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## BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

In the Matter of the Application of Rocky Mountain Power for Authority To Increase its Retail Electric Utility Service Rates in Utah and for Approval of Its Proposed Electric Service Regulations, Consisting of a General Rate Increase of Approximately \$161.2 Million Per Year, and for Approval of a New Large Load Surcharge RESPONSE BY THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC
UTILITIES TO THE PETITION FOR
CLARIFICATION AND
RECONSIDERATION OF THE
COMMISSION'S SCHEDULING ORDER
FILED BY ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER
(RMP)

DOCKET NO. 07-035-93

- 1. RMP has requested clarification of the scheduling order on three different issues. The DPU provides these comments on some of the areas that the Company has requested clarification.
- 2. Phase II and the implementation of new rates- As a result of the Commission's amended scheduling order that moved the rate spread portion of the case to Phase II of the docket the Company is asking the Commission to provide direction to the parties on how Phase I rates should be implemented. The Company is asking this to take place without the settlement discussions suggested by the Commission or without receiving comments or evidence from all the parties. The Company in paragraph 18

makes its suggestion on how Phase I rates should be implemented. The Commissions scheduling order encourages the parties to try and resolve how Phase I rates should be implemented. The DPU comments are that settlement discussions to see if an agreement can be reached on how to implement Phase I rates should take place before the Commission establishes a method to implement Phase I rates. In addition before the Commission implements Phase I rates it should allow all parties an opportunity to provide comments or evidence on how to implement Phase I rates and not just provide Commission guidance without an opportunity for all parties to provide impute. It appears that the Company wants the Commission to just provide guidance on how to implement Phase I rates without settlement discussion and without parties providing comments or evidence on how Phase I rates should be implemented.

3. Discovery Parameters - The DPU strongly suggests that the Commission not alter its scheduling Order to restrict the amount of discovery that can be outstanding at any one time. The DPU has numerous in house experts working on this rate case and has hired an outside consulting firm to assist the DPU. A restriction of the amount of discovery that can be outstanding at any one time would unreasonably interfere with the DPU ability to conduct a thorough investigation. The DPU recognizes that there is generally a great deal of discovery that will take place in a general rate case. However, the Commission should not presume that the amount of discovery that is being presented is abusive or taxes the ability of the Company to answer the questions in a timely manner. Instead the Commission should presume that the questions asked by the parties are in good faith and necessary to conduct the rate case investigation. The Commission has provided a timely method to resolve discovery disputes, which could include, if parties

cannot agree on needed additional time to answer certain questions, a remedy for the Company. The Commission should not presume that parties can not work out discovery issues amicability by providing premature restrictions on the parties ability to investigate thoroughly the issues raised in the general rate case. Therefore, the DPU recommends that the Commission not change the discovery requirements in its scheduling order.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of January, 2008.

Michael L. Ginsberg Patricia E. Schmid Attorneys for the Division of Public Utilities

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing RESPONSE BY THE DIVISION OF PUTLIC UTILITIES TO THE PETITION FOR CLARIFICATION AND RECONSIDERATION OF THE COMMISSION'S SCHEDULING ORDER FILED BY ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER (RMP) was sent by electronic mail and mailed by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, to the following on January \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2008:

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