

**Utah Alliance for Economic Development
P.O. Box 95624
South Jordan, Utah 84095-0624**

November 30, 2005

Public Service Commission of Utah
400 Heber M. Wells Building
160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Re: Docket No. 05-035-54, Sale of PacifiCorp

Dear Commissioners:

The Utah Alliance for Economic Development supports the acquisition of PacifiCorp by MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company (MEHC). The Utah Alliance is comprised of economic development professionals from both the public and private sectors who work to strengthen Utah's business climate and expand the economic base of cities and counties throughout the state. We believe the proposed transaction will benefit Utah communities in a number of ways.

PacifiCorp/Utah Power has been an active partner in economic development efforts for many years. The company works with communities to build economic capacity through a variety of services including technical assistance, strategic planning, assessment of infrastructure needs for industrial site development, etc. As a critical infrastructure provider, Utah Power is also an important partner in state, city and county business recruitment efforts. Utah Power's rates are a prime factor in many site selection decisions by industry looking to start or re-locate operations in Utah.

The proposed MEHC acquisition comes at a time of economic expansion. While PacifiCorp has made sizeable capital investments in infrastructure in the past few years, rapid growth has stretched capacity in many areas. MEHC's pledge to spend \$1 billion a year in capital improvements for the next five years will give PacifiCorp access to capital resources necessary to meet growing infrastructure needs. Based on published reports about MEHC's investment and operating strategy, we believe the acquisition will enable Utah Power to retain its competitive rate position in the face of significant future system investment needs. As economic development professionals, we believe it is important to have a robust electric utility system in terms of both infrastructure and rates.

Reliability, good customer service and community involvement are also vital to the state's economic development community. MEHC ranked first place in its region for residential, commercial and industrial customer satisfaction last year, while its economic development activities are also highly regarded. We have appreciated Utah Power's economic development assistance and expect it will draw on MECH's experience to maximize the effectiveness of those efforts.

We encourage the Utah Public Service Commission to approve the MECH/PacifiCorp transaction. It will be good for Utah customers and good for Utah's economic development climate.

Sincerely,

Scott Hirschi
President
Utah Alliance for Economic Development