respect to the Blundell Plant are described in paragraphs 3.c.(ii) and 3.c.(iii)  
180 of the Settlement Agreement. Paragraph 3.c.(ii) calls for IGC's current market  
181 price-based steam supply contract at Blundell to be replaced with a new contract  
182 that requires the steam to be provided to PacifiCorp at IGC's cost for the



183 remainder of the agreement. Paragraph 3.c.(iii) requires PacifiCorp to add  
184 approximately 11 megawatts of generating capacity at Blundell by the fourth  
185 quarter of 2007.

186 **Q. What impact does changing the future cost of the Blundell steam resource**  
187 **have on the forecast test year revenue requirement?**

188 A. Reflecting the Blundell Plant steam resource at IGC's cost rather than at the  
189 market price reduces Utah's forecast test year revenue requirement by \$0.2  
190 million. The calculation of the savings due to lower Blundell steam costs is  
191 described in Exhibit UP&L \_\_\_\_ (TBS-4S).

192 **Q. Is an adjustment required to reflect the reduction in net power costs and add**  
193 **the additional rate base associated with the 11 megawatt capacity expansion**  
194 **at the Blundell Plant?**

195 A. No, not at this time. The capacity expansion at the Blundell Plant is currently  
196 projected to be in service in December 2007. Thus, while the Company expects  
197 that Utah customers will ultimately benefit from an overall reduction in cost as a  
198 result of the Blundell expansion, this benefit will not be realized during the  
199 forecast test period which ends on September 30, 2007. Therefore, an adjustment  
200 for additional Blundell generating capacity is not appropriate in this proceeding.

201 **Annual Wage Increases**

202 **Q. Please describe the adjustment you are making to forecast test year labor**  
203 **expense to reflect changes in expected annual wage increases.**

204 A. I am reducing Utah's forecast test year labor expense by approximately \$0.4  
205 million to reflect lower expected annual wage increases for non-union and exempt

206 employees. The annual wage increase for these employees is expected to average  
207 2.5% in May 2006 rather than the 3% reflected in the Company's initial filing.  
208 The calculation of this labor expense adjustment is described in Exhibit UP&L  
209 \_\_\_\_ (TBS-5S).

210 **Workforce Reductions**

211 **Q. Please explain the adjustment to the forecast test year revenue requirement**  
212 **that is necessary to reflect workforce reductions.**

213 A. It is necessary to adjust the forecast test year labor expense to reflect a workforce  
214 reduction of 84 employees. The departing employees fall into two categories.  
215 First, 55 employees left PacifiCorp during 2006 prior to the close of the MEHC  
216 transaction and were not replaced. The reduction in test year labor expense  
217 attributable to these employees is approximately \$4.3 million, of which \$1.8  
218 million is allocated to Utah. Second, 29 employee reductions have occurred since  
219 the transaction was closed. This second group represents a reduction in test year  
220 expense of approximately \$4.8 million--\$2.0 million allocated to Utah. The total  
221 workforce reduction of 84 employees reduces Utah test year labor expense by  
222 \$3.8 million

223 **Q. Please describe the severance costs associated with these workforce**  
224 **reductions.**

225 A. The 29 employees who will be leaving PacifiCorp after the close of the  
226 transaction are eligible for the Company's severance program. The total amount  
227 of severance expense related to these employees is \$6.4 million, of which \$2.7  
228 million will be allocated to Utah. I propose to amortize this amount over three

229 years, resulting in an increase of \$0.9 million in Utah test year labor expense  
230 attributable to severance cost, with the unamortized balance included in ratebase  
231 as a regulatory asset in Account 182.

232 **Q. What is the net impact of the workforce reductions on test year revenue**  
233 **requirement?**

234 A. The \$3.8 million reduction in labor expense, partially offset by the \$0.9 million  
235 amortization of employee severance costs, results in a net decrease of \$2.9 million  
236 in Utah's test year revenue requirement. The calculation of the adjustment for  
237 workforce reductions is described in Exhibit UP&L \_\_\_\_ (TBS-6S)

#### 238 **Transaction Filing Contingency Adjustment**

239 **Q. In his prefiled direct testimony, PacifiCorp witness Richard Walje discussed**  
240 **a \$6.7 million reduction to PacifiCorp's proposed revenue requirement in**  
241 **anticipation of the closing of the MEHC transaction. Are the adjustments**  
242 **you have proposed in addition to that \$6.7 million?**

243 A. Yes, but only in part. The \$6.7 million adjustment discussed by Mr. Walje was  
244 offered in anticipation of the types of reductions in forecast test year OMAG  
245 expense that are represented by my specific adjustments to reduce the corporate  
246 overhead cross-charge, to lower expected annual non-union wage increases, and  
247 to reflect the impact of workforce reductions. Therefore, to avoid double-  
248 counting, those three adjustments totaling \$5.0 million must be offset against the  
249 \$6.7 million adjustment offered by Mr. Walje. My other adjustments are in  
250 addition to what was proposed by Mr. Walje and have the effect of reducing the  
251 Company's proposed price change by \$3.1 million.

252 **Rate Mitigation Cap**

253 **Q. Is it your understanding that the adjustments you have proposed will have**  
254 **an effect on the calculation of the Rate Mitigation cap that was previously**  
255 **described in the direct testimony of Mr. Weston?**

256 A. Yes, I understand that there will be some effect on the Rate Mitigation cap.  
257 Exhibit UP&L \_\_\_\_ (TBS-7S) shows the total impact of my proposed  
258 adjustments on PacifiCorp's forecast test year revenue requirement. This exhibit  
259 shows that, after adjustment for the Rate Mitigation cap, the cost saving  
260 commitments made as part of the MEHC transaction will reduce PacifiCorp's  
261 requested Utah price change from \$197.2 million to \$194.1 million, a savings of  
262 \$3.1 million.

263 **Conclusion**

264 **Q. Please summarize your testimony.**

265 A. I have proposed a number of adjustments that in total will reduce PacifiCorp's  
266 requested price increase in this case by \$3.1 million. These adjustments reflect  
267 Stipulation commitments made by MEHC and PacifiCorp in the transaction  
268 approval proceeding and recognize certain cost efficiencies expected to be  
269 realized as a result of the transaction.

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

271 A. Yes.