# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

In the Matter of the Application of Rocky	
Mountain Power For Authority to Increase	DOCKET NO. 10-035-124
its Retail Electric Utility Service Rates in	) DOCKET NO. 10-055-124
Utah and for Approval of its Proposed	DPU EXHIBIT 12.0 D-RR
Electric Service Schedules and Electric	) DI O EXHIBIT 12.0 D-ICC
Service Regulations.	)

PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY

GEORGE W. EVANS

ON BEHALF OF THE

UTAH DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

May 26, 2011

# **PUBLIC**

PRE-F	iled Direct Testimony
GEOR	ge W. Evans
Divisi	ION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
	INTRODUCTION
Ο.	Please state your name, business address, employer, and current position or
ζ.	title for the record.
A.	My name is George W. Evans, and my business address is 358 Cross Creek Trail,
	Robbinsville, North Carolina 28771. I am a Vice President with Slater
	Consulting.
Q.	For whom are you providing testimony in this case?
Α.	I am providing testimony on behalf of the Utah Division of Public Utilities (DPU
	or Division).
Q.	Please describe your education and work experience.
A.	I received a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics from the Georgia
	Institute of Technology in 1974. In 1976, I received a Master of Science in
	Applied Mathematics, also from the Georgia Institute of Technology. My area of
	concentration was probability and statistics. In 1980 I joined Energy
	Management Associates, Inc. (EMA), the company responsible for the
	development of the premier electric utility modeling tools, PROMOD®,
	PROSCREEN®, PROVIEW® and MAINPLAN®. While at EMA, I worked with
	some fifty (50) major electric utilities in the United States and Canada in the
	Q. A.  Q. A.

application of these modeling tools for generation expansion planning, the development of net power costs, fuel budgeting, the analysis of power purchases and the development of optimal maintenance schedules for generating units. In 1989 I left EMA to join GDS Associates, Inc., a consulting firm located in Marietta, Georgia. At GDS I was a principal and the Manager of System Modeling. In this position I was primarily responsible for performing analyses and presenting expert testimony concerning integrated resource planning, the forecasting of system production costs, developing estimates of the likelihood of service interruptions, developing estimates of replacement power costs and related activities. In August of 1997 I left GDS to join Slater Consulting as a Vice President. A copy of my résumé is included in DPU Exhibit 12.1. Where have you testified before? I have provided expert testimony on 38 previous occasions, before the public utility commissions in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Michigan, Arkansas, South Dakota, Colorado, Illinois, Mississippi, Alabama, Delaware, South Carolina and Oklahoma; and also before the FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission), and in state court and federal court. A complete list of the proceedings that I have

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testified in is in DPU Exhibit 12.1.

43 44	Q.	(Commission) in the past?
45	A.	Yes, I have. I presented direct, supplemental and rebuttal testimony on behalf of
46		the DPU in Docket No. 09-035-23, the previous general rate case for Rocky
47		Mountain Power Company. In addition, I served as the DPU's consultant on net
48		power cost issues in the Company's two 2010 major plant addition cases.
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50		PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY
51	Q.	What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?
52	A.	The purpose of my testimony is to identify and quantify certain recommended
53		adjustments to the Company's Net Power Costs (NPC) as proposed in the current
54		Utah rate case. In this rate case PacifiCorp, which does business in Utah as Rocky
55		Mountain Power (the Company), proposes a rate increase of \$527.1 million over
56		the forecasted test period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. My recommended
57		adjustments total a reduction to NPC of approximately \$144 million, with a
58		reduction of approximately \$62 million allocated to Utah.
59	Q.	What is the amount that the Company has filed as a Total Company NPC for
60		the test year?
61	A.	As identified in the direct testimony of Company witness Mr. Gregory N. Duvall
62		(page 2, lines 34-36), the Company's normalized NPC for the test year are

63		approximately \$1,521 million, with approximately \$649 million of these costs
64		allocated to Utah.
65	Q.	What recommendations are you making in this filing?
66	A.	I am recommending eleven adjustments to the Company's filed NPC, and also
67		including one additional adjustment (the twelfth adjustment in Table 1) that will
68		be supported by other DPU witnesses.

69 Table 1

		<u>System</u>	<u>Utah</u>
Filed Net I	Power Costs	\$1,521.0	\$649.1
Proposed	Adjustments:		
Utah	QF Contracts:		
1	Extend Utah QF Contracts at Current Rates	\$0.3	\$0.1
Wind	Integration Costs:		
2	Correct Gadsby CT Usage	-\$3.8	-\$1.6
3	Remove Double-Count of Wind Contingency Reserves	-\$2.0	-\$0.9
4	Correct Spinning Reserve Increase	-\$13.6	-\$5.8
5	Credit for Wind Integration Costs of Non-Owned Wind Producers	-\$4.1	-\$1.7
Contr	acts and Market Sales and Purchases:		
6	Market Cap Adjustments	-\$5.3	-\$2.2
7	California ISO Fees	-\$4.3	-
8	Morgan Stanley Call Options	-\$2.1	-
9	Arbitrage & Trading Margins	-\$3.0	-\$1.3
Fossi	Generation Issues:		
10	Heat Rate Deration Issue	-\$4.1	-\$1.7
11	Chehalis Reserve Contribution	-\$3.4	-\$1.4
Gas a	nd Electric Swaps		
12	Gas and Electric Swaps	-\$99.0	-\$42.3
Total Adj	ustment	-\$144.4	-\$61.6
Adjusted	Net Power Costs	\$1,376.6	\$587.5

70	<b>O.</b>	Will you	describe	each of	these r	ecommended	adi	iustment	s?
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- A. I will describe the first eleven adjustments to NPC in the following sections of my
- 72 testimony.

#### 73 UTAH QF CONTRACTS

- 74 Q. What is the issue concerning the Utah QF contracts?
- 75 A. The Company's GRID model used for this filing does not include costs for the
- 76 Kennecott, Tesoro, or U.S. Magnesium Corp. (U.S. Magnesium) qualifying
- facilities (QFs) after December 2011. The Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)
- for each of these QFs expire on December 31, 2011. However, it is highly likely
- that these agreements will be renewed. These QFs should be included in the
- 80 Company's NPC estimate for the remaining six months of the test year. Including
- these QFs increases the Company's Utah allocated NPC figure by about
- 82 \$116,813.
- 83 Q. Why do you believe that these contracts are likely to be renewed?
- 84 A. Contracts with Kennecott, Tesoro and U.S. Magnesium have been in place and
- periodically renegotiated or renewed for a number of years. At this time, there is
- no reason to believe contract renewals will not continue to occur in the future.
- 87 Q. If there are modifications to these contracts, do you anticipate that they will
- 88 be significant?
- 89 A. No, I do not.

90 91	Q.	What have you assumed concerning the contract terms after December 2011?
92	A.	I have extended the QFs through June 2012 at the same contract terms that existed
93		in December 2011. That is, I've assumed no contract changes.
94		WIND INTEGRATION COSTS
95 96	Q.	Please describe the wind integration costs that the Company has included in NPC.
97	A.	The Company has included million in wind integration costs. This amount
98		is equivalent to per megawatt-hour of Company-owned wind generation.
99		However, the Company does not include the wind integration charge as a dollar
100		per megawatt-hour charge (as was done in the previous rate case), but instead
101		makes several modeling changes within GRID to accomplish the desired result.
102	Q.	What is the basis for the Company's modeling changes?
103	A.	The Company performed a new wind integration study (Wind Study) as a part of
104		its 2011 Integrated Resource Plan. This Wind Study is the basis for the modeling
105		changes made in GRID to address wind integration costs.
106	Q.	What modeling changes were included within GRID?
107	A.	The Company increased the required level of operating reserves within GRID and
108		forced the Currant Creek combined cycle unit and the Gadsby combustion
109		turbines (Gadsby units 4, 5 and 6) to operate whenever available regardless of

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110 economics. In addition to these modeling changes, the Company also charged 111 \$0.71 per megawatt-hour for system balancing costs for Company-owned wind 112 generation and two wind facilities that are located in the Bonneville Power Authority (BPA) balancing area – Leaning Juniper and Goodnoe Hills. The 113 114 system balancing charges account for million of the total wind integration 115 charges. The modeling changes in GRID account for the remaining million. What issues do you have with the Company's Wind Study? 116 0. 117 The Wind Study has two basic flaws. The study never considers actual operations, A. 118 that is, how the PacifiCorp generating system is actually responding to additional 119 wind generation, and the study makes a basic assumption that is clearly incorrect 120 - the Wind Study assumes that reserves must be increased in all hours in response 121 to wind generation. 122 Please describe the study's failure to consider actual operations. O. 123 The Wind Study is a theoretical analysis that concludes that additional reserves A. 124 must be carried and certain gas-fired generating units must operate in all available 125 hours, without ever considering the actual operations of the Company's 126 generating system. Will recent actual Company operations reflect the Company's response to 127 Q. 128 the intermittent nature of wind generation? Yes. At the beginning of 2010, the Company had in operation megawatts of 129 A. wind capacity. Two additional wind generators began operations in October of 130

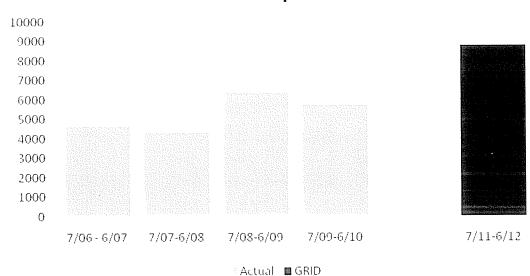
2010, bringing the total operating wind capacity to megawatts. Thus recent actual Company operations should be representative of the operating changes necessary to integrate wind generation into the system. In fact, changes in system operations over recent years should show the move to the Company's assumed operating changes in the GRID runs.

# Q. Do the GRID modeling changes used by the Company for wind integration reflect recent actual operations?

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No, they do not. The Company assumes in GRID, based on the Wind Study, that the Gadsby peakers (Gadsby units 4, 5 and 6) will need to operate round-the-clock in response to the wind generation on the system. Thus in GRID, the Gadsby peakers operate in every hour of the test year, or 8,784 hours. The following graph shows that, in reality, the Gadsby peakers have never operated more than 6,261 hours in a recent July-June twelve month period, and in the most recent period available, only operated a total of 5,767 hours, or 65% of the hours assumed in GRID. This is a clear indication that the methodology utilized in GRID greatly exaggerates the costs of wind integration.

# Gadsby Peakers Hours of Operation

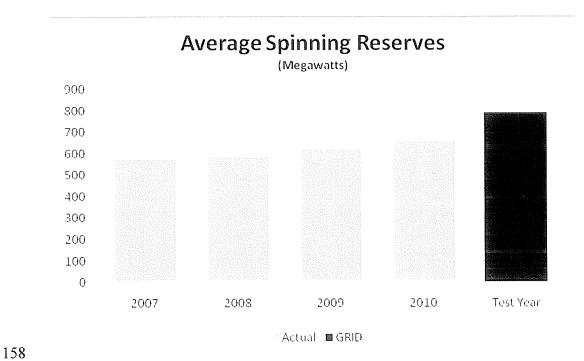


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- Q. Are there other problems with the Company's GRID changes for wind integration costs?
- Yes. The Company also increased the hourly spinning reserve requirement in GRID, based again on the Wind Study.
- 152 Q. Do actual operations support this increase in spinning reserves?
- 153 A. No, they do not. The following chart compares the actual average hourly spinning
  154 reserves carried by the Company to the average hourly spinning reserves carried
  155 by GRID in the development of the Company's NPC. Given that nearly all the
  156 anticipated wind generation in the test year had been installed and operating in
  157 2010, the increase in the GRID spinning reserves is unjustified.



Q. Are there other indications that the Wind Study exaggerates the need for additional spinning reserves?

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A. Yes. In response to DPU Data request 10.34, the Company indicated that additional reserves would need to be carried in all hours for wind integration. In other words, the Company never considered whether existing reserves in some hours would be sufficient to cover the needs of wind integration. The Wind Study assumed that all hours would require additional reserves.

#### Q. Are there hours in which additional reserves would not be needed?

167 A. Yes. In many early morning hours, when customer requirements are low, but
168 many generating units cannot be removed from service, there are generally excess
169 reserves, which could be used for wind integration. The Company has made the

170 blanket assumption that such hours do not exist. This will cause the Wind Study to exaggerate the level of reserves required for wind integration. 171 172 Q. Are there other problems with the Wind Study? Yes. Several parties have raised issues with the Company's study. A major 173 A. problem with the study is its use of estimated wind data rather than actual 174 recorded wind data. Hopefully the Company will correct this issue in future 175 studies. 176 What adjustments to NPC do you recommend concerning wind integration 177 Q. 178 costs? 179 Adjustments 2 through 5 in Table 1 concern wind integration. Adjustment 2 is the A. result of modifying the operation of the Gadsby peakers so that the units are 180 forced to run in high load hours only, rather than in all hours, as in the Company's 181 GRID run. This adjustment better reflects the actual operation of the Gadsby 182 183 peakers. What is Adjustment 3 in Table 1? 184 Q. Adjustment 3 removes the 5% wind contingency reserve that the Company has 185 A. included in GRID in this case and in previous rate cases. The 5% wind 186 contingency means that GRID will carry operating reserves equal to 5% of 187 installed wind capacity to cover the potential complete loss of 5% of all installed 188 wind facilities. However, based on the Wind Study, the Company has in this rate 189

case increased the GRID spinning reserve requirement to cover the complete

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intermittent nature of wind generation. In other words, the increase in the GRID spinning reserve requirement covers all the potential losses of wind generation, and the 5% wind contingency is redundant. Leaving the 5% wind contingency in place, along with the increase in spinning reserves, would result in a double-count of reserves to cover the loss of wind generation.

#### O. What is Adjustment 4 in Table 1?

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A. Adjustment 4 reduces the spinning reserve requirement to reflect the actual spinning reserves carried by the Company's system, as discussed above.

#### Q. What is Adjustment 5 in Table 1?

Adjustment 5 reflects a credit for the two wind producers (Stateline and Long Hollow) that are based in the Company's balancing areas, but do not provide any wind generation to the Company's customers. The Company provides wind integration services for these two wind facilities, using System resources, but to date, has been unable to collect wind integration charges from the wind facilities. In other words, ratepayers are charged (through NPC) the cost to integrate the generation from these two wind facilities, but the ratepayers receive no benefit from the generation. Adjustment 5 would keep ratepayers whole.

#### MARKET CAPS

Q. How has the Company modified the market capacity limits in this proceeding?

211 A. In the previous rate case, the Company only used capacity limits on the major 212 wholesale markets in graveyard hours. In this case, the Company has included 213 capacity limits on all the major markets in all hours.

### Q. Are these limits appropriate?

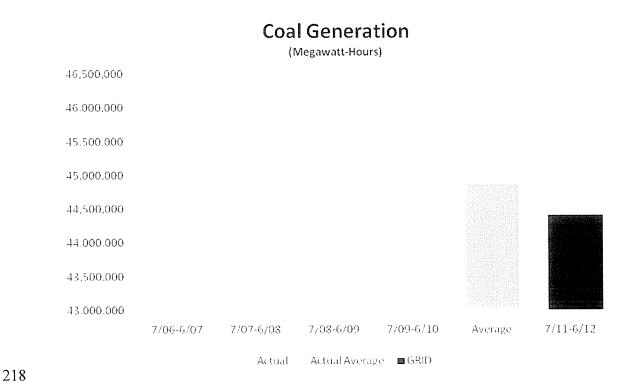
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A. No. These limits have restricted the generation of the Company's coal plants to a level lower than the average generation over the 48 month period used to develop the availability of the coal plants, as shown in the following chart.



219 Q. How have you addressed this problem in your NPC adjustments?

A. I removed the Company's market caps in all of the major markets, except for the
Mona market, allowing GRID to produce additional coal generation for sale into
these markets. Adjustment 6 reflects this change to market caps.

#### CALIFORNIA ISO FEES

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#### Q. What is the issue concerning California ISO fees?

The Company has included in the firm wheeling charges within NPC, fees paid to the California ISO to allow transactions between the Company and the California ISO. The fees include costs for grid management, reserve energy, congestion charges and charges to move energy through the California ISO grid. However, the connection between the Company and the California ISO is not included within GRID, so no transactions with the California ISO are included in NPC. Ratepayers are being asked to pay for access to a market that provides no benefit to ratepayers. Adjustment 7 removes the fees paid to the California ISO.

#### MORGAN STANLEY CALL OPTIONS

#### Q. Please describe the Morgan Stanley Call Options.

235 A. The Morgan Stanley call options are agreements the Company has struck in which 236 the Company pays certain fixed costs in exchange for energy that is callable at a 237 given strike price. The problem with the agreements is that the strike price is a 238 relic of years past, in which market prices peaked at very high levels. There is no 239 utilization of the purchase power in the test year, nor should there be, given the

240		strike prices in these agreements. Ratepayers are being asked to pay for access to
241		power that will likely never be utilized.
242	Q.	What do you recommend?
243	A.	I recommend the Commission not allow the fixed costs of the Morgan Stanley
244		Call Options in NPC. My adjustment 8 removes these costs.
245		ARBITRAGE & TRADING MARGINS
246	Q.	What are arbitrage and trading margins?
247	A.	Given its wide geographical expanse, the Company has opportunities to purchase
248		power at one location and simultaneously, sell the same power at another location
249		generating a margin. These are known as arbitrage margins. Trading involves
250		purchases of electric futures that are (hopefully) sold at a profit at a later time.
251	Q.	Are the Company's arbitrage and trading margins included in NPC?
252	A.	The Company has included only in margins derived from trading and
253		arbitrage. Historically, from July 2006 through June 2010, the Company has
254		enjoyed margins from these activities averaging approximately million per
255		year. Given that ratepayers paid to construct the system that allows the Company
256		to generate these margins, the actual average margins

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See the Company's response to OCS data request 20.1.

should be used to reduce NPC.

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#### Q. Have other commissions ruled on this issue?

259 A. Yes, they have. The commissions in Oregon and Washington have ruled that
260 actual average arbitrage and trading margins should reduce NPC. In fact, the
261 Company has included these actual average margins in the NPC filed in Oregon
262 Docket No. UE-227<sup>2</sup>.

#### Q. What do you recommend?

A. I recommend that the Company's estimate of actual average arbitrage and trading margins be used to reduce NPC. My adjustment 9 accomplishes this result.

#### 266 HEAT RATE DERATION

#### 267 Q. Please describe the heat rate deration issue.

268 A. To account for unplanned outages on generating units, the GRID model reduces
269 the maximum capability of generating units to reflect the unplanned outage rate.
270 For example, if a 100 megawatt generating unit has an unplanned outage rate of
271 10% (is unavailable 10% of the time due to unplanned outages), GRID sees the
272 unit as a 90 megawatt generating unit. This methodology assures that the unit will
273 produce the correct amount of energy in GRID, but has the additional impact of
274 improperly increasing the generating unit's heat rate.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See the Company's response to OCS Data Request 20.1.

#### 275 Q. Why does this method increase the heat rate?

A. Generating units are most efficient (or have lowest heat rate) at maximum

capability. In GRID, the deration of the unit to 90 megawatts causes GRID to

utilize a less efficient heat rate, namely the heat rate at 90 megawatts rather than

the heat rate at 100 megawatts. This is the problem that should be addressed.

### Q. Why is this a problem?

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A. If the unplanned outages are full unit outages (in which the generating unit is completely unavailable), the reality is that the unit would operate 90% of the time at full capability (100 megawatts) and would not operate at all 10% of the time. So the heat rate would be the most efficient heat rate that is achieved at 100 megawatts, rather than the less efficient heat rate at 90 megawatts. So GRID will improperly apply higher (less efficient) heat rates, causing the unit to consume excessive fuel.

#### Q. Do other problems arise from the capacity deration?

Yes. It has been argued that the minimum operating capacity of the generating unit should also be derated by the same percentage. However, this issue presents problems, such as allowing the unit to operate at lower levels than are physically possible. In any case, the dollar impact of the corresponding deration of the minimum capacity is very small.

## Q. Was this issue addressed in the previous rate case?

295 Yes, it was. The Commission directed the Company, DPU, the Office of A. 296 Consumer Services (OCS) and other interested parties to review alternatives to 297 this issue, review actual operations in comparison to modeling predictions, and work to understand the extent of the issue<sup>3</sup>. 298 Did such meetings occur? 299 Q. 300 Yes. The DPU organized a phone conference including the Company and Randy A. 301 Falkenburg representing the OCS. It was agreed that the Company and OCS 302 would submit proposals for review by all the parties. However, only OCS 303 provided a proposal – the Company did not. What do you recommend? 304 Q. I recommend the heat rate curves in GRID be modified so that the generating unit 305 Α. 306 heat rates at the maximum capability derated by the forced outage rate are the heat 307 rates at maximum capability. Adjustment 10 accomplishes this result. 308 CHEHALIS RESERVE CONTRIBUTION 309 What is the concern with the Chehalis reserve contribution? Q. 310 A. The Chehalis combined cycle generating unit no longer provides reserves in the 311 GRID model. That is, Chehalis no longer contributes to the reserve requirements 312 in GRID. This was not true in the previous rate case.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See page 57 of the Commission's order in Docket No. 09-035-23.

313	Ų.	why did the Chenans reserve contribution change:
314	A.	Chehalis is located in the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) balancing area
315		and on April 30, 2010, BPA rejected the Company's request for dynamic transfer
316		capability due to Chehalis lacking Automatic Generation Control (AGC).
317		According to the Company, this means that Chehalis can no longer provide
318		reserves.
319	Q.	Is there a cost to this change?
320	A.	Yes, there is. I made a GRID run in which Chehalis was allowed to provide
321		reserves. This one change reduced NPC by \$3.4 million.
322	Q.	Has the Company made clear the reasons for this change?
323	A.	The Company has provided the correspondence with BPA, but it is not clear
324		exactly why the situation changed in April 2010, nor is it clear that the Company
325		has pursued all possible remedies.
326	Q.	Is it common for combined cycle plants such as Chehalis to lack AGC?
327	A.	No, it is not. Combined cycle plants are generally fitted with AGC so that the
328		plants can be precisely controlled through the Company's dispatch center. The
329		lack of AGC at Chehalis not only restricts the plant's ability to provide reserves,
330		but limits the plant's ability to follow load, provide regulation and to operate

331		economically within the system dispatch. According to Mr. Duvall, the Company
332		must now "block schedule Chehalis prior to the hour".4.
333	Q.	What is block scheduling?
334	A.	This means that the Company must select one level (such as 200 megawatts) and
335		load Chehalis to that one level throughout each hour. Changes in generation
336		within an hour are not allowed.
337	Q.	Does this bring into question the economics of the plant?
338	A.	This situation certainly reduces the value of Chehalis to the Company and
339		ratepayers, if it cannot be corrected.
340	Q.	Did the Company previously state that Chehalis would provide reserves?
341	A.	Yes. In Docket No. 08-035-35, in which the Company requested approval to
342		acquire Chehalis, Mr. Stefan Bird testified as follows concerning the
343		characteristics of Chehalis:
344		Ownership of the Plant allows the Company full discretion in the dispatch
345		of the Plant. Energy from the Plant will be dispatched on a forward, day-
346		ahead basis, with real-time optimization of the Plant's usage. Dispatch
347		flexibility will give the Company an additional System resource with the
348		ability to provide operating reserves, load-following reserves and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See line 4, page 20 of Mr. Duvall's rebuttal testimony in WUTC Docket No. UE-100749.

349		automatic generation control. This System flexibility will provide
350		increasing benefit to the Company as load grows, the Company's existing
351		flexible contracts expire, and the existing and planned wind resources
352		added to the System to support existing and future renewable portfolios
353		standards increase the Company's requirement for each of the operational
354		characteristics provided by the Plant. <sup>5</sup>
355	Q.	As things stand today, does the Company have full discretion in the dispatch
356		of Chehalis, as claimed by Mr. Bird?
357	A.	No.
358	Q.	Can the Company perform real-time optimization of Chehalis?
359	A.	No.
360	Q.	Can Chehalis provide operating reserves?
361	A.	No.
362	Q.	Can Chehalis provide load-following reserves?
363	A.	No.
364	Q.	Does Chehalis provide automatic generation control?
365	A.	No.

 $<sup>^{5}</sup>$  See page 6, lines 129-130 and page 7, lines 131-138 of the direct testimony of Stefan A. Bird in Docket No. 08-035-35.

366	Q.	Will Chehalis assist the Company in providing additional flexibility as wind
367		facilities are added to the System?
368	A.	No.
369 370	Q.	Does your GRID analysis reflect all of the currently existing limitations on the operation of Chehalis?
371	A.	No, it does not. My GRID analysis only considers the loss of the ability of
372		Chehalis to provide operating reserves. The block scheduling limitation on
373		Chehalis and other limitations are not reflected in this GRID analysis. To my
374		knowledge, GRID does not provide an option for block scheduling generating
375		resources.
376	Q.	What do you recommend?
377	A.	The Company's NPC should be reduced by \$3.4 million to reflect the value of
378		reserves from Chehalis. In addition, the Commission should require the Company
379		to estimate the impact of the other restrictions on Chehalis, and further reduce
380		NPC by that amount.
381	Q.	Does this complete your testimony?
382	A.	Yes it does.