

EXHIBIT D

1 **Q. Please state your name, business address and present position with Rocky**
2 **Mountain Power Company (the Company), a division of PacifiCorp.**

3 A. My name is Mark Widmer, my business address is 825 N.E. Multnomah, Suite
4 600, Portland, Oregon 97232, and my present title is Director, net power costs.

5 **Qualifications**

6 **Q. Briefly describe your education and business experience.**

7 A. I received an undergraduate degree in Business Administration from Oregon State
8 University. I have worked for the Company since 1980 and have held various
9 positions in the power supply and regulatory areas. I was promoted to my present
10 position in September 2004.

11 **Q. Please describe your current duties.**

12 A. I am responsible for the coordination and preparation of net power cost and
13 related analyses used in retail price filings. In addition, I represent the Company
14 on power resource and other various issues with intervenor and regulatory groups
15 associated with the six state regulatory commissions to whose jurisdiction we are
16 subject.

17 **Summary of Testimony**

18 **Q. Will you please summarize your testimony?**

19 A. I present the Company's proposed net power costs. In addition, my testimony:
20 • Describes the Company's production cost model, the Generation and
21 Regulation Initiatives Decision Tools (GRID) model, which is used to
22 calculate net power costs;
23 • Provides information on how input data is normalized in GRID and the

24 rationale for doing so; and
25 • Describes the change in hydro modeling associated with the VISTA hydro
26 model.

27 **Net Power Cost Results**

28 **Q. Please explain net power costs.**

29 A. Net power costs are defined as the sum of fuel expenses, wholesale purchase
30 power expenses and wheeling expenses, less wholesale sales revenue.

31 **Q. Please explain how the Company calculates net power costs.**

32 A. Net power costs are calculated using the GRID model. For each hour in the test
33 period, the model simulates the operation of the power supply portion of the
34 Company under three stream flow conditions. The results obtained from the
35 stream flow conditions are averaged and the appropriate cost data is applied to
36 determine an expected net power cost under normal stream flow and weather
37 conditions for the test period.

38 **Q. What are the proposed normalized net power costs?**

39 A. The normalized net power costs for the twelve months ended June 2009 are
40 approximately \$456.4 million on a Utah allocated basis, or \$1.091 billion system-
41 wide. The Company's net power cost study is provided as Exhibit
42 RMP___(MTW-1). The allocation of total Company net power costs to Utah is
43 presented in Exhibit RMP___(SRM-1) in Mr. Steven McDougal's testimony.

44 **Q. How do these compare with the level currently included in rates?**

45 A. Rates for Docket 06-035-21 were established based on a global settlement of the
46 entire case, without specific findings on the net power cost level. Therefore, it is

47 not possible to identify the exact magnitude of the cost increase from the prior
48 case. The projected level of net power costs in this case, however, is more than
49 34 percent higher than the \$811 million filed with the last case. In general, the
50 largest factors causing the cost increase are higher retail loads, higher coal prices,
51 higher market and natural gas costs, and expiring purchase power contracts. These
52 increases are mitigated by the addition of wind resources.

53 **Q. How does increased retail load impact the Company's proposed net power**
54 **costs?**

55 A. This filing reflects a system-wide increase in load of 3.2 million megawatt hours
56 (5.6 percent) when compared to total Company loads included in Docket 06-035-
57 21. All things being equal, additional retail load will require the Company to re-
58 dispatch the system utilizing additional higher cost thermal resources and by
59 making additional market purchases and reduced market sales.

60 **Q. Please explain the sources of the increase in the Company's gas costs.**

61 A. Gas prices have trended sharply upward over the last several years, and they
62 remain volatile, with both price spikes and price softening. The Company's gas
63 costs included in this filing reflect market prices, plus cost increases or decreases
64 to reflect the Company's hedged position.

65 The general upward trend in price coupled with extreme market price
66 volatility makes hedging an important risk mitigation tool to manage the
67 Company's cost of gas. The Company's gas procurement and risk management
68 strategy is discussed in detail in Mr. Lasich's testimony. While the Company's
69 hedged position in Docket 06-035-21 decreased gas costs, the current filing

70 reflects gas costs that are higher because the hedged position is above market.
71 The Company's gas costs for this case were primarily hedged between November
72 2005 and May 2006, after market prices had increased following hurricane
73 Katrina.

74 **Q. Please explain the Company's coal fuel price increases.**

75 A. The coal price increases at our generation facilities are being driven by a variety
76 of factors, including normal increases in contract price indices, the impact of
77 contract re-openers, and higher mine operating costs.

78 **Q. Can you give examples of these cost increases?**

79 A. Yes. The Company's Deer Creek mine reflects a cost increase of \$11 million or
80 \$3.89/ton. This increase is caused by a combination of lower expected annual
81 tonnage coupled with increased labor, benefits, insurance and royalties. The cost
82 of fuel supplied by the Arch coal purchase causes an increase of \$15 million due
83 to a price re-opener as well as contract escalation.

84 **Q. Why do expiring purchase power contracts generally increase net power
85 costs?**

86 A. The Company's purchase power contracts generally reflect wholesale electric
87 market prices at the time they were executed. As wholesale electric market prices
88 increase, the cost of replacement power increases when a contract expires. This
89 filing reflects the expiration of various contracts, including the 400-megawatt
90 TransAlta contract, and the increased costs of replacement power associated with
91 these expiring contracts. The expiration of the TransAlta and Duke Power
92 contracts increases net power costs by \$70.8 million.

93 **Q. Are the cost increases partially offset by the inclusion of the variable costs**
94 **from renewable energy facilities expected to be in service during the test**
95 **period?**

96 A. Yes. The net power costs include expected generation from the 94-megawatt
97 Goodnoe wind project located in Oregon, which is presently expected to be in-
98 service June 2008; the 140-megawatt Marengo wind generation facility located in
99 Washington, that came on line August 2007 and is being upgraded to 210-
100 megawatts by August 2008; the 99 megawatt Glenrock wind project located in
101 Wyoming, which is presently expected to be in service December 2008, the 99
102 megawatt Seven Mile Hill wind project located in Wyoming, which is expected to
103 be in service by December 2008 and the 100-megawatt Leaning Juniper wind
104 generation facility located in Oregon that came on line September 2006. Because
105 the Company owns these wind facilities, the variable cost of these resources is
106 zero. These resource additions reduce total Company net power costs by \$83.8
107 million.

108 **Determination of Net Power Costs**

109 **Q. Are these proposed net power costs developed with the same production**
110 **dispatch model used in the Company's last Utah filing?**

111 A. Yes, with one exception. The Company's proposed net power costs were
112 developed using version 6.2 of the GRID model. In the last Utah filing (Docket
113 No. 06-035-21), the Company used GRID version 5.2/5.3.

114 **Q. Please explain the changes in GRID version 6/1, including whether they**
115 **impact net power costs.**

116 A. The first is a change in the power plant commitment logic, so that if the marginal
117 unit's reference market is illiquid, the model does not calculate a reserve credit.
118 This change has only a minimal impact on power costs.

119 The second change replaces the Thermal Heat Rate data series with a Heat
120 Rate Coefficient data series. The model calculates the heat rate curve within the
121 model. The new data series is a timed-attribute data series. This allows the
122 analyst to change Huntington Unit 2's curve to reflect the impact of the new
123 scrubber without maintaining two different data series, for example. Again, the
124 change has only minimal impact on net power costs.

125 The third change generally improves the functionality of the model by
126 enhancing security for projects with "locked" scenarios, providing an MMBTU
127 report and providing financial reports with finer granularity in long term contract
128 cost reporting.

129 **Q. Please explain the changes in GRID version 6.2, including whether they**
130 **impact net power costs.**

131 A. The first change enhances the system balancing logic to better recognize
132 economic displacement by decommitting eligible thermal units. Previously, the
133 Company used a manual workaround. The net power cost impact of this change
134 ranges from no change to a decrease depending upon parameters of the entire
135 portfolio of resources.

136 The second change improves the dispatch of resources with zero minimum

137 up and down time settings. The net power cost impact is either a small decrease
138 or a small increase depending upon parameters of the entire portfolio of resources.

139 The third change provides the capability to include a loss payment for
140 transmission losses as part of the total hourly transmission link cost. The net
141 power cost impact of this change is zero at the current time.

142 The fourth change provides the capability to include a capacity payment
143 and other cost in the total monthly transmission link cost. The net power cost
144 impact of this change is zero at the current time.

145 The fifth change improves the efficiency of the system balancing
146 algorithm. The net power cost impact of this change is zero.

147 The sixth change provides enhanced functionality for greater analyst
148 efficiency. The net power cost impact of this change is zero.

149 **Q. Please explain how GRID projects net power costs.**

150 A. I have divided the description of the power cost model into three sections, as
151 shown below:

- 152 • The model used to calculate net power costs
- 153 • The model inputs
- 154 • The model output

155 **The GRID Model**

156 **Q. Please describe the GRID model.**

157 A. The Generation and Regulation Initiatives Decision Tools (GRID) model is the
158 Company's hourly production dispatch model, which is used to calculate net
159 power costs. It is a server-based application that uses the following high-level

160 technical architecture to calculate net power costs:

- 161 • An Oracle-based data repository for storage of all inputs
- 162 • A Java-based software engine for algorithm and optimization
- 163 processing
- 164 • Outputs that are exported in Excel readable format
- 165 • A web browser-based user interface

166 **Q. Please describe the methodology employed to calculate net power costs in this**

167 **docket.**

168 A. Net power costs are calculated hourly using the GRID model. The general steps

169 are as follows:

- 170 1. Determine the input information for the calculation, including retail load,
- 171 wholesale contracts, market prices, thermal and hydro generation capability,
- 172 fuel costs, wind generation, transmission capability and expenses
- 173 2. The model calculates the following pre-dispatch information:
 - 174 • Thermal availability
 - 175 • Thermal commitment
 - 176 • Hydro shaping and dispatch
 - 177 • Energy take of long term firm contracts
 - 178 • Energy take of short term firm contracts
 - 179 • Reserve requirement and allocation between hydro and thermal
 - 180 resources
- 181 3. The model determines the following information in the Dispatch
- 182 (optimization) logic, based on resources, including contracts, from the pre-

- 183 dispatch logic:
- 184 • Optimal thermal generation levels, and fuel expenses
 - 185 • Expenses (revenues) from firm purchase (sales) contracts
 - 186 • System balancing market purchases and sales necessary to balance and
 - 187 optimize the system and net power costs taking into account the
 - 188 constraints of the Company's system
 - 189 • Expenses for purchasing additional transmission capability
- 190 4. Model outputs are used to calculate net power costs on a total Company basis,
- 191 incorporating expenses (revenues) of purchase (sales) contracts that are
- 192 independent of dispatched contracts, which are determined in step 3.

193 The main processors of the GRID model are steps 2 and 3.

194 **Q. Please describe in general terms, the purposes of the Pre-dispatch and**

195 **Dispatch processes.**

196 A. The Dispatch logic is a linear program (LP) optimization module, which

197 determines how the available thermal resources should be dispatched given load

198 requirements, transmission constraints and market conditions, and whether market

199 purchases (sales) should be made to balance the system. In addition, if market

200 conditions allow, market purchases may be used to displace more expensive

201 thermal generation. At the same time, market sales may be made either from

202 excess resources or market purchases if it is economical to do so under market

203 and transmission constraints.

204 **Q. Does the Pre-dispatch logic provide thermal availability and system energy**
205 **requirements for the Dispatch logic?**

206 A. Yes. Pre-dispatch, which occurs before the Dispatch logic, calculates the
207 availability of thermal generation, dispatches hydro generation, schedules firm
208 wholesale contracts, and determines the reserve requirement of the Company's
209 system. In my following testimony, I'll describe each of these calculations in
210 more detail.

211 **Generating Resources in Pre-Dispatch**

212 **Q. Please describe how the GRID model determines thermal availability and**
213 **commitment.**

214 A. The Pre-dispatch logic reads the inputs regarding thermal generation by unit, such
215 as nameplate capacity, normalized outage and maintenance schedules, and
216 calculates the available capacity of each unit for each hour. The model then
217 determines the hourly commitment status of thermal units based on planned
218 outage schedules, and a comparison of operating cost vs. market price if the unit
219 is capable of cycling up or down in a short period of time. The commitment status
220 of a unit indicates whether it is economical to bring that unit online in that
221 particular hour. The availability of thermal units and their commitment status are
222 used in the dispatch logic to determine how much may be generated each hour by
223 each unit.

224 **Q. How does the model shape and dispatch hydro generation?**

225 A. In the Pre-dispatch logic, the Company's available hydro generation from each
226 non-run of river project is shaped and dispatched by hour within each week in

227 order to maximize usage during peak load hours. The weekly shape of a non-run
228 of river project is based on the net system load. The dispatch logic incorporates
229 minimum and maximum flow constraints for the project to account for hydro
230 license constraints. The dispatch of the generation from run-of-river projects is
231 flat in all hours of the week. The hourly dispatched hydro generation is used in the
232 Dispatch logic to determine energy requirements for thermal generation and
233 system balancing transactions.

234 **Wholesale Contracts in Pre-Dispatch**

235 **Q. Does the model distinguish between short-term firm and long-term firm**
236 **wholesale contracts in the Pre-dispatch logic?**

237 A. Yes. Short-term firm contracts are block energy transactions with standard terms
238 and a term of one year or less in length. In contrast, many of the Company's long-
239 term firm and intermediate-term firm contracts have non-standard terms that
240 provide different levels of flexibility. For modeling purposes, long-term firm
241 contracts are categorized as one of the following archetypes based on contract
242 terms:

- 243 • Energy Limited (shape to price or load): The energy take of these
244 contracts have minimum and maximum load factors. The complexities can
245 include shaping (hourly, annual), exchange agreements, and call/put
246 optionality.
- 247 • Generator Flat (or Fixed Pattern): The energy take of these contracts is
248 tied to specific generators and is usually the same in all hours, which takes
249 into consideration plant down time. There is no optionality in these

- 250 contracts.
- 251 • Fixed Pattern: These contracts have a fixed energy take in all hours of a
252 period.
 - 253 • Complex: The energy take of one component of a complex contract is tied
254 to the energy take of another component in the contract or the load and
255 resource balances of the contract counter party.
 - 256 • Contracted Reserves: These contracts do not take energy. The available
257 capacity is used in the operating reserve calculation.
 - 258 • Financial: These contracts are place holders for capturing fixed cost or
259 revenue. They do not take energy.

260 In the Pre-dispatch logic, long-term firm purchase and sales contracts are
261 dispatched per the specific algorithms designed for their archetype.

262 **Q. Are there any exceptions regarding the procedures just discussed for**
263 **dispatch of short-term firm or long-term firm contracts?**

264 **A.** Yes. Whether a wholesale contract is identified as long-term firm is entirely based
265 on the length of its term. Consistent with previous treatment, the Company
266 identifies contracts with terms greater than one year by name. Short-term firm
267 contracts are grouped by delivery point. If a short-term firm contract has flexibility
268 as described for long-term firm contracts, it will be dispatched using the
269 appropriate archetype and listed individually with the long-term contracts. Hourly
270 contract energy dispatch is used in the Dispatch logic to determine the
271 requirements for thermal generation and system balancing transactions.

272 **Reserve Requirement in Pre-Dispatch**

273 **Q. Please describe the reserve requirement for the Company's system.**

274 A. The Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) and the North American
275 Electric Reliability Council (NERC) set the standards for reserves. All companies
276 with generation are required to maintain operating reserves, which comprise two
277 components – regulating reserve and contingency reserve. Companies must carry
278 contingency reserves to meet the most severe single contingency (MSSC) or 5
279 percent for operating hydro and wind resources and 7 percent for operating
280 thermal resources, whichever is greater. A minimum of one-half of these reserves
281 must be spinning. Units that hold spinning reserves are units that are under control
282 of the control area. The remainder (ready reserves) must be available within a 10-
283 minute period. NERC and WECC require companies with generation to carry
284 spinning reserves to protect the WECC system from cascading loss of generation
285 or transmission lines, uncontrolled separation, and interruption of customer
286 service.

287 Regulating Reserve is an amount of Spinning Reserve immediately
288 responsive to automatic generation control (AGC) to provide sufficient regulating
289 margin to allow the control area to meet NERC's Control Performance Criteria.

290 **Q. How does the model implement the operating reserve requirement?**

291 A. The model calculates operating reserve requirements (both regulating reserve and
292 contingency reserve) for the Company's East and West control areas. The total
293 contingency reserve requirement is 5 percent of dispatched hydro and wind, plus
294 7 percent of committed available thermal resources for the hour, which includes

295 both company-owned resources and long-term firm purchase and sales contracts
296 that contribute to the reserve requirement. Spinning reserve is one half of the total
297 contingency reserve requirement. In GRID, regulating margin is added to the
298 spinning reserve requirement. Regulating margin is the same in nature as spinning
299 reserve but it is used for following changes in net system load within the hour.

300 **Q. How does the model satisfy reserve requirements?**

301 A. Reserves are met first with unused hydro capability, then by backing down thermal
302 units on a descending variable cost basis. Spinning reserve is satisfied before the
303 ready reserve requirement. For each control area, spinning reserve requirement is
304 fulfilled using hydro resources and thermal units that are equipped with governor
305 control. The ready reserve requirement is met using purchase contracts for
306 operating reserves, uncommitted quick start units, the remaining unused hydro
307 capability, and by backing down thermal units. The allocated hourly operating
308 reserve requirement applied to the generating units is used in the Dispatch logic to
309 determine the energy available from the resources and the level of the system
310 balancing market transactions.

311 **Q. What is an “uncommitted quick start unit”?**

312 A. As noted above, ready reserves must be available within a 10-minute period. A
313 quick start unit is a unit that can be synchronized with the transmission grid and
314 can be at capacity within the 10-minute requirement. If a gas supply is available
315 and the units are not otherwise dispatched, the Gadsby combustion turbine units
316 meet this requirement.

317 **Q. Are the operating reserves for the two control areas independent of each**
318 **other?**

319 A. Yes, with one exception for spinning reserves. The dynamic overlay component
320 of the Revised Transmission Services Agreement with Idaho Power allows the
321 Company to utilize the reserve capability of the Company's West side hydro
322 system in the East side control area. Up to 100 megawatts of East control area
323 spinning reserves can be met from resources in the West control area.

324 **Q. What is the impact of reserve requirement on resource generating**
325 **capability?**

326 A. There is no impact on hydro generation, since the amount of reserves allocated to
327 hydro resources are based on the difference between their maximum dependable
328 capability and the dispatched energy. However, if a thermal unit is designated to
329 hold reserves, its hourly generation will be limited to no more than its capability
330 minus the amount of reserves it is holding.

331 **GRID Model Inputs**

332 **Q. Please explain the inputs that go into the model.**

333 A. Inputs used in GRID include retail loads, thermal plant data, hydroelectric
334 generation data, wind plant generation data, firm wholesale sales, firm wholesale
335 purchases, firm wheeling expenses, system balancing wholesale sales and
336 purchase market data, and transmission constraints.

337 **Q. Please describe the retail load that is used in the model.**

338 A. The retail load represents the normalized hourly firm retail load that the Company
339 expects to serve within all of its jurisdictions for the twelve-month period ending

340 June 30, 2009. This load is modeled based on the location of the load and
341 transmission constraints between generation resources to load centers.

342 **Q. Please describe the thermal plant inputs.**

343 A. The amount of energy available from each thermal unit and the unit cost of the
344 energy are needed to calculate net power costs. To determine the amount of
345 energy available, the Company averages for each unit four years of historical
346 outage rates and maintenance. The heat rate for each unit is determined by using a
347 four-year average of historical burn rate data. By using four-year averages to
348 calculate outages, maintenance and heat rate data, annual fluctuations in unit
349 operation and performance are smoothed. For this filing, the 48-month period
350 ending June 2007 is used. Other thermal plant data includes unit capacity,
351 minimum generation level, minimum up/down time, fuel cost, and startup cost.

352 **Q. Are there any exceptions to the four-year average calculation?**

353 A. Yes. Some plants have not been in service for the entire four-year period. For
354 those plants, the Company uses the manufacturer's expected value for the missing
355 months to produce a weighted average value of the known and theoretical rates.

356 **Q. Please describe the hydroelectric generation input data.**

357 A. The Company uses the output from the VISTA hydro regulation model for
358 GRID's hydroelectric generation input data. The Company uses three sets of
359 expected generation from VISTA. The VISTA model is described in more detail
360 later in my testimony.

361 **Q. Does the Company use other hydro generation inputs?**

362 A. Yes. Other parameters for the hydro generation logic include maximum

363 capability, minimum run requirements, ramping restrictions, shaping capability,
364 and reserve carrying capability of the projects.

365 **Q. Please describe the wind generation input data.**

366 A. The Company uses wind site information from the project developers to estimate
367 generation.

368 **Q. Please describe the input data for firm wholesale sales and purchases.**

369 A. The data for firm wholesale sales and purchases are based on contracts to which
370 the Company is a party. Each contract specifies the basis for quantity and price.
371 The contract may specify an exact quantity of capacity and energy or a range
372 bounded by a maximum and minimum amount, or it may be based on the actual
373 operation of a specific facility. Prices may also be specifically stated, may refer to
374 a rate schedule or a market index (such as California Oregon Border (COB), Mid-
375 Columbia (Mid-C) or Palo Verde (PV)), or may be based on some type of
376 formula. The long-term firm contracts are modeled individually, and the short-
377 term firm contracts are grouped based on general delivery points. The contracts
378 with flexibility are dispatched against hourly market prices so that they are
379 optimized from the point of view of the holder of the call/put.

380 **Q. Please describe the input data for wheeling expenses and transmission
381 capability.**

382 A. Firm wheeling expense is based on the wheeling expense for the twelve-month
383 historic period ending June 2007, adjusted for known contract changes in the
384 forecast period through twelve-months ending June 2009. Firm transmission
385 rights between transmission areas in the GRID topology are based on the

386 Company's Merchant Function contracts with the Company's Transmission
387 Function and contracts with other parties. The limited additional transmission to
388 which the Company may have access is based on the experience of the
389 Company's commercial and trading department. An example would be the day
390 ahead firm transmission that the Company historically purchases on Path "C."

391 **Q. Please describe the system balancing wholesale sales and purchase input**
392 **assumptions.**

393 A. The GRID model uses four liquid market points to balance and optimize the
394 system. The four wholesale markets are at Mid-C, COB, Four Corners, and PV.
395 The Mona market has also been incorporated to reflect the level of transactions
396 the Company enters at this limited market. Subject to the constraints of the system
397 and the economics of potential transactions, the model makes both system
398 balancing sales and purchases at these markets. The input data regarding
399 wholesale markets include market price and market size.

400 **Q. What market prices are used in the net power cost calculation?**

401 A. The market prices for the system balancing wholesale sales and purchases at four
402 liquid markets are from the Company's September 30, 2007 Official Forward
403 Price, shaped into hourly prices. While the Mona market prices were developed
404 consistent with the Company's September 30, 2007 price curves, they are not part
405 of the official curve due to the limited nature of the market and are highly
406 confidential. The market price hourly scalars are developed by the Company's
407 commercial and trading department based on historical hourly data since October
408 2003. Separate scalars are developed for on-peak and off-peak periods and for

409 different market hubs to correspond to the categories of the monthly forward
410 prices. Before the determination of the scalar, the historical hourly data are
411 adjusted to synchronize the weekdays, weekends and holidays, and to remove
412 extreme high and low historical prices. As such, the scalars represent the expected
413 relative hourly price to the average price forecast for a month. The hourly prices
414 for the test period are then calculated as the product of the scalar for the hour and
415 the corresponding monthly price.

416 **Normalization**

417 **Q. Please explain what is meant by normalization and how it applies to the**
418 **production cost model for forecast test years.**

419 A. For forecast test years, normalization of input data for the production costs model
420 is primarily limited to hydro data:

421 • Owned and purchased hydroelectric generation is normalized by running the
422 production cost model for each of the three different sets of hydro generation.

423 The resultant three sets of thermal generation, system balancing sales and
424 purchases, and hydroelectric generation are then averaged.

425 • As previously explained, normalized thermal availability is based on a four-
426 year average.

427 **Q. Please explain why the regulatory commissions and the utilities of the Pacific**
428 **Northwest have adopted the use of production cost studies that employ**
429 **historical water conditions for normalization.**

430 A. In any hydroelectric-oriented utility system, water supply is one of the major
431 variables affecting power supply. The operation of the thermal electric resources,

432 both within and outside the Pacific Northwest, is directly affected by water
433 conditions within the Pacific Northwest. During periods when the stream flows are
434 at their lowest, it is necessary for utilities to operate their thermal electric resources
435 at a higher level or purchase more from the market, thereby experiencing relatively
436 high operating expenses. Conversely, under conditions of high stream flows,
437 excess hydroelectric production may be used to reduce the need for thermal
438 generation at the more expensive thermal electric plants, which in turn results in
439 lower operating expenses for some utilities and an increase in the revenues of other
440 utilities, or any combination thereof. No one water condition can be used to
441 simulate all the variables that are met under normal operating conditions. Utilities
442 and regulatory commissions have therefore adopted production cost analyses that
443 simulate the operation of the entire system using historical water conditions, as
444 being representative of what can reasonably be expected to occur under normal
445 conditions.

446 **VISTA Model**

447 **Q. What is the VISTA model?**

448 A. The Company uses the VISTA Decision Support System (DSS) developed by
449 Hatch Ltd (previously Synexus Global) as its hydro optimization model. The
450 VISTA model is designed to maximize the value of the hydroelectric resources
451 for ratemaking purposes by optimizing the operation of hydroelectric facilities
452 against a projected stream of market prices. The market price used in the VISTA
453 model are the same prices used to produce the net power costs, namely the
454 Company's September 30, 2007 Official Forward Price Forecast.

455 VISTA uses an hourly linear program to define the system configuration
456 and the environmental, political, and biological requirements for that system. The
457 input to the VISTA model is historical stream flow data, plant/storage
458 characteristics, license requirements, and market prices. The output of the VISTA
459 model is the expected generation subject to the constraints described above.

460 **Q. Does the Company's use of the VISTA model in this general rate case differ**
461 **from its use in other Company activities?**

462 A. No. The physical project data, constraint description, and historical stream flows
463 used in the VISTA model in the preparation of hydro generation proposed for use
464 in this filing are exactly the same data used by the Company's Integrated
465 Resource Plan (IRP) process.

466 **Q. Do other utilities use the VISTA DSS model?**

467 A. The VISTA DSS model is used by a growing number of other energy companies
468 all over the world including the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

469 **Q. In previous cases, hydroelectric generation was normalized by using**
470 **historical water data. Is that still true with the VISTA model?**

471 A. Yes. The period of historical data varies by plant. As explained later in my
472 testimony, the Mid-Columbia projects use seventy adjusted water years beginning
473 with water year 1928/29. The Company's large plant data begins in the 1958-
474 1963 range. The Company's small plant data begins in the 1978-1989 range.

475 **Q. Please describe the VISTA model inputs.**

476 A. The VISTA input data come from a variety of sources, which are separated into
477 the following three groups: Company-owned plants without operable storage,

478 Company-owned plants with operable storage, and Mid-Columbia contracts.

479 The Company owns a large number of small hydroelectric plants scattered
480 across its system. These projects have no appreciable storage ponds and are
481 operated as run-of-river projects; *i.e.*, flow in equals flow out. For these plants
482 “normalized generation” is based on a statistical evaluation of historical
483 generation adjusted for operational changes at the particular plant that are the
484 result of new license constraints.

485 The Company’s larger projects (Lewis River, Klamath River, and Umpqua
486 River) have a range of possible generation that can be modified operationally by
487 effective use of storage reservoirs. For these projects, the Company feeds the
488 historical stream flow data through its optimization model, VISTA, to create a set
489 of generation possibilities that reflect the current capability of the physical plant,
490 the operating requirements of the current license agreements, as well as the
491 current energy market price projections.

492 For the Lewis, Klamath and Umpqua Rivers, the historical stream flows
493 used as inputs to the VISTA model are the flows that have been calculated and
494 recorded by the Company at each of the projects. Generally, flows are developed
495 using a simple continuity of water equation where $\text{Inflow} = \text{Outflow} + \text{Change in}$
496 Storage .

497 For the Umpqua River in particular, the stream flow data was constructed
498 by piecing together a variety of historical data sources. The U.S. Geological
499 Survey gauge data at Copeland at the outflow of the entire project provides the
500 only long term recorded flows for the Umpqua basin. Moving upstream data was

501 developed by comparison to similar watersheds combined with the continuity of
502 water equation, described above, to determine where in the basin flows originated.
503 In the last three to five years the Company has installed a number of gauging
504 stations, which will help improve the data quality.

505 The Company's Mid-Columbia energy is determined by using VISTA to
506 optimize the operations of the six hydro electric facilities below the Chief Joseph
507 dam. Estimates of Mid-Columbia generation are complicated by the fact that this
508 section of the river is subject to river flows regulated by the many large projects
509 that are located upstream. The Company's Mid-Columbia generation is based on
510 the regulated stream resulting from 70 years of "modified" stream flow conditions
511 as modeled by the Pacific Northwest Power Pool.

512 The modified stream flows are the flows developed by the Bonneville
513 Power Administration by determining the natural stream flow for the period of
514 record and then modifying the historical data to reflect the year-2000 level of
515 irrigation and development in the Columbia basin. [*2000 Level Modified Stream*
516 *flow, 1928-1999*; Bonneville Power Administration. May 2004.] These modified
517 flows are used by Pacific Northwest Power Pool to model the operation
518 (regulation) of the entire Columbia Basin as it exists today. There are many
519 variations of the Columbia River operations model results. We are using the
520 "PNCA Headwater Payments Regulation 2004-05" file, also known as "The 2005
521 70 year Reg" file, completed in July 2005 for hydro conditions that actually
522 occurred for the period 1928 through 1997. Thus, the inflows to the Mid-
523 Columbia projects are the result of extensive modeling that reflects the current

524 operations and constraints of the Columbia River. These streamflow data are the
525 most current information available to the Company and serve as an input to the
526 VISTA model.

527 The modeled discharge of the Grand Coulee Reservoir becomes the source
528 of inflow data to the Company's model of the Mid-Columbia River generation. As
529 in the case of the Company's owned large plants, the energy production resulting
530 from the set of streamflows is analyzed statistically to produce a set of probability
531 curves or exceedence levels for each group/week. The results are defined as
532 exceedence level statistics for each week.

533 **Q. Is the input of hydro generation located outside of the Northwest modeled in**
534 **the same manner as the Pacific Northwest hydro generation?**

535 A. Yes. Using the VISTA model, the input of hydro generation located in Utah and
536 Southeast Idaho is calculated in the same manner as the Pacific Northwest hydro
537 generation.

538 **Q. Please describe the VISTA model's output.**

539 A. The VISTA model calculates the probability of achieving a level of generation.
540 The model output is expressed in terms of "exceedence" levels. Each exceedence
541 level represents the probability of generation exceeding a given level of
542 generation. The number of output exceedence levels is a user defined input
543 parameter. While levels could be set anywhere PacifiCorp finds that 25-50-75
544 exceedence levels are consistently within the historical variability of hydro
545 generation and are used by the Company's operations planning group in its
546 studies. This filing also incorporates these exceedence levels for normalization.

547 **GRID Model Outputs**

548 **Q. What variables are calculated from the production cost study?**

549 A. These variables are:

- 550 • Dispatch of firm wholesale sales and purchase contracts;
- 551 • Dispatch of hydroelectric generation;
- 552 • Dispatch of wind generation
- 553 • Reserve requirement, both spinning and ready;
- 554 • Allocation of reserve requirement to generating units;
- 555 • The amount of thermal generation required; and
- 556 • System balancing wholesale sales and purchases.

557 **Q. What reports does the study produce using the GRID model?**

558 A. The major output from the GRID model is the net power cost report. Additional
559 data with more detailed analyses are also available in hourly, daily, monthly and
560 annual formats by heavy load hours and light load hours.

561 **Q. Do you believe that the GRID model appropriately reflects the Company's**
562 **operating relationship in the environment that it operates in?**

563 A. Yes. The GRID model appropriately simulates the operation of the Company's
564 system over a variety of streamflow conditions consistent with the Company's
565 operation of the system including operating constraints and requirements.

566 **Q. Please describe Exhibit RMP ___(MTW-2).**

567 A. This Exhibit is a schedule of the Company's major sources of energy supply by
568 major source of supply, expressed in average megawatts owned and contracted for
569 by the Company to meet system load requirements, for the forecast period. The

570 total shown on Line 11 represents the total future usage of resources during the
571 forecast period to serve system load. Line 12 consists of wholesales sales made to
572 neighboring utilities within the Pacific Northwest, the Pacific Southwest, and the
573 Desert Southwest as calculated from the production cost model study. Line 13
574 represents the Company's system load net of special sales.

575 **Q. Please describe Exhibit RMP__(MTW-3).**

576 A. This Exhibit lists the major sources of future peak generation capability for the
577 Company's winter and summer peak loads and the Company's energy load for the
578 forecast period.

579 **Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

580 A. Yes.