

1 **Q. Are you the same Erich D. Wilson who submitted direct testimony in this**
2 **proceeding on behalf of PacifiCorp dba Rocky Mountain Power (the**
3 **“Company”)?**

4 A. Yes.

5 **Purpose of Rebuttal Testimony**

6 **Q. What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony in this proceeding?**

7 A. The purpose of my rebuttal testimony is to address certain labor-related adjustments
8 proposed by Division of Public Utilities (“DPU”) witness Ms. Clair Oman, Utah
9 Association of Energy Users (“UAE”) witness Mr. Kevin C. Higgins and Office of
10 Consumer Services (“OCS”) witness Ms. Donna Ramas. Specifically,
11 I demonstrate:

- 12 • The Annual Incentive Plan (“AIP”) expense is reasonable and should be
13 recovered in rates. It is consistent with the competitive market in which the
14 Company competes for labor, and has been approved by the Commission in
15 prior proceedings.
 - 16 • The reduction in workforce adjustments are not appropriate.
 - 17 • The pension expense as filed is both known and measurable and, as such,
18 the Commission should reject the adjustments recommended by the OCS
19 because they are unsupported.
 - 20 • Post retirement expense as filed is both known and measurable. The OCS's
21 recommendation is speculative and should therefore be rejected by the
22 Commission.
- 23 Finally, the Company accepts the adjustments recommended by (1) OCS to

24 the 401K administration expense, (2) UAE on the test period pension expense and
25 the test period post retirement expense, and (3) OCS on the employee severance
26 expense, although the Company reserves the option to include severance in future
27 filings where appropriate.

28 **Compensation Philosophy and Background**

29 **Q. Please briefly review the Company's compensation philosophy.**

30 A. The Company's primary objective in establishing employee compensation levels is
31 to provide pay at the market average. Compensation at the market average
32 ("competitive level") is critical to attracting and retaining qualified employees to
33 support the business and our customers.

34 To encourage superior performance, the Company places a certain
35 percentage of each employee's market compensation "at risk." The Company's AIP
36 is structured so that each employee has the opportunity to receive total
37 compensation at the market average, so long as the employee performs at an
38 acceptable level. In exceptional performance years, an employee's incentive pay
39 may be above the targeted level; in low performance years, it may be below the
40 targeted level. On average, however, the incentive is generally at or near the
41 targeted (or "guideline") level.

42 If an employee fails to earn the full guideline incentive, that individual will
43 be paid less than the competitive total cash compensation in the marketplace for
44 that year. While certain employees may be paid more than or less than market levels
45 in a given year as a result of the incentive portion of compensation, on an overall
46 basis, employee base compensation and incentives are structured to result in a level

47 of compensation commensurate with the market.

48 **Q. Has the Company's general compensation philosophy and approach changed**
49 **in any material way since the time of the Commission's last decision?**

50 A. No. Since Berkshire Hathaway Energy acquired PacifiCorp in 2006, PacifiCorp's
51 compensation philosophy and approach have remained constant.

52 **Q. Has the Company proposed including in rates costs related to its Long-Term**
53 **Incentive Plan ("LTIP")?**

54 A. No. The Company's LTIP is a separate plan for executives that awards
55 compensation based on overall corporate performance, including revenues and net
56 income. The Company does not ask customers to absorb the costs associated with
57 that plan, and these costs are not included in this case.

58 **Annual Incentive Plan ("AIP")**

59 **Q. Please describe DPU's proposed adjustment to the incentive plan levels set in**
60 **this filing.**

61 A. The DPU proposes using a four-year average of the annual incentive awards as the
62 proxy for the expense in this rate case filing. The DPU then argues that the scoring
63 of the AIP and safety award program that is in place is duplicative. The DPU further
64 states that the Company has been unresponsive to data requests and justifies its
65 adjustment by arguing that the individual performance scoring for all participants
66 is needed to determine a more precise position.

67 **Q. Do you agree with the DPU's proposed adjustment?**

68 A. No. The AIP is already normalized with prior years in the Company's filing on Page
69 4.2.6 of Exhibit RMP___(SRM-3). Further normalizing by reducing the payout

70 percentage is not appropriate and unjustified. The Company paid out at 100 percent
71 in 2013 and this amount figures into the normalization calculation made by the
72 Company. The DPU also erroneously attempts to combine the safety award
73 program with the AIP portion of compensation.

74 The AIP is part of an overall compensation package that is set at competitive
75 market levels. This enables the hiring and retention of the talent necessary to
76 provide high-quality, reliable service to our customers. PacifiCorp sets the annual
77 base wage adjustments and corresponding adjustment to AIP based upon annual
78 review of the compensation levels provided by those in the labor markets in which
79 it competes. These compensation levels are driven by the economy and the
80 associated impacts of all companies in our competitive market. The AIP is a critical
81 piece of compensation that allows PacifiCorp employees the opportunity for their
82 overall compensation to reach competitive market levels. Overall, this
83 compensation package is reasonable and benefits ratepayers by encouraging
84 superior employee performance. The Commission has approved this approach in
85 the past and should do so again¹. The Safety award program that was initiated in
86 2012 provides for a distinct focus on improving employee safety performance and
87 is a focus of all employees, in contrast to the AIP which is a component of
88 compensation for the non-union workforce. In addition, where safety is a
89 performance goal measured on an individual basis for the AIP, it is based on how
90 an employee undertakes his/her tasks, how he/she demonstrates preventive

¹ See 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 Schedules and 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, Report and Order on Revenue Requirement, August 11, 2008.

91 measures and participates in awareness programs, for example. This is in contrast
92 to the metric used to determine the safety incentive award which is based on
93 reductions in overall incidents.

94 The Company has completely complied with and been responsive to all data
95 requests and has provided detailed performance results and awards for the safety
96 award program years 2012 and 2013 as well as the goals and award criteria for
97 2014. The Company's 2013 incident rate was the best the Company has ever had,
98 resulting in fewer damages to equipment and higher employee productivity, among
99 other ancillary benefits.

100 **Employee Reductions**

101 **Q. Please explain Ms. Ramas' adjustment to reflect the impact of employee**
102 **reductions on labor costs.**

103 A. Ms. Ramas compares the full-time equivalent employee level at January, 2014 to
104 the average full-time equivalent level during the base period of the filing. The
105 percentage decrease in number of employees from the base period average to the
106 January level is multiplied by the labor costs that are impacted by the level of
107 employees. She is proposing the result of this calculation be removed from the
108 filing.

109 **Q. Do you agree with this adjustment?**

110 A. No. While it is true that the number of employees temporarily decreased during the
111 months referenced by Ms. Ramas, it is the Company's intent to replace these
112 vacancies and is actively doing so through its staffing organization. Data Response
113 OCS 4.4 indeed stated that "There are no plans to increase or decrease the current

114 full-time equivalent (“FTE”) level in the organization." However, the response to
115 OCS 4.4 was in reference to the full-time equivalent level which is the budgeted
116 level, not the actual number at any given point in time, like January, 2014. The
117 budgeted number of employees at July 2014, the first month in the test period, is
118 5,500. This is 166 employees higher than the level at January, 2014, the level used
119 in Ms. Ramas' adjustment.

120 **Q. Was the Company trying to re-staff in January, 2014, the low period in**
121 **question?**

122 A. Yes. As of the end of January 2014, the Company was actively recruiting for these
123 vacancies.

124 **Q. If the Company is unable to fill positions, will the expense level go down**
125 **correspondingly?**

126 A. No. The amount of work and ultimately the dollars required to complete the work
127 is not dependent on the number of FTE employees. When sufficient internal
128 resources are not available to complete all work plan requirements, external
129 resources are utilized to complete required work activities. If the revenue
130 requirement is reduced for assumed reductions in employee levels, the Company
131 would require a corresponding adjustment to increase non-labor expense. The
132 amount of work required to be completed has not decreased.

133 **Wage and Benefit Expense**

134 **Q. Please explain Mr. Higgins' adjustment to wages and benefits expense.**

135 A. Mr. Higgins divides the wage and benefit expense in the filing by the number of
136 employees at June 2013 to get an average wage and benefit expense per employee.

137 He then multiplies this average wage and benefit per employee by the reduction in
138 employees due to the closure of Carbon plant to get the reduction in wages and
139 benefits due to the Carbon closure. He also multiplies this average wage and benefit
140 per employee by the reduction in employees from June 2013 to January 2014,
141 excluding those due to the Little Mountain closure that are accounted for elsewhere
142 in the filing, and excluding the reductions due to the closure of the Carbon plant.

143 **Q. Do you agree with Mr. Higgins' adjustment?**

144 A. The portion that relates to the Carbon plant closure has some merit. The Company
145 is willing to accept Mr. Higgins' Carbon Labor adjustment, assuming it gets full
146 recovery of the Carbon costs prior to retirement through a mechanism, as discussed
147 in Mr. Steven R. McDougal's testimony.

148 **Q. Do you agree with the portion of Mr. Higgins' adjustment that relates to**
149 **employee reductions excluding Little Mountain and Carbon Plant?**

150 A. No. I disagree with this portion for the same reasons I disagree with Ms. Ramas'
151 Employee Reductions adjustment.

152 **Severance**

153 **Q. Please describe the Office of Consumer Services proposed adjustment to**
154 **severance expense and the corresponding impact.**

155 A. OCS contends that \$337,750 in severance expense was carried forward into the test
156 year. This expense appears to be based on actions taken by the Company in the
157 latter part of 2012. Apparently, in filing requirement R746-700-22.D.19, the
158 Company reflected \$65,488 in expense through June 2012, which appears to be
159 inconsistent with the \$337,750. OCS recommends that the Commission reduce the

160 requested amount by that which is capitalized and allocated to non-utility, thereby
161 setting the supported expense at \$101,779 on a Utah basis.

162 **Q. Do you agree with the Office of Consumer Services proposed adjustment?**

163 A. Yes, the Company agrees to remove severance expense from the filing. However,
164 it reserves the option to include severance expense in future filings. In addition,
165 removing severance pay reduces payroll taxes. The full reduction is reflected in Mr.
166 McDougal's Exhibit RMP____(SRM-2R)

167 **401(k) Administration**

168 **Q. Please describe the Office of Consumer Services proposed adjustment to**
169 **401(k) administration expense levels and the corresponding impact on**
170 **expense.**

171 A. OCS contends that the amount of 401(k) expense recorded during the base year is
172 not reflective of a typical annual expense level for the 401(k) and therefore
173 recommends that a three-year average ending June 2013 be used in determining the
174 supported expense. This would set the expense level at \$74,533 on a Utah basis.

175 **Q. Do you agree with the Office of Consumer Services proposed adjustment?**

176 A. Yes. The adjustment is reflected in Mr. McDougal's Exhibit RMP____(SRM-2R).

177 **Pension Expense**

178 **Q. Please describe OCS's proposed adjustment to pension expense levels and the**
179 **corresponding impact.**

180 A. OCS recommends that the pension cost be reduced by the amount of the reduction
181 in the projected 2014 net periodic benefit costs. The 2014 expense, post the filing,
182 as provided by Towers Watson demonstrates a decline of approximately \$1.6

183 million (net of capitalization and joint ventures) from the Company's filing. The
184 OCS recommends a \$668,102 reduction in test year expense on a Utah basis.

185 **Q. Do you agree with OCS's proposed adjustment?**

186 A. No. As more fully discussed in my direct testimony, the Company's test year
187 expense is an average of 2014 and 2015 expense to reflect the test period. As neither
188 actual 2014 or 2015 expense levels were known at the time of the Company's filing,
189 the Company used a projection developed by its actuaries for the 2014 and 2015
190 expenses. We now know the actual 2014 expense and it is approximately \$1.6
191 million less than projected. The actual 2014 expense is lower than the projection
192 due to the favorable effects of the actual 2013 asset return, claims experience and
193 other items.

194 Ms. Ramas is speculating that the factors which led to the reduction in 2014
195 expense will continue during 2014 and through 2015, and in turn reduces 2015
196 expense. However, the actual 2014 expense was lower than the projection due to
197 strong 2013 investment returns (21 percent during 2013) which are highly unlikely
198 to reoccur in 2014 (i.e., year to date performance through April 2014 was 0.4
199 percent).

200 **Q. Please describe UAE's proposed adjustment to pension expense levels and the**
201 **corresponding impact.**

202 A. UAE proposes that the test year level of FAS 87 pension expense be adjusted to
203 reflect RMP's actual 2014 plan expense. As I noted above, RMP's actual 2014
204 expense is lower due to the favorable effect of the actual 2013 asset returns and
205 claims experience that were finalized subsequent to the Company's filing in this

206 case.

207 **Q. Do you agree with UAE's proposed adjustment?**

208 A. Yes. The position taken by UAE accurately captures the decrease in 2014 pension
209 expense. The Company has reduced its pension expense by \$213,717 on a Utah
210 basis to reflect the reduced pension expense in its rebuttal case, as shown in Mr.
211 McDougal's Exhibit RMP____(SRM-2R).

212 **Post Retirement Expense**

213 **Q. Please describe UAE's proposed adjustment to post retirement expense and**
214 **the corresponding impact.**

215 A. UAE recommends adjusting the Company's proposed FAS 106 post retirement
216 expense. UAE adjusts the FAS 106 post retirement expense to (\$1.3m) compared
217 to the (\$0.5m) in the filing.

218 **Q. Do you agree with UAE's proposed adjustment?**

219 A. Yes. UAE witness Mr. Higgins has correctly adjusted test period expense by the
220 amount of the reduction to 2014 projected expense. The Company has reduced its
221 post retirement expense by \$122,869 on a Utah basis to reflect the reduced expense
222 in its rebuttal case, as shown in Mr. McDougal's
223 Exhibit RMP____(SRM-2R).

224 **Q. Do you agree with Mr. Higgins' statement that the Commission should direct**

225 **the Company that in future rate cases all requests to its actuaries to update**
226 **pension expense projections should extend through the entirety of the test**
227 **period that forms the basis of the revenue requirement the Company is**
228 **seeking?**

229 A. No. Actuarial updates are occasionally made for accounting purposes. The
230 Company will share any updates that have been made. However, it is burdensome
231 and costly to require the Company to engage the actuary to make actuarial updates
232 of all periods specifically for intervenors in rate proceedings.

233 **Q. Please describe OCS's proposed adjustment to post retirement expense and**
234 **the corresponding impact.**

235 A. OCS recommends that the post retirement expense be adjusted to reflect the 2014
236 actuarial valuation report which shows \$1,907,744 lower than the Company's
237 filing. Using the 2014 information, OCS proposes pension net periodic benefit
238 income be increased by \$338,268, net of joint ventures, reducing the expense from
239 the Company's filing by \$101,935 on a Utah basis.

240 **Q. Do you agree with OCS's proposed adjustment?**

241 A. No. OCS witness Ms. Ramas again appears to want the end to justify the means.
242 She erroneously assumes and claims the favorable 2013 asset returns will be the
243 same during 2014. This speculation leads to an assumption that 2015 expense will
244 decrease by the same amount as 2014 did. For the same reasons, the Commission
245 should reject her adjustment to post retirement expense.

246 **Bonuses and Awards**

247 **Q. Please describe Federal Executive Agencies ("FEA") witness Mr. Greg R.**

248 **Meyers' adjustment regarding Bonuses and Awards.**

249 A. Mr. Meyers proposes complete elimination of Bonuses and Awards from the filing.
250 He cites as reasons that there is no set criteria or plan documentation and it appears
251 to be in addition to AIP compensation. He states these costs are completely at
252 management's discretion and do not reflect any level of certainty that they will exist
253 on a recurring basis.

254 **Q. Do you agree with the adjustment proposed by Mr. Meyers disallowing**
255 **Bonuses and Awards?**

256 A. No. These programs are certainly recurring and have previously been supported by
257 this Commission. There are no current plans to eliminate these programs as they
258 enable the Company to attract and retain talent by recognizing and rewarding for
259 performance that supports the business and our customers. More than half of these
260 costs are for safety awards for employees. Safety of employees and the public is
261 extremely important. The next major category of these costs is for employee
262 recognition awards for situations during the year when they have exhibited
263 exemplary performance above and beyond their core job responsibilities. Hire-in
264 compensation is included in situations where a desired skill set is sought and
265 required for the business to meet its operational objectives.

266 **Recommendation and Conclusion**

267 **Q. What is your recommendation to the Commission?**

268 A. I recommend that the Commission reject the DPU's and FEA's proposed
269 adjustments to AIP, as well as FEA's adjustment pertaining to Bonuses and Awards.
270 PacifiCorp's compensation approach has been supported by the jurisdictions in

271 which it operates, including Utah. The Commission should continue to support this
272 approach. The Commission should reject the OCS's adjustments pertaining to
273 Workforce Reductions, Pension Expense, and Post-retirement Expense as well as
274 UAE's adjustment pertaining to Workforce Reductions. The Company accepts the
275 adjustments recommended by OCS pertaining to Severance Expense and 401k
276 Administration Expense, as well as UAE's position on Pension Expense and Post-
277 retirement Expense.

278 **Q. Does this conclude your rebuttal testimony?**

279 A. Yes.