

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

In the Matter of the Application)	Docket No. 15-035-84
of Rocky Mountain Power for)	
Approval of Purchase and Transfer)	Direct Revenue Requirement
Agreement and Power Supply)	Testimony of
Agreement with Navajo Tribal Utility)	Cheryl Murray
Authority and Amendment of)	for the
Certificate of Public Convenience)	Office of Consumer Services
And Necessity)	

May 17, 2016

1 **Q. WHAT IS YOUR NAME, TITLE, AND BUSINESS ADDRESS?**

2 A. My name is Cheryl Murray. I am a utility analyst for the Office of Consumer
3 Services (Office). My business address is 160 East 300 South, Salt Lake
4 City, Utah.

5

6 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

7 A. The purpose of my testimony is to affirm the Office's support for the
8 Settlement Stipulation in this docket which was filed with the Public Service
9 Commission (Commission) on May 12, 2016 and to introduce the Office's
10 other expert witness.

11

12 **Q. WILL OTHER WITNESSES PROVIDE TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF THE**
13 **OFFICE?**

14 A. Yes. The Office contracted for consulting services of Donna Ramas, CPA,
15 to analyze the accounting issues attendant to Rocky Mountain Power's
16 (Company) Application. Her testimony will describe various payments from
17 the Company to the Navajo Tribal Utility Agency (NTUA) and payments from
18 NTUA to the Company. She will also explain the accounting treatment
19 Parties have agreed to for those payments.

20

21 Due to the information she will address portions of her testimony will
22 necessarily be confidential.

23

24 **Q. WHY IS THE OFFICE SUBMITTING THIS PRE-FILED TESTIMONY?**

25 A. Typically the Office prefers to file direct testimony before entering into a
26 settlement stipulation; however, the timing and circumstances in this case
27 have led Parties to reach a stipulated agreement prior to re-establishing a
28 schedule for filing testimony. The Office offers this testimony pre-filed to
29 provide a more complete technical explanation of the settlement and the
30 analysis we performed in order to ensure that the settlement would be in
31 the public interest.

32

33 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE OFFICE'S ANALYSIS OF THIS CASE.**

34 A. The Office's team assigned to this case included internal experts
35 augmented with the specific expertise of Ms. Ramas. This team thoroughly
36 reviewed the Company's filing, submitted data requests, and reviewed the
37 Company's responses to the data requests of all parties. In addition, the
38 Office met with the Company, both individually and with other parties, to
39 ensure that we had a complete understanding of the issues.

40

41 **Q. FROM WHAT PERSPECTIVE DID THE OFFICE ANALYZE THE**
42 **COMPANY'S APPLICATION AND THE STIPULATION?**

43 A. The Office is responsible for assessing the impact of utility rate changes
44 and regulatory actions upon residential and small commercial customers. It
45 is with that responsibility in mind that we have analyzed the Company's
46 Application. Our analysis was conducted from the perspective of Utah

47 customers being transferred to NTUA and all other RMP customers
48 remaining with the Company, with the intent that at a minimum neither group
49 of customers should be harmed by the transaction.

50

51 **Q. WHAT WAS THE OFFICE'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE SETTLEMENT**
52 **PROCESS?**

53 A. Michele Beck, Director of the Office, Ms. Ramas and I participated in the
54 settlement process on behalf of the Office. In the course of our review of
55 the Application, testimony and other documents and augmented by the
56 technical analysis of Ms. Ramas the Office identified several items that were
57 unclear or concerning to us. Participation in the settlement conferences and
58 other meetings helped achieve agreements to mitigate our concerns. Some
59 of those mitigations were implemented through Amendment 3 to the PTA
60 and Amendment 2 to the PSA, which feed into the ultimate Stipulation.

61

62 **Q. DOES THE OFFICE SUPPORT COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE**
63 **STIPULATION?**

64 A. Yes. The Office asserts that the Settlement Stipulation is just and
65 reasonable in result and advocates that the Commission should approve it.
66 I will provide additional supportive testimony at the hearing and Ms. Ramas
67 will also be available at the hearing to answer any questions the
68 Commissioners may have.

69

70 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

71 **A.** Yes, it does.