

1 **Q. Please state your name, business address and present position.**

2 A. My name is Ros Rocco Vrba. My business address is 1612 Bainbridge, Sandy,
3 Utah. I am President of Energy of Utah LLC.

4 **Qualifications**

5 **Q. Please briefly describe your education and business experience.**

6 A. I have Masters of Science (MS) in Mechanical Engineering from 2001 and a
7 M.B.A. from University of Phoenix from 2006. I founded Energy of Utah LLC
8 (“EOU”) in 2011. EOU’s primary focuses lies in renewable energy consulting and
9 development of clean renewable energy resources in Intermountain West. I have
10 specific experience in the development of renewable resources, application of
11 tariffs and transmission applicable to the testimony being given here.

12 **Q. Have you appeared as a witness in previous regulatory proceedings?**

13 A. Yes. I have testified on multiple occasions in Utah through various proceedings
14 since 2012.

15 **Purpose and Summary of Testimony**

16 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

17 A. In my testimony I present EOU’s concern on behalf of Customers and Renewable
18 Generators with the proposed Electric Service Schedule No. 32, Service from
19 Renewable Energy Facilities (Schedule 32), which was filed with the Commission
20 on April 25, 2014 and subsequently amended by Direct Testimony of David L.
21 Tylor on behalf of Rocky Mountain Power (“RMP” or “Company”) on July 10,
22 2014 in the same docket.

23 **Q. Please describe proposed Electric Service Schedule No. 32.**

24 A. Schedule 32 is a retail service option which allows a Customer to receive electric
25 service from the RMP which includes electricity generated by a Renewable Energy
26 Facility that is owned by the Customer or is under a contractual arrangement with
27 the Customer; as provided in Utah Code Title 54, Chapter 17, Part 8, Renewable
28 Energy Contracts (SCH 32 Renewable Statute). The proposed Schedule 32 governs
29 the conditions of service, pricing, and the contracting and interconnection
30 procedures under which RMP will execute a contract or Power Purchase Agreement
31 to supply electric service to a Customer from one or more Renewable Energy
32 Facilities which are owned or contractually tied to that Customer. Schedule 32 is a
33 retail service option applying to all Customers taking service under and established
34 by Senate Bill 12 (“SB 12”) of 2012.

35 **Q. What are the services provided under Schedule 32 based on your**
36 **understanding of company filing?**

37 A. The Company indicated five general categories of service and charges under
38 Schedule 32:

- 39 1. Renewable Power and Energy
- 40 2. Metering and Billing Services
- 41 3. Delivery Service
- 42 4. Backup Service
- 43 5. Supplementary Service

44 **Q. Please provide your comments associated with the Renewable Power and**
45 **Energy Contracts.**

46 A. The Company filed the following statement:

47 “While RMP will be a party to both the contract with the Renewable Energy
48 Facility and the contract with the ultimate Customer, the material
49 commercial terms of the Renewable Energy Contract will be negotiated
50 between the Customer and the Renewable Energy Facility. Once those
51 parties reach agreement on the material commercial terms, RMP will work
52 with both the Customer and the Renewable Energy Facility to finalize any
53 other contract terms necessary to facilitate the transaction”

54 A. We have two comments to offer:

55 1. Transparency and Simplicity of Renewable Energy Contract

56 The Company suggests that it may receive marginal portion of the provided
57 electrical energy in case of over production from renewable energy generator
58 under perhaps a separate Power Purchase Agreement that is yet to be produced
59 for parties to comment. The Company simply does not administer any risk to
60 Utah consumers, but rather serves the purpose of a “pass through” entity
61 between Renewable Energy Facility generator and Renewable Energy
62 Purchaser. We are assuming that the pending contract will not follow the
63 existing complexity of Utah Schedule 38 and or Utah Schedule 37. A draft of
64 any contract or Power Purchase Agreement required by the Company to
65 administer Schedule 32 and SB 12 including that with the Renewable Energy
66 Facility needs to be made available to Customers as part of this proceeding and
67 as soon as possible.

68 2. Renewable Energy Contract Confidentiality

69 It is essential that certain commercial terms and power purchase pricing
70 between energy generator and Customer remain confidential and that the
71 Company does not receive a direct benefit of this information for their future
72 rate making in Utah State or other competitive advantage of holding customers
73 or competing with Renewable Generators. As it stands now, RMP must meter
74 and pay the Renewable Energy Facility for energy delivered to Customer. This
75 information needs to be maintained separate from the Company's commercial unit
76 and payments administered by a neutral third party.

77 **Q. Do you have any other comments with Renewable Power and Energy**
78 **Contracts?**

79 A. Yes. I would like to offer the following regarding Capacity contributions under
80 Schedule 32.

81 The Company correctly identified that potential Customers acting under Schedule
82 32 can and will receive an off-set for "energy" from renewable energy generator on
83 their monthly bill. However, no "capacity" contribution off-set or power charge
84 off-set has been identified even though the Renewable Energy Facilities provide
85 direct benefits in form of capacity contribution into the Company's energy grid,
86 reserve margin and backup ancillary services costs. In other past proceedings,
87 especially in docket 12-035-100, the Company attests to capacity contribution and
88 the Commission assigned a "fixed capacity contribution" based on generation
89 resource. Given the nature of Schedule 32 as proposed by RMP, this capacity
90 contribution is not realized by SB 12 potential Customers, but is rather distributed
91 to Utah consumers and the Company in form of direct and unjust subsidy

92 elsewhere. The Commission should assign a “fixed capacity contribution” based
93 on generation characteristics of each renewable resource to allow SB 12 and
94 Schedule 32 Customers to receive and realize an off-set on their energy and portion
95 of their capacity as well. We view this “capacity contribution” as a pivotal point of
96 our filing and essential to SB 12 and Schedule 32 Customers. If Customers only
97 receive savings off their electricity bills for reductions in energy charges, even
98 without considering additional delivery charges proposed by RMP, then retail
99 customers will not be able to pay the costs required for Renewable Generators to
100 compete. Renewable Generators must be able to offer competitive prices including
101 capacity contribution to off-set their capital and O&M costs. Only receiving a
102 reduction in energy charges is insufficient. This is no different than return on
103 investment allowed the Company. If RMP is left to have its way, there will be no
104 economic incentives for Customers to contact for renewable generation. This is a
105 question of equity for the Customer and fulfilling the requirements of SB 12. The
106 off-set concept including capacity contribution is discussed in more detail under the
107 “simplified” billing approach that I will described in more detail later. For solar
108 and wind resources, the concept of capacity contribution is based on the spatial
109 penetration of each technology being that the sun is always shining somewhere or
110 the wind is always blowing somewhere and these resources cumulatively are
111 always generating a firm capacity contribution.

112 **Q. Please provide your comments to Metering and Billing Services**

113 A. The Company identified a \$ 450 monthly Customer charge per Renewable Energy
114 Contract. To justify this cost, the Company pointed out manual labor hours needed

115 in order to segregate renewable and the Company's own electrical production on
116 Customer's monthly bill. We view these charges as excessive and design directly
117 to curb Customer's further interest in SB 12. The Commission should order
118 creation of automatic billing procedure and bring the monthly costs to be closely
119 aligned with other Utah Electric Schedules monthly costs.

120 **Q. Do you have any other comments to Metering and Billing Services?**

121 A. Yes. The Company further acknowledged that they will allow changes to
122 Customer's point of energy off-take on seasonal basis. Or in other words, allowing
123 changes in contractual commitments to align when Customers need electrical
124 energy based on longer term forecast to better cope with Customer's needs and
125 requirements. We ask commission to permit the same changes to energy points on
126 daily bases that are closely aligned with the Company's HLH and LLH profiles.
127 Renewable Generators will need this level of flexibility to secure all of its energy
128 off-take for all hours of the day and days of the week. Some Customers under
129 Schedule 32 may need electricity for their operations only during certain hours of
130 the day or at night depending on their operation. An example would be office
131 complex using energy from 7 AM to 6 PM weekdays vs. manufacturing facility
132 running 24/7 operation. The price each would pay would also be different
133 depending on the savings that can be realized on their energy bill. This flexibility
134 is essential for prudent delivery of all the Renewable Energy Facility's generation
135 and off-set of the capital and O&M costs of these facilities.

136 **Q. Please provide your comments associated with Delivery Service.**

137 A. The Company provided a table for transmission and distribution service charges as
138 well as a table of energy losses to be applied against the Renewable Energy
139 Facility’s generation. Our concern is that all charges associated with energy losses
140 must be discounted by costs already included in Customer’s facility and/or power
141 charges under approved Utah electric schedules. Some of these schedules are
142 thought to already have portions if not all of these costs contained in facility charges
143 and others in power charges. Examples would be Utah Electrical Schedules 6.
144 Customers should only be charged for incremental costs and we would ask that the
145 Company disclose these costs in further detail in order to identify costs included
146 under existing electric schedules other than Schedule 32 for parties review and
147 comments. Renewable Energy Facility should not subsidize system energy losses
148 already being collected in normal tariff rates. This is especially true as Customers
149 will already be charged these costs under its normal tariff as discussed later under
150 simplified billing approach. If Customers are already paying for energy losses in
151 their facility and power charges, they should not be charged twice under Schedule
152 32. Any energy loss factors embedded in these charges needs to be transparent and
153 credit applied to the renewable generator.

154 **Q. Please provide your comments associated with Backup Service.**

155 A. SB 12 and Schedule 32 contain an upper generation limit of 300 MW. We believe
156 that this limit was established with sufficient “generation reserve margin” of RMP
157 during the 2012 SB 12 proceedings. It is our understanding that due to this fact,
158 any and all contracted generation under Schedule 32 shall have no backup charges
159 as proposed by the Company. In our view, all new generation under Schedule 32

160 up to its upper generation limit reduces RMP’s need for generation “spinning
161 reserves” and planning future reserves as well. The proposed backup charges
162 represent double charges to potential Schedule 32 Customers. The Customer will
163 already be charged these costs under its normal tariff as discussed later under
164 simplified billing approach. If Customers are already paying facility and power
165 charges, they should not be charged twice under Schedule 32.

166 **Q. Please provide your comments associated with Supplementary Service**

167 A. The Company’s indicated that for any energy or power delivered by the Company
168 to meet demand not satisfied by the Renewable Energy Facility, the Customer will
169 be charged at normal tariff rate including facility and power charges based on the
170 maximum 15-minute on-peak period of energy use net of renewable generation
171 during the monthly billing cycle. Additionally, Schedule 32 charges will apply
172 based on the renewable contract capacity for facility and backup facility charges
173 and based on daily maximum 15-minute on-peak renewable energy delivered. This
174 represents a serious fatal flaw in the approach of applying charges proposed by
175 RMP under Schedule 32. Except for base load generation that is always on line
176 during on-peak hours, the Customer will be charge twice for the same services as
177 the renewable generation level during the month will be a low number and likely
178 zero resulting in maximum charges for Supplemental Power and Energy Charges
179 as though no renewable generation had been delivered plus charges under Schedule
180 32 when renewable generation is delivered. Even if the maximum power charges
181 under proposed Schedule 32 were limited to the Supplemental Service Power
182 Charges, RMP is proposing Schedule 32 facility and backup facility charges

183 substantially greater than tariff facility charges. The concept proposed by RMP
184 will simply not work specially for intermittent generators. For these reasons, EOU
185 is proposing a “simplified” billing approach described below.

186 **Q. Are there any other proposals leading to simplified Schedule 32 that you would**
187 **like to share?**

188 A. Yes, we would like to offer an alternate “simplified” billing approach. The problem
189 as I see it is that the proposed Schedule 32 charges by RMP have been developed
190 thinking strictly from the generator’s or utility’s point of view to deliver the power
191 and not taking into account the real life Customer who is already getting service
192 from RMP and paying for many of the same services as being proposed as charges
193 outlined in RMP’s proposal. Except for the case where the Customer would take
194 all its power from a Renewable Generator or the case where the Renewable
195 Generator is a base load energy source, the proposed rate structure by RMP is
196 overly complex and in addition inequitable and discriminatory since it duplicates
197 charges.

198 More precisely, the typical Customer will be contracting for renewable power to
199 supplement its power and energy needs and will continue to purchase a major
200 portion of its power and energy under its existing tariff. In addition, the renewable
201 generating source will likely be an intermittent generator or at least a generator that
202 cannot deliver in every 15-minute on-peak period and in these circumstance the
203 Customer has an almost certain probability to receive zero renewable generation
204 for at least one 15-minute on-peak period each month thereby maximizing the
205 Customer’s facility and power charges as though it received no renewable

206 generation whatsoever. Under these circumstances, the Customer will have paid
207 for all RMP facility and power charged services, including those to deliver
208 renewable energy, regardless if it received renewable generation or not. In all cases
209 that can be envisioned, there would be no need to pay for additional delivery facility
210 charges, generation backup facility charges and backup power charges as proposed
211 by RMP. In these circumstances, it would be inequitable and highly discriminatory
212 to have any additional charges imposed during periods of receiving renewable
213 energy.

214 My position is that RMP rate structure, in addition to being too complex, is
215 completely unnecessary for Utah based Customer. Instead of inventing a new rate
216 structure with charges when renewable energy is delivered to Customer, the
217 Customer should be given credits or off-sets against its normal tariff for amounts
218 of renewable power generated and energy received.

219 Therefore, a “simplified” billing approach is recommended. Under this approach,
220 Customer pays “all” normal charges under existing tariff as though no renewable
221 power or energy is being delivered and receives credits or off-sets (i) for the
222 amounts of renewable energy delivered based on the applicable energy charge (ii)
223 for the amounts of renewable capacity purchased based on a percentage of the
224 applicable power charge for the contracted Renewable Generator’s capacity
225 contribution to the overall grid, reserve margin and backup ancillary services costs.
226 Except for a small additional administrative charge, there are no additional
227 incremental charges to consider since none have been identified by RMP. Earlier
228 in my testimony I discussed the need to include credit for the capacity contribution

229 of renewable generation. A step by step description of the recommended
230 “simplified” billing approach is attached hereto as Exhibit A

231 **Q. Are there other comments you would like to make regarding the RMP**
232 **proposed Schedule 32?**

233 A. Yes, an additional serious concern is RMP’s contention that a separate contract must
234 be applied to each individual meter. There exist multiple instances where a single
235 Customer at single location has multiple meters and all such meters should be
236 aggregated under Schedule 32. This is particularly important due to the restriction
237 place upon a Customer that it cannot accept more renewable energy in any hour
238 than is consumed. Not to be able to aggregate meters at a single location is
239 inequitable and discriminatory and results in high administrative burden passed
240 onto the Commission for approval of all Renewable Energy Contract. In addition
241 this is a blatant attempt by the Company to force more of the renewable generation
242 to be stranded or purchased by the Company at below market rates and likewise
243 increase the amount of billing and Customer charges and fees that can be realized.
244 This is simply a question of equity and reason to not allow RMP to skirt the intent
245 of SB 12. We view this restriction design directly to curb Customer’s interest in
246 Schedule 32. The Commission should order RMP to aggregate all meters at a
247 Customer’s location.

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EXHIBIT A

SB 12

Delivery of Renewable Energy

Schedule 32 Docket

Simplified Billing Approach

This approach is based on the expected circumstance that customer will continue to use and consume power and energy needs from RMP and will contract for renewable generation to supplement a portion of its energy and power demands when such renewable generation is available.

Summary

Customer pays normal utility bill including “all” customer, facility, power and energy charges including any and all additional fees, charges and discounts under applicable tariff as though “no” renewable energy has been delivered and receives credit or off-set for:

(i) the net kWh of generation from contracted renewable generator (adjusted for transmission losses not included or accounted in the tariff facility and power charges) calculated for such off-set at the applicable tariff energy charge rate based on time of delivery and subject to limits of customer usage, plus

(ii) the kW of capacity contribution to utility grid, reserve margin and backup ancillary services costs as a percentage of the contracted renewable kW calculated for such off-set at the applicable tariff power charge rate

271 Utility charges an additional administrative fee to cover incremental costs for billing.
272 Customer is billed for the net kWh of renewable generation received (subject to limits of
273 customer's usage) at the rate agreed between customer and renewable generator and contained in
274 the renewable generator PPA.

275 Utility pays renewable generator the net kWh of renewable generation received by customer
276 (subject to limits of customer usage) at the rate agreed and contained in the renewable generator
277 PPA.

278 Utility pays renewable generator for the net kWh of renewable generation not credited to
279 customer due to the limits of customer usage at the then market rate for such kWh subject to time
280 of delivery.

281 **Step One**

282 For each calendar month and each 15-minute interval, utility measures average kW of power use
283 of customer plus kW of generation of renewable generator and converts each to hourly kWh.

284 For the applicable customer, utility prorates the hourly kWh of total production of renewable
285 generator by the customer's contracted kW capacity to the renewable generators total installed
286 capacity to determine customer contracted delivery of hourly kWh of renewable generation.

287 The customer's contracted hourly kWh of renewable generation is reduced by applicable
288 transmission loss factors not included or accounted in the applicable tariff facility and power
289 charges (the "Delivered Renewable Generation" or "DRG").

290 Utility compares each hour of customer usage to the DRG and reduces the DRG to the hourly
291 customer usage if the hourly customer usage is less than the DRG (the "Net DRG").

292 **Step Two**

293 Utility calculates normal utility bill including all customer, facility, power and energy charges

294 including any and all additional fees, charges and discounts under applicable tariff.

295 **Step Three**

296 Customer receives credit or off-set for kWh of Net DRG calculated at the applicable tariff energy
297 charge rate based on time of delivery.

298 **Step Four**

299 Customer receives credit or off-set for kW of capacity contribution to utility grid as a percentage
300 of the contracted renewable kW calculated at the applicable tariff power charge rate

301 For intermittent generators such as wind and solar that contribute to the grid and utility capacity
302 due to their penetration levels and combined contribution, such values have been established as
303 set forth in PSC Decision 12-035-100 at a applicable capacity attribute or value of 20.5% of
304 rated capacity for wind and 84% or rated capacity for solar renewable generators.