BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

In the Matter of the Review of Electric Service Schedule Docket No. 14-035-140

No. 38, Qualifying Facilities Procedures, and Other Related

Procedural Issues

HEARING PROCEEDINGS

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TAKEN AT:

Public Service Commission

Hearing Room 403 160 East 300 South Salt Lake City, Utah

DATE:

Tuesday, May 26, 2015

TIME:

9:01 a.m.

REPORTED BY: Scott M. Knight, RPR

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PROCEEDINGS

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THE HEARING OFFICER: On the record.

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I'm

Commissioner Clark. Seated to my left is Commissioner

LeVar. And this is the time and place which we've noticed

for a hearing in Docket No. 14-035-140, which addresses

Electric Service Schedule No. 38, qualifying facilities

procedures, and other related issues, including the capacity

contribution study for wind and solar resources that

originated from requirements expressed in Docket No.

12-035-100 and our orders associated with that docket.

As I understand it, today we're going to address a settlement agreement that's been filed by the parties in this docket, or at least a number of the parties, and that the settlement agreement addresses the issues regarding Schedule 38 and the avoided cost input changes report of the Company, but not the capacity contribution study for wind and solar resources. And the issues related to the latter will be addressed in accordance with our scheduling order that was issued in January of this year, which calls for hearings on--I believe it's June 18th--June 18th and 19th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. on June 18th.

Does everyone agree with our purpose for this morning as I've described it?

MS. HOGLE: Yes.



MR. OLSEN: Yes. 1 2 MR. JETTER: Yes. 3 THE HEARING OFFICER: Any questions about that? Then let's begin with appearances of counsel. And 4 if you have a witness to support the settlement agreement, 5 6 please introduce your witness as well. 7 And we'll begin with the Company. Ms. Hogle. MS. HOGLE: Good morning, Commissioners. Good 8 9 morning, parties. Yvonne Hogle here on behalf of Rocky Mountain Power. With me is Mr. Paul Clements, senior 10 marketer for Rocky Mountain Power, and he is here to support 11 12 the settlement stipulation. With me also is Mr. Bob Lively, 13 who is the state manager for Utah State Regulatory Affairs. 14 Thank you. 15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. 16 MR. JETTER: And I am Justin Jetter, representing 17 the Utah Division of Public Utilities. And with me is 18 Division witness Charles Peterson, who will speak in favor 19 of the settlement stipulation. 20 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. MR. OLSEN: Rex Olsen on behalf of the Office of 21 Consumer Services. And with me is Bila Vastag, who will be 22 23 speaking as witness for the Office in favor of the 24 stipulation.

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THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

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1	MS. HAYES: Good morning. Sophie Hayes on behalf
2	of Utah Clean Energy. Utah Clean Energy has no witness
3	today but supports the stipulation.
4	THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Ms. Hayes.
5	MR. DODGE: Gary Dodge on behalf of SunEdison,
6	LLC. Dan Patry could be available by phone if needed, but
7	we had anticipated he would not be, so we haven't arranged
8	for him to testify unless the Commission has questions for
9	him.
10	THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.
11	Our thought today wasor is to swear all of the
12	witnesses and allow them to address serially theirtheir
13	positions on the settlement and then take questions as aas
14	a panel. Is there any objection to that process?
15	MR. OLSEN: No objection.
16	THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. And is there any
17	anticipation of the need to refer to confidential material?
18	Is there any confidential material that parties are
19	concerned about at this time?
20	MS. HOGLE: Not that the Company is aware of.
21	MR. OLSEN: The Office has none, your Honor.
22	MR. JETTER: None from the Division, that I'm
23	aware of.
24	THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. And let me just
25	mention thator ask: Do we have anyone on the phone?

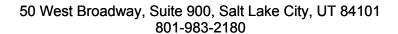


1	MS. BINTZ: No callers.
2	THE HEARING OFFICER: No callers. Then the three
3	witnesses, if you'd please remain seated but raise your
4	right hands. Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the
5	whole truth, and nothing but the truth?
6	(Witnesses answer in the affirmative.)
7	THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. So the witnesses
8	have been sworn.
9	And Ms. Hogle
10	MS. HOGLE: Thank you.
11	PAUL HARRISON CLEMENTS,
12	being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as
13	follows:
14	DIRECT EXAMINATION
15	BY MS. HOGLE:
16	Q Good morning. Can you please state your name,
17	address, and position for the record?
18	A Yes. My name is Paul Harrison Clements. I'm
19	employed by Rocky Mountain Power as a senior power marketer.
20	My business address is 201 South Main Street, Suite 2300,
21	Salt Lake City, Utah 84111.
22	Q And what is the purpose of your testimony today?
23	A Today we'll briefly review the history of events
24	and the key elements of the stipulation entered into by the
25	signing parties, which include, by my record, Rocky Mountain





1	Power; the Utah State Division of Public Utilities; Utah
2	Office of Consumer Services; Utah Clean Energy; SunEdison,
3	LLC; and Scatech Solar North America. I've also reconfirmed
4	Rocky Mountain Power supported the stipulation and the
5	Company's belief that the stipulation is in the public
6	interest.
7	Q And did you participate in the settlement
8	stipulation discussions?
9	A Yes, I did.
10	Q Can you please recount the key relevant events
11	that led to the stipulation?
12	A Certainly. I'll try to be brief in my
13	recollection of the events. There were quite a few events,
14	as we have multiple dockets that were involved leading up to
15	this settlement, so I'll try to touch on the key points.
16	First, on August 22nd, 2014, the Company filed its
17	quarterly compliance filing for avoided cost input changes.
18	And that was for Q2 2014. And that was Docket No.
19	14-035-40.
20	On September 22nd of 2014, the DPU and the Office
21	of Consumer Services, Utah Clean Energy, and SunEdison all
22	filed comments and requested that the Commission hold a
23	scheduling conference to discuss a process and schedule for
24	Docket No. 14-035-40. The Commission issued a notice of



status and scheduling conference for Thursday, November 6,



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2014. The comments that were filed by those parties were wide-ranging and addressed multiple issues related to Schedule 38, QF contracting procedures, and other QF-related issues.

Furthermore, on October 9th, 2014, Rocky Mountain Power filed its compliance filing, along with prefiled testimony related to the Company's capacity contribution study for wind and solar resources. That filing was made in compliance with the Commission's Phase II order in Docket No. 12-035-100. In that docket, the Commission directed the Company to complete a capacity contribution study, which it did.

Generally, the Company requested in that filing that the Commission adopt the capacity contribution values derived from its study and requested that the Company replace those value--the interim values with the Company's proposed values.

On October 14, 2015, the DPU filed a memorandum responding to the Company's compliance filing and recommended that the Commission open a new docket that combines the review of a capacity contribution study I mentioned with the issues raised by the parties in 14-035-40. The DPU stated that combining those would allow for comprehensive review of all issues related to Schedule 38. And, in response to that request, the



Commission opened Docket No. 14035-140.

On November 7, 2014, the Commission issued a scheduling order setting the schedule for several technical conferences and discovery guidelines. The parties indicated to the Commission that having several technical conferences at the beginning may narrow the scope of issues that were raised by the various parties.

Various technical conferences were held. Two were held on December 2nd. One related to the capacity contribution study. Another related to the QF pricing queue management and power purchase agreement milestones. A third technical conference was held on avoided cost modeling assumptions on January 6, 2015. And the Commission issued an amended scheduling order--a first amended scheduling order on January 12th, 2015.

A second status and scheduling conference was held January 21st, 2015, and a scheduling order and notice of technical conference on January 23rd, 2015. The parties have held a series of settlement discussions since that time, beginning on February 23rd of 2015 and continuing through April 14th of 2015, and all intervenors in the docket were invited to participate to the extent they had intervened on a date which settlement discussions were held.

The parties have reached agreement on most of the issues raised by the parties, with the exception of the



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capacity contribution study and the capacity contribution percentages that resulted from that study.

The settlement--as the commissioner mentioned, the settlement and resolution of those issues will continue on the schedule that's set forth in that docket. However, this settlement resolves all issues related to QF pricing queue management, QF power purchase agreement milestone, and the QF avoided cost modeling updates.

Can you please describe specifically the terms in Q the settlement stipulation?

Yes. I assume the Commission and other interested parties have read the stipulation, so I will briefly address key elements without reading it verbatim. In doing so, I don't intend to modify the terms of the stipulation in any way, so if anything I say contradicts the stipulation, it's the stipulation, not my words that would be binding.

From a general standpoint, as we--as set forth in paragraph 24 of the stipulation, this stipulation incorporates into Schedule 38 new terms and conditions related to the management of the QF indicative pricing queue and the QF indicative pricing and contract negotiation process, including the incorporation into the tariff of certain contract terms that are to be included in all QF PPAs.

This settlement includes clarified procedures for



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updates to the avoided cost modeling assumptions used to calculate QF pricing. Those procedures are included in paragraphs 18 through 23 of the stipulation but are not part of the Schedule 38 tariff.

All of these changes to Schedule 38 are intended to improve the efficiency and the transparency of the process through which QFs receive indicative pricing and negotiate power purchase agreements with the Company. And the Company believes that these changes are beneficial to the QF and beneficial to the Company as well and overall increase the efficiency of the process.

I'll first address briefly the timelines, as primary rate changes to Schedule 38 involved adding specific timelines for various stages of the process. If the QF does not abide by the timelines, the QF project is removed from the pricing queue. These timelines were included in order to provide an avenue for QFs to conclude PPA negotiations and enter into an agreement with the Company. However, if they are unable to do so and meet specific timelines, they are dropped from the pricing queue, thus making way for other projects who may desire to enter into an agreement.

Certain timelines also apply to the Company, although there are no specific recourses against the Company if it does not meet its timelines, other than the timelines for the QF are extended if they're waiting for the Company



to meet its timelines.

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The tariff also contemplates that the timelines for the Company may be modified by this Commission upon request by the Company and by order of the Commission under extenuating circumstances, such as if the Company receives an extraordinarily large amount of QF requests, it may be unable to meet some of the timelines in a timely manner. The Company would advise the Commission and request release from its obligations if that were to occur.

I won't provide the timelines in detail, but they are well summarized in paragraph 5 of the preface of Schedule 38. They set forth the key dates and timelines.

These timelines are generally in line with those that were either previously in Schedule 38 or those that have been historically used by the Company, even though they were not specifically set forth in the tariff.

The primary change is that a QF project must now explicitly progress in the contracting process or the QF project will be removed from the pricing queue. And again, as I mentioned, the timelines also include additional requirements on the Company throughout the PPA negotiation process.

Another significant change to Schedule 38 includes requiring that indicative prices be updated unless a PPA is executed within six months after indicative pricing was



first provided by the Company. The previous tariff did not specifically address a timeline between providing of indicative pricing and execution of a PPA.

Parties have agreed that inclusion of this timeline in the new tariff provides clarity and certainty to all parties on this issue and will facilitate negotiation and review of future QF PPAs.

In general terms, the previous tariff allowed the Company to update pricing at any time, and there was at times ambiguity between QFs and the Company related to how long an indicative price was valid. The changes that we have proposed to Schedule 38 make it clear that a PPA must be executed within six months of the date the indicative pricing was provided. If the PPA is not executed within that time frame, then the indicative pricing is no longer valid and will be updated.

Other material changes of note in the revised

Schedule 38 include the following: (1) a QF must provide an interconnection queue number in order to obtain indicative price. Previously, no queue number was required.

The PPA must include the following standard terms:

(1) the scheduled commercial operation date must not be greater than 30 months after the execution of the power--execution date of the power purchase agreement. So once you sign the power purchase agreement, you must have a scheduled



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online date that does not exceed 30 months from the date of execution. Previously, there was no such requirement and you could sign a power purchase agreement with an online date that extended well into the future.

The second PPA term is that the QF project must sign a system impact study agreement with PacifiCorp Transmission within 120 days of the date of a Commission order approving the agreement or the date that an order becomes final and not appealable. This requirement ensures that the qualifying facility project is progressing adequately in the transmission interconnection process.

One issue that we have had in the past is that QF projects execute power purchase agreement with a certain online date, and then as they progress in the interconnection process, it becomes clear that they will be unable to achieve that online date due to their interconnection timeline. This ensures that the project will be able to be interconnected and energized in a manner--in a timely manner and in a time that meets the contract obligations.

The third requirement is that the QF project must provide 100 percent of the project development security within 30 days of the date of a Commission order approving the PPA and 30 days of the date that that order is final and not appealable. This ensures that the QF project provides



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adequate security close to the execution of the power purchase agreement.

While these terms or similar terms have historically been included in QF PPAs, they had to be negotiated in each individual contract and are slightly different from--from QF to QF. Including them in the tariff provides greater clarity and certainty for both proposed QFs and the Company.

I'd also like to take a moment to address the avoided cost modeling assumptions. This was a separate track in the docket. And paragraphs 18 through 23 of the stipulation address these items. These items relate to avoided cost modeling assumptions and how those assumptions are updated and changed over time. As I mentioned earlier, these items are included in the stipulation but are not in Schedule 38 itself. I'll briefly address those.

First, the Company believes that these settlement terms related to the avoided cost modeling updates will enhance clarity of the Company's quarterly compliance filings by clearly identifying modeling assumptions and changes made each quarter. The modeling updates will be differentiated by routine and non-routine updates. Routine updates are essentially the maintenance of basic modeling inputs in data. They include items such as the forward price curve, any new signed contracts or contracts that have



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been terminated, and updating the load forecast--so basic routine maintenance of assumptions.

And then when an IRP is filed by the Company, the preferred portfolio of resources will be updated as well as part of a routine update. Routine updates will be incorporated into avoided cost pricing as needed and used immediately to calculate pricing for potential QFs.

Non-routine updates are items such as changes in the avoided cost calculation methods or departures from Commission-approved modeling techniques. Non-routine updates will not be incorporated into avoided cost prices until they have been either identified in quarterly compliance filings or the update was unchallenged for a period of three weeks after filing a compliance report or a challenged update has been resolved by Commission action.

So, in short, routine updates such as forward price curve, signed contracts, load forecasts will be made immediately. Anything that's non-routine will either have to be unchallenged for a period of three weeks, or if it's challenged, it'll have to be resolved by the Commission.

And the parties agree that these modeling assumption parameters provide a fair balance between incorporating most up-to-date information at the time prices are calculated and transparency into the modeling inputs.

Moving on to transitional procedures, as we are



making significant changes to the tariff in terms of what is required of a QF before it's dropped from the queue, paragraph 25 addresses the steps the Company will undertake to notify QFs of this revised Schedule 38 if approved by the Commission.

Upon Commission approval of the stipulation and the revised Schedule 38, the Company will notify each QF project currently in the pricing queue for which a PPA has not been executed. There are new requirements based on the stipulation and new tariff provisions, and we will advise each QF where they are in the process and the timeline that they have to meet the next step in the process, or they will be removed from the pricing queue.

One other item addressed in the stipulation: In paragraph 26, the parties make it clear that no agreement has been reached on the Company capacity contribution study and that issue will continue to be resolved pursuant to the original schedule in this docket.

Lastly, paragraphs 27 through 34 of the stipulation contain the general terms and conditions. These are associated with most stipulations presented before this Commission. They represent the obligations of the parties to the stipulation to each other. As with all stipulations, it was--the agreement was reached through negotiation and compromise. Each party became comfortable with the



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agreement in a different way, and nothing shall be considered precedential in any future case.

With that background, the Company recommends the Commission approve the stipulation and all its terms and conditions.

Q Mr. Clements, were you aware or did you become aware of the action request that the Commission issued to the Division of Public Utilities on May 19th, 2015?

Yes, I am. Α

Q Can you please address the issues in that action request?

Yes, I will. And I will note that we've had some Α discussion with the parties to the stipulation on these issues, not in sufficient detail that I'm comfortable representing that our position is consistent with theirs. What I intend to do today is, I will set forth the Company's position on each of the issues in that action request and what the Company would propose occur to resolve those issues, and then other parties can weigh in accordingly if they concur or have other ideas.

The first issue raised in that action request relates to language that appears to have been excluded in the application section of the tariff. The question posed is why certain language approved in Docket No. 12-035-101 is absent from both the original and the revised Schedule 38



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24 25 tariff. The excluded language appears to state that cogeneration facilities greater than 100,000 kilowatts seeking a term of ten years or more must participate in a Company competitive bidding process.

The Company was unable to determine why this language was not included in the original tariff. I recall our discussion around that topic in that docket. It was an oversight by the Company to not include that in the original tariff. And that exclusion was certainly not intentional.

The exclusion in the revised tariff was simply due to the fact that we were working from language in the original tariff. So again, the parties and the Company, in particular, did not intend to exclude that in the original tariff and did not intend to exclude it in the revised tariff. We're not opposed to including that language in the revised tariff, and we feel that it is necessary given other statute in Utah that requires a competitive bid for a certain-sized project.

So the Company would not oppose including in the application section the statement that cogeneration facilities greater than 100,000 kilowatts seeking a term of ten years or more must participate in a Company competitive bidding process, or RFP.

The second issue relates to the fact that the revised Schedule 38--or the proposed Schedule 38 refers to



draft or proposed power purchase agreements somewhat interchangeably. That was not intentional. The Company confirms that these words always mean the same thing as used in the tariff. And the Company's not opposed to using one term consistently, and the term that it recommends be used is "proposed." So the Company would not be opposed to changing any place that it refers to a draft PPA to now read "a proposed PPA."

Issue 3 relates to a reference on Sheet 38.2,
Item 5(I). The reference to Section I.B.10 is correct in
that--in that section. I.B.10.e sets forth the details of
the term that is summarized by Item 5(I). And so the
Company does not believe that the reference is incorrect.
However, a reference to Section I.B.6 may be useful as well.
And the Company is certainly not opposed to changing Item
5(I) to include a reference to both Section I.B.10 and
Section I.B.6. Company believes there may have just been
some confusion as that section was reviewed.

Issue 4 relates to the fact that some timelines in proposed Schedule 38 refer to certain triggering events happening within a period of months. The Company--and it's our belief, the parties--intended for months to mean calendar months, such that two months would mean May 26th, 2015, to July 26, 2015. So any time there's a reference to a number of months, if it's three months, it's--it would be



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May 26, 2015, to August 26, 2015. So it would always be the next calendar month, the same day of that calendar month. And the Company would be open to clarifying the tariff to explicitly state that in whatever manner is necessary.

Issue 5 relates to the fact that several provisions of the proposed Schedule 38 provide a contact email address that's currently incomplete. For example, the email addresses are found in Section 1A--or IA--and on Sheet 38.4. The Company is currently completing its work with its technical department to establish the email address and the various approvals that are needed for that and to get it set up so that I can see that email address, as I'm the one who processes the QF requests. And the Company will include the email address in its filing of the final tariff following a Commission decision on the stipulation.

Typical course of action is, once the Company's tariff is approved, the Company is directed to file a final version of that tariff. The Company represents that that final version will include the email address that is to be used in the tariff.

And does that address all of the action items and O the action requests, Mr. Clements?

It does. And I'd be happy to, when we move to the panel discussion, address any of those in more detail as required.



Q Do you have any final comments for the Commission
and the parties today?
A Yes. I would like to make sure that the
Commission is aware that this was a cooperative effort. And
I'mI'm very grateful to the parties for working together
to reach agreement. Any time you work through a tariff that
is largely a process document, it can be a challenge, as it
includes many components. It took a lot of work by all
parties to get here. There was very much a cooperative
effort, and the Company very much supports the stipulation.
I believe it will make the QF contracting procedure and
process much more efficient for both the Company, for which
I personally am grateful, and for QFs as well, and will lead
to a better workflow for both parties. And I recommend that
the Commission approve the stipulation with the
modifications that I mentioned here in response to the DPU
action request.
That concludes my comments. Thank you.
THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Clements.
Mr. Jetter.
MR. JETTER: Thank you.
CHARLES E. PETERSON,
being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as
follows:

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DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. JETTER:

Q Mr. Peterson, would you please state your name and occupation for the record?

A Charles E. Peterson. I'm a technical consultant with the Division of Public Utilities.

Q Thank you. And have you had a chance to review the filing by the Company and filings from other parties as well, as the stipulation and tariff sheets that have been filed as exhibits to the stipulation?

A Yes. I have.

Q And have you prepared a brief statement you'd like to give today in favor of this stipulation?

A Yes.

Q Please go ahead.

A In the course of reviewing and recommending the approval of several past QF PPAs, the Division became particularly concerned about two items in the process. First, the Division learned that, for a number of reasons, there was a growing number of projects holding positions in the QF pricing queue. PacifiCorp operated this queue essentially on a first-come, first-serve basis. The projects that entered the queue earlier would receive higher prices than those entering later.

An earlier project could remain in the queue for months, holding on to its position and the higher price even



if that project was ultimately determined to not be viable.

At the same time, it was possible that a project that could be viable and could be built quickly with a somewhat higher price would be effectively blocked by unviable and speculative projects that happen to have entered the queue earlier. The Company appeared to have no clear procedure for removing projects from the queue in a reasonable time.

The Division believed that this situation was not in the public interest. The Division wanted a clear procedure for keeping the queue cleaned up so that projects that would be actually built were given a better chance to move forward.

Second, the Division became concerned that even if a project were moved forward to the point of having the Commission approve a PPA, ratepayers were sometimes possibly not being well protected, either through terms of the contract allowing for what the Division considered an excessively long time frame for project development and construction.

There were two reasons one or both could apply that the Division felt increased risk to ratepayers: (1) the PPA prices could be significantly different from avoided cost pricing by the time the project came online, let alone at the end of the typical 20-year contract; and (2)



sometimes long time frames between the signing and approval of a PPA and the online date raised questions about whether the project could actually be built, all the while keeping its place--all the while the project keeping its place in the price queue and potentially blocking other prices.

The Division believes that the proposed Schedule 38 and stipulation mitigates the concerns that the Division has had in that it puts specific structure around the amount of time a project can remain in the queue without certain milestones. Failure to reach those milestones, not due to PacifiCorp delays, would automatically remove the project from the queue. For example, with this proposal, under most circumstances, a project would be removed from the pricing queue if the PPA were not executed within five months of the project receiving indicative pricing.

Furthermore, a project has to come online within 30 months of signing a PPA. And there are other milestones contemplated within the QF PPA, as Paul--as Mr. Clements has elaborated on to some extent.

The Division believes and hopes that these and other terms in the proposed Schedule 38 will significantly reduce speculative projects holding positions in the pricing queue for lengthy time periods and generally move the projects along at a reasonable pace to completion.

As Mr. Clements also pointed out, the proposed



Schedule 38 does not necessarily contain everything the
Division believes it should have contained. However, as a
whole, the Division believes that it is--it improves
significantly on the current process and is just and
reasonable in--and in the public interest.

Therefore, the Division recommends that the Commission approve the stipulation and the proposed Schedule 38 tariff, as perhaps modified by the comments that Mr. Clements made related to the action request the Commission recently issued to the Division.

I'll briefly review the action request points.

For the most part, the Division is--supports what

Mr. Clements said is the Company position. The Division has
no problem with including in the application the wording
related to large QFs having in excess of 100 megawatt--or
kilowatts--said it right the first time--in excess of 100
megawatts being required to enter into a Company RFP
process, for example. So this language can and should be
restored to the Schedule 38.

Division supports amending the proposed

Schedule 38 to include "proposed" instead of "draft PPA" consistently throughout the Schedule 38 document.

The Division does not--with respect to Item 3, the Division does not see a need to change the language on Item 5.(I) on Sheet 38.2. However, if the Commission



1 believes that it would be clarifying to include a reference 2 to Schedule I.B.-or Section I.B.6, the Division would have 3 no objection to that. The Division understands and understood months to 4 5 mean calendar months, as Mr. Clements clarified, and--so we 6 would--we would also not oppose clarifying language 7 consistent with that interpretation of the meaning of months 8 if the Commission believes that such language would be 9 appropriate. And finally, the issue of the email contract [sic] 10 11 address, that's been an ongoing question that the Company 12 has to deal with, and we hope that it will deal with it 13 timely, as Mr. Clements suggested it would. That concludes my comments. 14 15 MR. JETTER: I have no further questions. 16 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. 17 Mr. Olsen. 18 MR. OLSEN: Thank you, Commissioner. 19 BILA VASTAG, 20 being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as 21 follows: DIRECT EXAMINATION 22 23 BY MR. OLSEN: 24 Q Mr. Vastag, would you state your name and your 25 position for the record, please?



1 Α My name is Bila Vastag. I am a utility analyst 2 employed by the Office of Consumer Services. 3 And did you have an opportunity to review the 4 filings the stipulation and the other related materials in 5 this docket for the purposes of the stipulation? 6 Α Yes. 7 Q Have you prepared a statement? Α Yes. 8 9 Q Would you please put that in now? 10 I'll read my brief statement. The settlement Α 11 stipulation before the Commission today addresses two 12 categories of issues regarding how Rocky Mountain Power 13 develops power purchase agreements with qualifying 14 facilities, or QFs. First category are issues related to the 15 16 management of PPA milestones and the QF pricing queue. And 17 the second category addresses issues related to the review and implementation of changes to avoided cost modeling 18 19 assumptions which are used to develop PPA prices. 20 The need to address these issues became apparent 21 to the Office over a period of time as the Company was 22 bringing increasing numbers of QF PPA contracts before the 23 Commission for approval. In particular, four wind QF PPAs came before the Commission in 2013, and then six solar QF 24

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PPAs in 2014.

Before 2013, there was very little activity from the Company with respect to 20-year PPA--PPAs with QFs. And in addition, parties have raised concerns when the Company has implemented changes to the modeling of avoided costs in some of its regular Schedule 37 and Schedule 38 pricing updates. Parties have questioned whether some of these modeling changes should have been vetted before the Commission before they were implemented.

I won't go into the details, but the Office raised its concerns related to these issues in a series of comments on QF PPAs and the Company's avoided cost update filings. We summarized our concerns from these cases in our October 31st, 2014, issues list which was submitted in this current docket.

As stated in that issues list, the Office's goal at the beginning of this process was to work with parties to resolve these issues in a way that maintains ratepayer indifference towards QF PPAs, provides a comparable treatment to QF projects, and also does not result in undue barriers to QF development.

The Office believes that this stipulation resolves our issues while appropriately balancing these competing goals. I will just briefly state how the stipulation resolves our issues.

On the issues related to the management of PPA



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milestones in QF pricing queue, (A), PPA deadlines, the proposed tariff for Schedule 38 now contains several explicit deadlines which, if not met, results in a QF project being removed from the pricing queue. For example, one such deadline is that if a PPA is not executed within five months after a QF receives a draft PPA, then the QF is removed from the queue and the indicative pricing it has received is no longer valid.

Such deadlines protect ratepayers, as well as other QFs. For example, some QF projects which are not as viable and may be gaming the system will clog up the queue, resulting in lower pricing for potentially more viable projects that are lower in the queue.

The category--(B), the category of pricing updates: The stipulation includes a requirement that prices, which are often referred to as indicative prices, that are used in the PPA must be updated if more than six months old at the time the PPA is executed.

(C), under operation date, the stipulation includes a requirement that a QF scheduled commercial operation date cannot be more than 30 months after the day of the PPA execution.

Under (D), transmission interconnection, the stipulation includes a requirement that a QF must sign a transmission system impact study agreement within 120 days



of receiving the Commission--receiving Commission approval of its PPA.

These were the four major areas that the Office had concerns during--during past proceedings on PPAs.

Now, switching over to the--on issues related to the review and implementation of changes to avoided cost modeling assumptions, this stipulation identifies routine and non-routine changes to modeling assumptions, and it provides a process for having these changes reviewed by interested parties. Importantly, non-routine changes will not be automatically implemented by the Company, but will be open to review and possible challenge by parties before implementation.

The Office also notes that the stipulation does not address one major issue that is part of this proceeding, and that's the Company's capacity contribution study for wind and solar. This issue will continue on the Commission schedule for testimony and hearing.

The Office believes that this settlement stipulation is just and reasonable in result and in the public interest. The Office recommends that the Commission approve it.

With respect to the action request, the Office just recently reviewed the Commission's questions and we agree with the Company's proposal, though we would like an



1	opportunity to review the specific issue on using the term
2	"proposed PPA" in place of "draft PPA," since we just
3	learned of this change this morning. So we'd like an
4	opportunity just to review that before we agree to that
5	specific item.
6	That concludes my statement.
7	MR. OLSEN: We have nothing further at this time.
8	THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Vastag,
9	Mr. Olsen.
10	Are there any questions for the witnesses?
11	MR. OLSEN: Your Honor, just aI think I may have
12	misheard this, but in Mr. Clements's recitation of events
13	leading up to this, I think he meant to make a reference to
14	October 2014, and made reference to October 2015 and
15	subsequently went back to 2014. Iit may beI may have
16	misheard that, but if so, II think maybe the record would
17	be easily corrected that way.
18	THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Olsen.
19	Anything else?
20	Mr. Clements?
21	MR. CLEMENTS: Well, I will confirm that I did
22	intend to say 2014. I commend him for his diligence in
23	listening to that exciting part of my testimony.
24	MR. OLSEN: Your every word, sir. On your every

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word.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Any other questions or 1 2 matters that counsel would like to raise at this time? 3 MR. DODGE: Chairman, just briefly--4 Mr. Commissioner, I guess--do we have a chairman? THE HEARING OFFICER: Not that we know of. 5 6 MR. DODGE: So, Mr. Commissioner, just very 7 briefly, I'd just like to point out that on Friday, on 8 behalf of SunEdison, I filed some legal comments. And the 9 comments may explain themselves adequately, but it came as a 10 surprise to many of us in this group to learn that 11 PacifiCorp had language in the large generator 12 interconnection agreements for QFs that said that it was 13 this Commission and not FERC that had jurisdiction over 14 those interconnection agreements, assuming all of the power 15 was sold to PacifiCorp. 16 Initially, I rejected that, and then I researched 17 it and found out why they included it--because FERC has been saying that for years; it's just I didn't know it, because I 18 19 don't follow them closely enough; and because I, among 20 others, have made statements before this Commission that 21 it's an exclusively FERC jurisdictional issue--that is, QF 22 interconnections at a transmission level--and I learned I 23 was wrong. I wanted to clarify that and put before the 24 25 Commission, your lawyers--and I know you have lawyers who



will be interested in understanding why this new Schedule 38 expressly said that this Commission has jurisdiction over those QF interconnections. And as I explained in the comments, our view was, because to this point this Commission, to my knowledge, has never ever been asked to exercise that jurisdiction, either in rulemaking or in approving—or in approving an interconnection agreement for a QF, or in otherwise explaining the procedures that ought to be followed in obtaining a QF interconnection, the group decided to suggest to you that you simply adopt and implement the FERC OATT provisions that we've been following all along.

So it wouldn't be a change; it would be following the exact same procedures that have been followed, but in acknowledgment that this Commission has jurisdiction over those LGIAs to the extent if and when it elects to exercise that jurisdiction. In my view, that could include complaints, if there were any, over the interconnection process for those kinds of QFs, or different procedures, if you were so inclined to adopt them.

But again, the group, I think, felt like the most prudent thing to do is to recommend to you that you simply adopt the FERC OATT procedures as your own for right now, unless and until you decide, or someone asks you to decide, that something ought to change. So I thought it was



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important to at least explain that for the benefit of you and your counsel. Thank you.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Dodge. It was helpful to receive your--your papers, and it helped to eliminate some of our questions actually coming into the proceedings. Thank you for that.

Do any counsel have any comment on the filing that Mr. Dodge is describing that was made late last week?

MR. OLSEN: I have none, your Honor.

THE HEARING OFFICER: I intend to take a recess until ten o'clock. Are there any other matters--when the Commission comes back into session, we'll have some-probably a very few questions for the panel, but before we do that, we'll recess. But are there any other matters that the Commission ought to consider while we're in recess?

MR. DODGE: Mr. Chairman, maybe I will raise this--I had intended to off the record--and maybe it's just because I only saw the action request for the first time this morning. And I--I'll be honest: It caught me by surprise the language from--from the 2012 order about the 100-megawatt limit.

And I guess my confusion--maybe it's more a question--given the QFs are limited by law to 80 megawatts, I'm confused why that language was necessary or if there-and it's just I don't remember what led to it. But also, it



could lead to confusion that 100 megawatt QF for less than 1 2 ten years would follow these procedures. And again, my 3 understanding is, you're not a QF if you're more than 80 megawatts. So I guess I'm a little confused by that 4 5 language. I don't know if that's something you need to 6 discuss or just I need to ask the parties, but if it's in there, I'd hate to have it confusing. And the way it reads 7 8 in the action request confuses maybe because I don't 9 understand the 100 megawatt reference.

MR. CLEMENTS: I can provide some background on that, if it please the Commission.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

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MR. CLEMENTS: So, renewable qualifying facilities are limited to 80 megawatts; nonrenewable qualifying facilities are not. So combined heat and power applications would not be limited to the 80 megawatts under federal statute.

We do have a Utah law that requires any significant resource acquisition by the Company--and "significant" is defined, I believe, as 100 megawatts in ten years--must be acquired through a request for proposal process. And so it's compliance with the Utah law, which you're familiar with, that prompted the change in the language here that would say if you're a combined heat and power QF and you exceed 100 megawatts, you would have to go



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through an RFP process instead of coming through the Schedule 38 process.

MR. DODGE: That's helpful. And that's triggered a memory. I guess the one question is, I thought we amended that law in Utah to be 300 megawatts.

MR. CLEMENTS: I was--I believe it's 300 megawatts for renewables and 100 megawatts for the nonrenewables. That's the distinction.

MR. DODGE: Thank you. I appreciate you letting me clarify--

MR. CLEMENTS: And again, clarifying, I believe we resolved that in the 2012 docket, and by oversight, the language was not included in Schedule 38.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. So the action request itself presents the language, as the Commission understands it, to have been approved in our earlier orders. Were your comments, Mr. Clements, to the effect that this was the language that would--that would be used in the promulgated version of Schedule 38?

MR. CLEMENTS: It would be the Company's position that the language that we have in the revised Schedule 38, of the proposed Schedule 38--we could use that language because I believe we made some additional changes here and there that are minor in nature. My proposal would be, we would simply include the two sentences--and I'll just read



them for clarity: Cogeneration facilities greater than 100,000 kW seeking a term of ten years or more must participate in a Company competitive bidding process, RFP, and information on Company RFPs can be found at--and then it provides a web address. And so those two sentences would be added to the application section of the proposed tariff.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

And before we recess, Commissioner LeVar has a question.

COMMISSIONER LeVAR: I thought it might be good to ask this before the recess--and I'd be interested in hearing from all the parties their thoughts--and this question presumes Commission approval of the stipulation. But on paragraphs 18 through 23 that describe the process for routine and non-routine updates to Schedule 38--my question has two parts. It's whether those are provisions that should be incorporated into administrative rule by the Commission if the Commission approves the stip.

And my two parts to that question first are whether--whether these are the type of provisions that Section 201 of Utah's Administrative Rulemaking Act would require to be implemented into administrative rule or, aside from that, whether that would be something that would--the parties feel would increase transparency on--on the issue.

And I'd be glad to hear any party's thoughts on



1 that issue now or after a brief recess. Since we're going 2 to take one anyway, I thought I'd ask before. 3 MR. JETTER: I think, at least from the Division's 4 perspective, I'd appreciate a couple of minutes to speak 5 with my client genally about this question during the 6 recess, if that's . . . 7 THE HEARING OFFICER: So let's be in recess until five after the hour. Thank you very much. 8 9 MR. JETTER: Thank you. 10 (Recess taken, 9:56-10:08 a.m.) 11 THE HEARING OFFICER: We'll be on the record. 12 Anything from the parties before we continue with questions from the Commission? 13 14 Okay. Commissioner LeVar, anything further? 15 COMMISSIONER LeVAR: Well, were there any thoughts 16 on the question I asked before the break? 17 MR. JETTER: Yes. We discussed this while you 18 were out. And I don't want to speak for all the parties, 19 but I think our general consensus is that we view these--the 20 updates to the avoided cost modeling as being a issue 21 specific to one company and not generally applicable to 22 electric utilities. And for that reason, we don't think 23 that the 63G-3-201(2)(c) would likely require this to be a 24 rule. And we think it would be appropriate to include these 25 provisions that are in the stipulation and the order to give



1	better public notice and also help remind the parties down
2	the road that it'll be easier to find
3	THE REPORTER: I'm sorry. Could you just back up?
4	"Easier to"
5	MR. JETTER: It will be easier and more readily
6	available in a Commission order, I think, for parties who
7	may not be present today to see and understand the updates
8	and the agreement to the updates in the stipulation. And to
9	be clear on the record, those are updates to inputs to the
10	avoided cost model.
11	I think that generally summarizes what we have
12	discussed while you were out of the room. And that is the
13	Division's position on that matter.
14	COMMISSIONER LeVAR: Thank you.
15	THE HEARING OFFICER: Yeah. Thank you,
16	Mr. Jetter.
17	Anything on that specific subject? Anything from
18	any other counsel before we move
19	MS. HOGLE: The Company agrees with that
20	interpretation.
21	THE HEARING OFFICER: Pardon me?
22	MS. HOGLE: The Company agrees with the Division's
23	interpretation.
24	THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.
25	I just have a couple of questions as well. And



then--at least questions for the witnesses and then questions for counsel about a couple of procedural items.

First, if we look at page 38.1, at the tariff, and in particular, paragraph 3, which discusses the interconnection process, it seemed to me--seemed to the Commission that would be useful if there was a reference at that point to Section 2(b), where the interconnection process is described. So that it's certainly not an imperative thing, but we provide a lot of internal references in this section, this preface section, and that seems to me to be one that would be helpful.

Mr. Clements, would you--would you have a comment about that, or does that--do you have any objection to that?

MR. CLEMENTS: No, no objection. I think that would be helpful as well.

THE HEARING OFFICER: And then just a thought about the links to the Company's interconnection forms and agreements. As we tried to follow what's described on page 38.10, Item B--I'll give you a second to get there--that is, original sheet No. 38.10, Item B--at the bottom of the page, there's a reference to the electronic location of Company's interconnection forms and agreements. At least to us it seemed that we needed to go to the Oregon generation interconnection qualifying facility area of the Company's information in order to find the forms that would be



1	applicable in Utah. So I just ask that you check that out,
2	Mr. Clements, and if there's a little bug in the system
3	there, if you could repair that.
4	MR. CLEMENTS: Okay. We received that directly
5	from PacifiCorp Transmission, so we will go and confer with
6	them. We certainly would like to fix that.
7	THE HEARING OFFICER: Might even be as simple as
8	just deleting the word "Oregon" from thefrom the
9	characterization of what'swhat forms are available at that
10	location so that it would just read "generation
11	interconnection qualifying facilities."
12	Just some feedback with regard to the concept of
13	months, as that term is used in Schedule 38: We think it
14	would be helpful if there was some definition that's
15	consistent with the one that you, Mr. Clements, described in
16	your testimony. Would any of the parties object to that
17	addition?
18	MR. OLSEN: No, your Honor.
19	MR. JETTER: No objection to that from the
20	Division.
21	MR. OLSEN: Nor from the Office.
22	MR. DODGE: And I don't either. I guess the one
23	question that arose in my mind is, what if it ended onit
24	was a 30th and the two months hence was31st and two months
25	hence only had 30 or 28? Do we need to explain all that or



should we turn them all into 30-day periods? I--you know, I don't mind either one. It's easier to think in terms of six months and 180 days, but it's more precise to talk in 180 days, probably. So I guess I open that for your thought--or the Commission's thought.

MR. CLEMENTS: I think with that point being raised by Mr. Dodge, probably would be best to include a definition that says whenever a month is used in the tariff, it intends to say 30 days, and then you can do the math from there. Since we've had issues in the past where a day matters in terms of timing, in an abundance of caution, I think it would be worthwhile to have it to the exact day. So we would not be opposed to defining a month, as used in this tariff, to mean 30 days.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. I think that would be helpful.

Question for the Office: Mr. Vastag expressed the Office's desire to examine the terms "draft" and "proposed" in more detail as they're used--I'm referring to Item 2 of the action request that's been discussed earlier. We just are interested in procedurally how we would hear from the Office on the Office's--the conclusion of the Office's review of that issue. Would you like to file something in a few days that--that expresses the Office's position, or how do you intend to address that?



case.

MR. OLSEN: I think probably that would be the

Commissioner, I think what we would propose is that if we had any objections, that we would file some appropriate document to make you aware of those; but otherwise, we don't feel a need to comment if there's no comment necessary.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Thank you. Do we expect you to do that within the week? Is that adequate?

MR. OLSEN: That--that's fair, your Honor.

THE HEARING OFFICER: And finally, we've talked about some minor stylistic adjustments to the schedule that's incorporated into the settlement agreement. So as a matter of process, have counsel thought about how the Commission would receive those and act on the settlement agreement as it's been proposed but with the adjustments that have been discussed today?

MS. HOGLE: Commissioner, I believe that

Mr. Clements addressed that, or I thought he did, at the
beginning when he gave his summary. And I believe that what
he suggested was that, just like in any other situation
where we have some time for you to write your order and
issue it--that you would write it accordingly with--you
know, approve a stipulation with the edits that were agreed
upon on the day of hearing and provide the Company with 30



days--or I don't know if that's--is it--is it 30 days?--

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MR. CLEMENTS: Yeah.

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MS. HOGLE: --30 days' time to file the updated and corrected Schedule 38. I believe that's how you typically would do that. And the Company's position is that we would agree to do that as well in this case.

MR. CLEMENTS: Yeah, if I may add: What would be helpful would be to have a list of what those items were, just in an abundance of caution, so that the Company makes sure that it addresses all the Commission's desires in terms of the items that differ, are--are in addition to the stipulation that were discussed at the hearing today.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Would you like that provided now or--or in a written form? It seems to me maybe what might be--might be best is if we issue some kind of interim order, but I don't want to disturb the parties' agreements regarding the stipulation. And--and so that's--that's our concern, is that--is that we--I guess what I'm saying is, we're interested if any party feels like what we've--the adjustments that we've discussed today in any way alter their agreement to the -- to the settlement agreement and the--so, Mr. Jetter, any thoughts on that from the Division's point?

MR. JETTER: Speaking for the Division, I think-we agree with everything that's been discussed today as far



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edits to those tariff sheets, and we'd be happy to proceed in however you would like to as far as getting those changed so that they actually reflect what we've discussed today.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Olsen.

MR. OLSEN: On behalf of the Office, I don't think the changes proposed, as we understand them here, do any violation to our agreement to the stipulation. So whatever is most convenient for the Commission, I guess.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Anything from Ms. Hayes or Mr. Dodge?

MR. DODGE: I would say I agree. Paragraph 33 allows a party to withdraw if there's a material change in the Commission's order from the stipulation. We don't view any of these as material.

MS. HAYES: That is Utah Clean Energy's position as well.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Perhaps, then, to move the process along, let me try to summarize what I think we've--what we've done this morning in relation to adjustments. And I'm going to use the action request as a guide. First, we have the changes to the application paragraph that Mr. Clements described, including--that is, adding the two sentences that he quoted, to the paragraph that is in the proposed Schedule 38.

Second, we have use of the term "proposed" in all



instances where the terms "draft" or "proposed" are used in Schedule--the Schedule 38 that's attached to the settlement agreement.

Given the explanation of Section I.B.10, and for the reference to Section I.B.10 on Sheet 38.2, I believe there won't be any adjustment necessary there.

We've discussed conceptually a definition for the term "months," and I think there's agreement on the concepts. So we would expect the Company to prepare a consistent definition and insert it at the appropriate place in the schedule.

And the contact addresses have been--are now complete, and we'll expect to see them in the schedule; that is, those email addresses that are listed that are incomplete in what was in the form of the schedule that was filed with the settlement agreement.

And on page 38.1, Item 3, that that item would be followed by a reference to Section 2(b), where the interconnection process is described.

Those are the changes as I've noted them.

MR. DODGE: Plus, Mr. Commissioner, the link--making sure the link goes--

THE HEARING OFFICER: The link works, right. Thank you.

Any--is there anything else? Let's be off the



1	record for a moment.
2	On the record.
3	Is there any other item that the Commission should
4	be aware of?
5	MS. HOGLE: Nothing else from the Company.
6	MR. JETTER: Nothing from the Division.
7	MR. OLSEN: The Office has nothing further.
8	MR. DODGE: Nope.
9	MS. HAYES: No, thank you.
10	THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you all very much for
11	your participation today. We're adjourned.
12	(Proceedings concluded at 10:27 a.m.)
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me, SCOTT M. KNIGHT, a Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Utah, residing at South Jordan, Utah;

That the proceedings were reported by me in stenotype and thereafter caused by me to be transcribed into typewriting, and that a full, true, and correct transcription of said proceedings so taken and transcribed is set forth in the foregoing pages, inclusive.

I further certify that I am not of kin or otherwise associated with any of the parties to said cause of action, and that I am not interested in the event thereof



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