

October 29, 2020

#### VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Public Service Commission of Utah Heber M. Wells Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor 160 East 300 South Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Attention: Gary Widerburg

**Commission Administrator** 

Re: Docket 20-035-04

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

*Phase I – Revenue Requirement Surrebuttal Testimony* 

Pursuant to the Order Granting Motion, Amended Scheduling Order, and Amended Notice of Electronic Hearings, issued by the Public Service Commission of Utah on October 21, 2020 in the above referenced matter, Rocky Mountain Power hereby submits for filing its Phase I – Revenue Requirement surrebuttal testimony.

Rocky Mountain Power respectfully requests that all formal correspondence and requests for additional information regarding this filing be addressed to the following:

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**PacifiCorp** 

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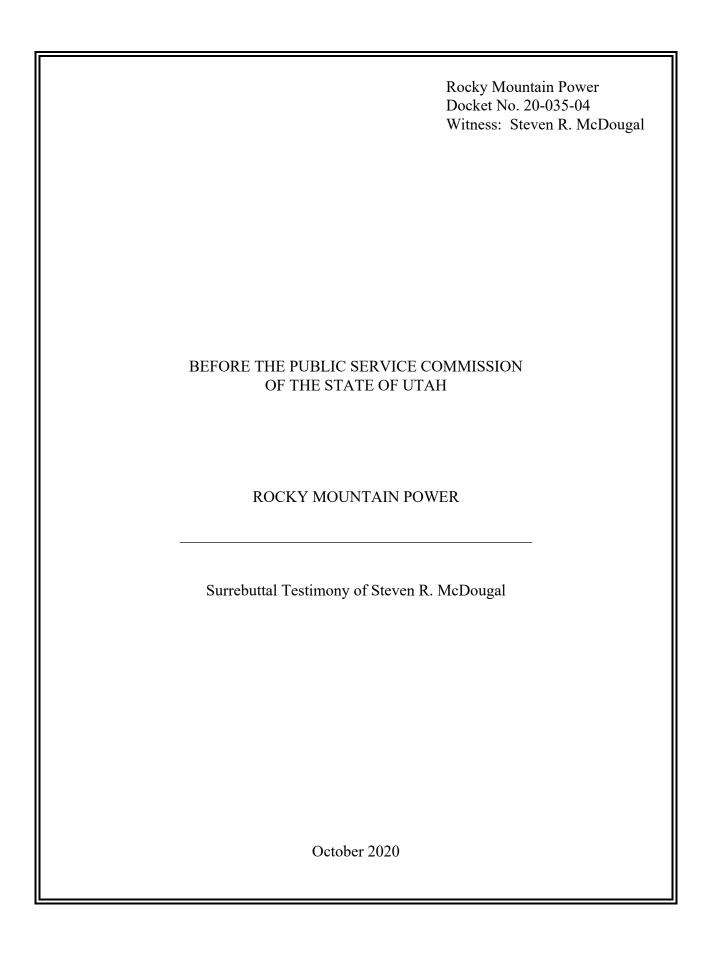
Informal inquiries may be directed to Jana Saba at (801) 220-2823.

Sincerely,

Joelle Steward

Vice President, Regulation

cc: Service List Docket No. 20-035-04



1	Q.	Are you the same Steven R. McDougal who submitted direct and rebuttal
2		testimony in this proceeding on behalf of PacifiCorp d/b/a Rocky Mountain
3		Power ("RMP" or the "Company")?
4	A.	Yes.
5		PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY
6	Q.	What is the purpose of your surrebuttal testimony?
7	A.	The purpose of my surrebuttal testimony is to address certain issues raised by the
8		Division of Public Utilities ("DPU" or the "Division") witnesses Mr. Gary L. Smith
9		and Ms. Brenda Salter. I also address issues raised by Utah Association of Energy
10		("UAE") witness Mr. Kevin C. Higgins. Lastly, I reaffirm my support for the
11		recommendations provided by DPU witness Dr. William "Artie" Powell. I provide
12		surrebuttal testimony on the following issues:
13		• Updates supported by the Division in rebuttal that were incorporated into
14		the revised revenue requirement and addressed as part of my rebuttal
15		testimony including Schedule 300 fees, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority
16		("NTUA") revenue correction, and the Vitesse, LLC REC agreement;
17		• Treatment of non-labor Operations and Maintenance ("O&M") expense
18		escalation;
19		• Support of Dr. Powell's testimony of the Generation Overhaul expense
20		calculation;
21		• Response to the concerns raised by Mr. Higgins and Mr. Smith regarding
22		depreciation on retired wind asset; and

23		• Proposed elimination of the Renewable Energy Credit ("REC") Balancing
24		Account ("RBA").
25	Q.	Were any of the adjustments that were supported by the Division in rebuttal
26		testimony already accepted by the Company and incorporated into the
27		\$72.0 million rate increase you supported in your revenue requirement rebuttal
28		testimony?
29	A.	Yes. The following adjustments proposed in the rebuttal testimony of DPU witness
30		Ms. Salter <sup>1</sup> were already incorporated in the revenue requirement I supported in my
31		rebuttal testimony:
32		• Incremental revenue related to the proposed Schedule 300 fees,
33		NTUA revenue correction, and
34		• REC revenues associated with Kennecott and the Vitesse, LLC REC
35		agreements.
36	Q.	Are you making any changes to the \$72.0 million increase you supported in your
37		revenue requirement rebuttal testimony based on the rebuttal testimony filed by
38		intervening parties?
39	A.	No.
40	Q.	Does the Company agree with Ms. Salter's rebuttal testimony that Non-Labor
41		O&M Expense Escalation should be updated to adjust for more recent IHS
42		Markit indices? <sup>2</sup>
43	A.	No. As discussed in my rebuttal testimony, <sup>3</sup> the most recent release of the IHS Markit
44		indices include a reflection of the global pandemic known as COVID-19 on future

<sup>1</sup> Rebuttal Testimony of Brenda Salter at line 34 and lines 75-143. <sup>2</sup> *Id* at lines 64-70.

escalation. Based on the near-term and long-term uncertainty surrounding COVID19, the Company has removed the escalation adjustment proposed in direct testimony.

The elimination of all non-labor O&M expense escalation was reflected in the revenue requirement I supported in my rebuttal testimony. This reduced the Company's requested revenue requirement \$3.6 million in rebuttal.

#### Q. Is inflation the only item impacted by COVID-19?

No. The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented uncertainty for the Company and its customers. The adjustment proposed by the Office of Consumer Services ("OCS") and supported by the DPU would capture only one aspect of the pandemic and does not balance that adjustment against other impacts the on-going pandemic will have to the Company in the Test Period, such as impacts to loads, revenues, and allocation factors. Notwithstanding this uncertainty, the Company continues to believe that the revenue requirement proposed in its rebuttal reflects a reasonable forecast of cost and revenues expected to occur in during the Test Period. The Company removed the escalation adjustment in light of this uncertainty. Further reducing the Company's non-generation, non-labor O&M for the latest IHS Markit release does not match the treatment given to other aspects of the case that have been or will be affected by the pandemic.

# Q. Please describe the calculation of generation overhaul expense for the Test Period?

A. Maintenance on the Company's generation fleet, such as overhauls on coal and gas plants, can result in variation of O&M expense year over year. To help create a levelized reflection of generation overhaul expense expected to occur in the Test

Page 3 – Surrebuttal Testimony of Steven R. McDougal

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Rebuttal Testimony of Steven R. McDougal at lines 733-850.

Period, the Company proposed a normalization adjustment which utilizes averaging four years of historical overhaul expense. My direct testimony supports this calculation and restates historical expenses to today's dollars.<sup>4</sup> This restatement is done prior to averaging the expenses and ensures the Company adequately recovers prudently incurred expenses.

- 73 Q. Does the Company support Dr. Powell's rebuttal position as it relates to 74 generation overhaul expense?
- 75 Yes. Dr. Powell provides direct and rebuttal testimony on the importance of A. 76 averaging historical expenses using constant dollars. The Company agrees with his 77 testimony and supports his position on this issue.
- Please describe the adjustment proposed by DPU's Mr. Smith regarding 78 Q. 79 depreciation on the retired wind assets from repowering.
- 80 Mr. Smith has adopted an adjustment proposed in the direct testimony of UAE A. 81 witness Mr. Higgins. Specifically, Mr. Smith proposes to continue to credit customers 82 (through accumulated depreciation) for the depreciation expense on the retired wind assets from their retirement date through the rate effective date of this case.<sup>5</sup> 83

#### Q. Does the Company accept Mr. Smith's proposed adjustment?

85 No. As I stated in greater depth in my rebuttal testimony, to isolate the financial A. 86 implications of retirements with no consideration of the new wind assets placed in-87 service is incomplete as it only considers a single-item within the overall transaction. 88 Additionally, customers are receiving a benefit of greater accumulated depreciation 89 through the depreciation expense recorded for the new wind assets placed in-service

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Rebuttal Testimony of Steven R. McDougal at lines 851-887.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Rebuttal Testimony of Gary L. Smith at lines 26-32.

as a result of the retirements. Including this benefit twice would result in a doublecount and is simply wrong.

#### Q. Would you like to address anything else in regards to the retired wind assets?

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Yes. Mr. Higgins provided rebuttal testimony opposing a shorter recovery of the retired wind assets as proposed in the direct testimony of Mr. Smith.<sup>6</sup> While I also opposed the shorter recovery period of these assets in my rebuttal testimony, I would like to reaffirm that my position on this issue was simply to help mitigate rate pressure for Utah customers. As long as the Company is allowed to earn a fair return on the retired wind assets the Company agrees with Mr. Higgins' rebuttal approach to this issue. If the Commission were to adopt a return less than the Company's cost of capital on the wind assets, as proposed in the direct testimony of Mr. Higgins, the Company then believes customers should pay off the assets in an expedited manner to reduce the harm related to the unfair return.

### Q. Does the Company have a position on the continuation of the RBA?

No. OCS witness Ms. Donna Ramas proposed potential elimination of the RBA and adoption of a deferral account that would track differences between base REC revenues and actual REC revenues. The proposed deferral account would be calculated similar to the current RBA. Ms. Salter's rebuttal testimony states that the Division does not oppose the OCS's recommendation to discontinue the RBA after the 2020 RBA period but raises a few points for consideration—including a discussion that a multi-year deferral in a future general rate case compounds the possibility of errors and concern for intergenerational inequity.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Rebuttal Testimony of Kevin C. Higgins at line 41.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Direct Testimony of Donna Ramas at lines 269-287.

Q. Please address the Division's concerns with respect to the possibility of errors and the intergenerational inequity that it claims could result from a multi-year recovery.

The Company believes that both of these issues can be adequately mitigated. First, the Company can provide an annual report to track the REC revenue deferral balances and the Division can still conduct an annual audit of the deferral. However, the Company's past RBA filings demonstrate the accuracy of the Company's calculations, so concerns that a multi-year review in a general rate case or other proceeding compounds the risk of error are small and unlikely. Second, Company witness Ms. Joelle R. Steward noted in her rebuttal testimony that the Company recommends retaining the flexibility to address ratemaking for the deferral account outside of a general rate case.<sup>8</sup> In the event that the balance is significant or if parties have a concern about intergenerational equity in between rate cases, parties would be able to propose a specific rate treatment.

Q. What are the DPU's recommendations with respect to the Company's AMI project?

DPU witness Mr. Eric Orton recommends removing the AMI project from the revenue requirement because he claims it will not provide benefits to customers in the test period. Mr. Orton states that the Division is not intending to send the message that AMI should not be allowed, but suggests that the Company could request recovery in other venues such as a Major Plant Additions filing or a future general rate case.

<sup>8</sup> Rebuttal Testimony of Joelle R. Steward at lines 338-347.

Page 6 – Surrebuttal Testimony of Steven R. McDougal

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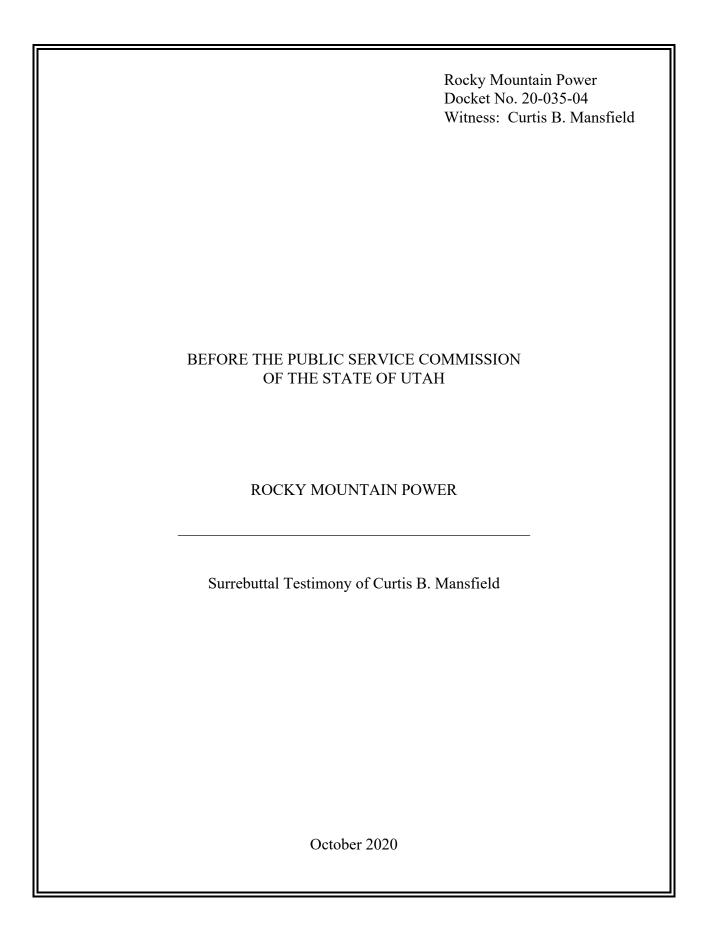
134	Q.	How does the Company respond to Mr. Orton's recommendations?
135	A.	Company witness Mr. Curtis B. Mansfield responds to the majority of Mr. Orton's
136		arguments. My testimony addresses Mr. Orton's claim that the Company has other
137		means to obtain recovery.
138	Q.	Could the Company request recovery of the AMI project through the Major
139		Plant Addition statute?9
140	A.	No. The statute requires the plant in service to be at least 1 percent of Utah's rate base
141		and in service within 18 months of the date of a Commission order in a general rate
142		case. Since the Company began placing this project into service in 2018 and
143		\$46.8 million will be placed into service during the test period of this case, it does not
144		meet either of the requirements to be considered under Utah's Major Plant Addition
145		statute.
146	Q.	How do you respond to Mr. Orton's claim that the Company could "simply file a
147		general rate case"?
148	A.	Filing another rate case would not provide cost recovery for assets placed in service
149		during the test period in this case, and would not allow the Company the opportunity
150		to earn a fair return on prudently incurred capital costs. Also, absent other reasons to
151		file a general rate case, filing a general rate case solely to obtain approval for a single
152		capital addition project would be administratively wasteful and not in the best interest
153		of customers or stakeholders.
154	Q.	Does this conclude your surrebuttal testimony?

<sup>9</sup> Utah Code §54-7-13.4.

Yes.

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A.



1	Q.	Are you the same Curtis B. Mansfield that filed direct testimony and rebuttal
2		testimony in the revenue requirement and cost of service phases on behalf of
3		PacifiCorp d/b/a Rocky Mountain Power ("Rocky Mountain Power" or
4		the "Company") in this proceeding?
5	A.	Yes.
6		I. PURPOSE OF SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY
7	Q.	What is the purpose of your surrebuttal testimony in this phase of the proceeding?
8	A.	The purpose of my testimony is to respond to issues raised by Division of Public
9		Utilities ("DPU") witness Mr. Eric Orton with respect to the Utah Advanced Meter
10		Infrastructure ("AMI") Project in his rebuttal testimony in the revenue requirement
11		phase of this proceeding.
12	Q.	Did other intervening witnesses present recommendations in this general rate case
13		with regards to the AMI project?
14	A.	Yes. In addition to the arguments raised in the revenue requirement phase by Office of
15		Consumer Services ("OCS") witness Donna Ramas in direct testimony and Mr. Orton
16		in rebuttal testimony, OCS witness Mr. Ron Nelson presented additional
17		recommendations and arguments on the AMI project in his direct testimony filed in the
18		cost of service and pricing phase on September 15, 2020. I responded to his
19		recommendations in my rebuttal testimony filed on October 16, 2020 in the cost of
20		service and pricing phase. In addition, Western Resource Advocates witness Mr.
21		Douglas J. Howe and Utah Clean Energy witness Ms. Sarah Wright also responded to
22		Mr. Nelson's recommendation in rebuttal testimony in the cost of service and pricing
23		phase. For consistency, I will address the rebuttal testimonies of Mr. Howe and Ms.
24		Wright in my surrebuttal testimony in the cost of service and pricing phase of this

proceeding. This testimony will focus solely on issues raised by parties in the revenue 25 requirement phase. 26 II. AMI PROJECT 27 What does the DPU propose with respect to the AMI project? 28 Q. Mr. Orton supports and adopts the adjustment<sup>1</sup> proposed by OCS witness Ms. Donna 29 A. Ramas<sup>2</sup> to completely remove the AMI project from the test period revenue 30 31 requirement in this case because the project has been delayed and is now anticipated to be completed after the end of the test period. Mr. Orton further states that by supporting 32 33 Ms. Ramas' adjustment, the DPU is not intending to send a message that it is opposed to the Company investing in AMI.<sup>3</sup> 34 What arguments does Mr. Orton present in support of Ms. Ramas's proposal to 35 Q. 36 remove the project from the revenue requirement? 37 In support for removing the project from the request in this case, Mr. Orton cites the A. following reasons: 38 The AMI project will not provide any customer benefits in the test 39 1. period.4 40 The AMI project is "not necessary" and its timing is "movable."<sup>5</sup> 41 2. The Company will only invest in the AMI project if funding is provided 3. 42 in advance.6 43

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Rebuttal Testimony of Eric Orton at line 10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Direct Testimony of Donna Ramas at lines 973-1135.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Rebuttal Testimony of Eric Orton at lines 84-92.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> *Id.* at lines 31-35.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> *Id.* at lines 48-66.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> *Id.* at lines 75-77.

44 4. The Company can gain approval through other avenues such as through a Major Plant Addition case or a future general rate case.<sup>7</sup> 45 My surrebuttal testimony responds to the first three arguments. Mr. McDougal will 46 47 address the fourth argument in his surrebuttal testimony and will explain why 48 Mr. Orton's examples for future regulatory recovery are not realistic. 49 AMI Test Period Benefits 50 0. Does the Company agree with Mr. Orton that the AMI project should not be 51 included in this case because it does not provide any benefits to customers in the 52 test period? 53 No. As explained in my rebuttal testimony in the revenue requirement phase, the A. 54 Company expects the AMI project to be completed by the end of 2022. However, as shown in Exhibit RMP (CBM-2R), the Company expects to have invested 55 56 approximately \$46.8 million into AMI equipment that will be in service in the test 57 period, with the IT infrastructure and field network substantially complete. The entire 58 project does not need to be complete before the assets that have been placed into 59 service are used and useful. Significantly, the Company has been making this 60 investment since 2018 and numerous meters will be operational in the field by the end 61 of 2021. The AMI program provides both financial and customer service benefits. 62 The customer service benefits begin on installation while the financial benefits will 63 phase in as the project expands and becomes fully operational. While it is true that full completion of the project will allow all of the benefits 64 65 to be available, Mr. Orton provides no evidence to support his position that the

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at lines 87-90.

Company should be denied recovery of its costs invested for meters that have already been placed into service, nor why the amounts that are forecast to be placed into service prior to the end of the 2021 test period should not be placed into rates.

#### AMI Necessity and Timing

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## Q. Please address Mr. Orton's statement that "the AMI project is movable, not immediately necessary and can be funded at the Company's discretion."8

Mr. Orton makes his statement based on a project delay caused by two extenuating circumstances: 1) a need to ensure the AMI system will adhere to the Company's stringent cybersecurity requirements to protect both customer and company data; and, 2) changing the headend and network solutions to employ Itron's 2018 Silver Springs acquisition Gen5 technology platform for the field network. This is the same technology used in the Pacific Power AMI deployment and eliminates duplicative functions and provides long term operational savings. Mr. Orton is correct that the AMI project, like any technology related project, is movable. The Company made a decision in 2006 to delay AMI, in favor of the more cost-effective automated meter reading solution, until it became an economically responsible investment for our customers. However, his statement that it is "not immediately necessary and can be funded at the Company's discretion" demonstrates an indifference to providing cost effective and beneficial solutions that provide long term and expandable benefits to the electric customers in the state.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* at lines 61-63

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> *Id.* at lines 65-66.

Q. Mr. Orton also states that the timing of the project "appears to show that it may 86 87 be that the Company will only invest in this project if ratepayers first provide the funding – beginning in the future." <sup>10</sup> Do you agree? 88 No. The Company is committed to this project, is prudently managing operational 89 A. 90 benefits and customer enhancements, and is assessing leveraging future program 91 opportunities. The Company has invested over 25 percent of the project cost to date. The Company has also completed contracts with suppliers to ensure full completion by 92 93 the end of 2022. Does this conclude your surrebuttal testimony? 94 Q.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* at lines 75-76.

Page 5 - Surrebuttal Testimony of Curtis B. Mansfield

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Yes.

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Docket No. 20-035-04

I hereby certify that on October 29, 2020, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail and/or overnight delivery to the following:

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