

1 **Q. Please state your name, business address and present position with**  
2 **PacifiCorp (the Company).**

3 A. My name is Mark Widmer, my business address is 825 N.E. Multnomah, Suite  
4 800, Portland, Oregon 97232, and my present title is Director, Net Power Costs.

5 **Qualifications**

6 **Q. Briefly describe your education and business experience.**

7 A. I received an undergraduate degree in Business Administration from Oregon State  
8 University. I have worked for PacifiCorp since 1980 and have held various  
9 positions in the power supply and regulatory areas. I was promoted to my present  
10 position in September 2004.

11 **Q. Please describe your current duties.**

12 A. I am responsible for the coordination and preparation of net power cost and  
13 related analyses used in retail price filings and the Multi-State Process (MSP). In  
14 addition, I represent the Company on power resource and other various issues  
15 with intervener and regulatory groups associated with the six state regulatory  
16 commissions which have jurisdiction over the Company.

17 **Summary of Testimony**

18 **Q. Will you please summarize your testimony?**

19 A. I present the Company's proposed net power costs. In addition, my testimony:  
20 • Describes the Company's production cost model, the Generation and  
21 Regulation Initiatives Decision Tools (GRID) model, which is used to  
22 calculate net power costs;

- 23           • Provides information on how input data is normalized in GRID and the  
24           rationale for doing so; and
- 25           • Describes the VISTA hydro model.

26   **Net Power Cost Results**

27   **Q.    What are the proposed forecast normalized net power costs?**

28   A.    The proposed net power costs for the 12 months ended September 30, 2007 are  
29        approximately \$811 million total Company. In comparison, actual results for the  
30        twelve-month period ending December 31, 2005, are approximately \$783 million.

31   **Q.    How do these compare with the level currently included in rates?**

32   A.    The last case was settled with no specific finding on net power costs. Proposed  
33        net power costs are approximately \$65 million higher than the \$745 million  
34        requested in Docket No 04-035-42. The largest drivers for the cost increase are:

- 35           • Lower gas prices decreased net power costs by \$49 million,
- 36           • Higher coal prices increased net power costs by \$69 million,
- 37           • Higher market prices increased net power cost by \$43 million,
- 38           • The inclusion of the Lakeside project decreased net power cost by \$10  
39           million,
- 40           • The inclusion of Phase II of the Currant Creek project decreased net power  
41           cost by \$26 million,
- 42           • And higher retail loads increased net power cost by \$35 million.

43   **Q.    Do the proposed net power costs reflect new thermal plant that is expected to  
44        be placed in service through the test period?**

45   A.    Yes. Net Power costs reflect the addition of the Lakeside CCCT facility which is

46 expected to be in-service by May 2007. Net power costs also reflect the full  
47 inclusion of the Currant Creek combined cycle combustion turbine. In our filing  
48 in Docket No. 04-035-42 Currant Creek was not included for the entire year.

49 **Determination of Net Power Costs**

50 **Q. Please explain net power costs.**

51 A. Net power costs are defined as the sum of fuel expenses, wholesale purchase  
52 power expenses and wheeling expenses, less wholesale sales revenue.

53 **Q. Were proposed net power costs developed with the same production dispatch  
54 model used in the Company's last Utah filing?**

55 A. Yes, with one exception. The Company's proposed net power costs were  
56 developed using Release 5.2/5.3 of the GRID model. In the last Utah general rate  
57 case (Docket No. 04-035-42), the Company used GRID Release 2.3. There was  
58 one release between 2.3 and 5.3.

59 GRID Release 5.1 does the following:

- 60 • Provides greater precision in following the load for shape to load
- 61 resources
- 62 • Provides greater precision in respecting hydro ramp rate, reserve
- 63 carrying capability, and maximum flow capability
- 64 • Provides an additional diagnostic report

65  
66 GRID Release 5.2/5.3 does the following:

- 67 • Provide greater precision in commitment logic
- 68 • Provide enhanced functionality for greater analyst efficiency

69  
70 **Q. With the exception of normal updates, are there any significant changes in  
71 the inputs to the model?**

72 A. Yes, there is a change to the normalization of the hydro inputs, which I describe  
73 in more detail later in my testimony.

74 **Q. Please explain how the Company calculated net power costs.**

75 A. As noted above, net power costs are calculated using the GRID model. For each  
76 hour in the test period, the model simulates the operation of the power supply  
77 portion of the Company under three streamflow conditions. The results obtained  
78 from the streamflow conditions are averaged and the appropriate cost data is  
79 applied to determine an expected net power cost under normal streamflow and  
80 weather conditions for the test period.

81 **Q. Please explain how GRID operates to project net power costs.**

82 A. I have divided the description of the power cost model into three sections, as  
83 shown below:

- 84 • The model used to calculate net power costs.
- 85 • The model inputs.
- 86 • The model output.

#### 87 **The GRID Model**

88 **Q. Please describe the GRID model.**

89 A. The GRID model is the Company's hourly production dispatch model, which is  
90 used to calculate net power costs. It is a server-based application that uses the  
91 following high-level technical architecture to calculate net power costs:

- 92 • An Oracle-based data repository for storage of all inputs
- 93 • A Java-based software engine for algorithm and optimization  
94 processing
- 95 • Outputs that are exported in Excel readable format
- 96 • A web browser-based user interface

97 **Q. Please describe the methodology employed to calculate net power costs in this**  
98 **docket.**

99 A. Net power costs are calculated hourly using the GRID model. The general steps  
100 are as follows:

101 1. Determine the input information for the calculation, including retail load,  
102 wholesale contracts, market prices, thermal and hydro generation capability,  
103 fuel costs, transmission capability and expenses

104 2. The model calculates the following pre-dispatch information:

- 105 • Thermal availability
- 106 • Thermal commitment
- 107 • Hydro shaping and dispatch
- 108 • Energy take of long term firm contracts
- 109 • Energy take of short term firm contracts
- 110 • Reserve requirement and allocation between hydro and thermal  
111 resources

112 3. The model determines the following information in the Dispatch  
113 (optimization) logic, based on resources, including contracts, from the pre-  
114 dispatch logic:

- 115 • Optimal thermal generation levels, and fuel expenses
- 116 • Expenses (revenues) from firm purchase (sales) contracts
- 117 • System balancing market purchases and sales necessary to balance and  
118 optimize the system and net power costs taking into account the  
119 constraints of the Company's system

- 120                   • Expenses for purchasing additional transmission capability
- 121           4. Model outputs are used to calculate net power costs on a total Company basis,
- 122                   incorporating expenses (revenues) of purchase (sales) contracts that are
- 123                   independent of dispatched contracts, which are determined in step 3.

124           The main processors of the GRID model are steps 2 and 3.

125   **Q.   Please describe in general terms, the purposes of the Pre-dispatch and**

126   **Dispatch processes.**

127   A.   The Dispatch logic is a linear program (LP) optimization module, which

128           determines how the available thermal resources should be dispatched given load

129           requirements, transmission constraints and market conditions, and whether market

130           purchases (sales) should be made to balance the system. In addition, if market

131           conditions allow, market purchases may be used to displace more expensive

132           thermal generation. At the same time, market sales may be made either from

133           excess resources or market purchases if it is economical to do so under market

134           and transmission constraints.

135   **Q.   Does the Pre-dispatch logic provide thermal availability and system energy**

136   **requirements for the Dispatch logic?**

137   A.   Yes. Pre-dispatch, which occurs before the Dispatch logic, calculates the

138           availability of thermal generation, dispatches hydro generation, schedules firm

139           wholesale contracts, and determines the reserve requirement of the Company's

140           system. In my following testimony, I'll describe each of these calculations in

141           more detail.

142 **Generating Resources in Pre-Dispatch**

143 **Q. Please describe how the GRID model determines thermal availability and**  
144 **commitment.**

145 A. The Pre-dispatch logic reads the input regarding thermal generation by unit, such  
146 as nameplate capacity, normalized outage and maintenance schedules, and  
147 calculates the available capacity of each unit for each hour. The model then  
148 determines the hourly commitment status of thermal units based on planned  
149 outage schedules, and a comparison of operating cost vs. market price if the unit  
150 is capable of cycling up or down in a short period of time. The commitment  
151 status of a unit indicates whether it is economical to bring that unit online in that  
152 particular hour. The availability of thermal units and their commitment status are  
153 used in the Dispatch logic to determine how much may be generated each hour by  
154 each unit.

155 **Q. How does the model shape and dispatch hydro generation?**

156 A. In the Pre-dispatch logic, the Company's available hydro generation from each  
157 non-run of river project is shaped and dispatched by hour within each week in  
158 order to maximize usage during peak load hours. The weekly shape of a non-run  
159 of river project is based on the net system load. The dispatch logic incorporates  
160 minimum and maximum flow for the project to account for hydro license  
161 constraints. The dispatch of the generation is flat in all hours of the month for run  
162 of river projects. The hourly dispatched hydro generation is used in the Dispatch  
163 logic to determine energy requirements for thermal generation and system  
164 balancing transactions.

165 **Wholesale Contracts in Pre-Dispatch**

166 **Q. Does the model distinguish between short-term firm and long-term firm**  
167 **wholesale contracts in the Pre-dispatch logic?**

168 A. Yes. Short-term firm contracts are block energy transactions with standard terms  
169 and a term of one year or less in length. In contrast, many of the Company's long-  
170 term firm and intermediate-term firm contracts have non-standard terms that  
171 provide different levels of flexibility. For modeling purposes, long-term firm  
172 contracts are categorized as one of the following archetypes based on contract  
173 terms:

- 174 • Energy Limited (shape to price or load): The energy take of these  
175 contracts have minimum and maximum load factors. The complexities  
176 can include shaping (hourly, annual), exchange agreements, and call/put  
177 optionality.
- 178 • Generator Flat: The energy take of these contracts is tied to specific  
179 generators and is the same in all hours, which takes into consideration  
180 plant down time. There is no optionality in these contracts.
- 181 • Fixed Pattern: These contracts have a fixed energy take in all hours of a  
182 period.
- 183 • Complex: The energy take of one component of a complex contract is tied  
184 to the energy take of another component in the contract or the load and  
185 resource balances of the contract counter party.
- 186 • Contracted Reserves: These contracts do not take energy. The available  
187 capacity is used in the operating reserve calculation.



188           • Financial: These contracts are place holders for capturing fixed cost or  
189           revenue. They do not take energy.

190           In the Pre-dispatch logic, long-term firm purchase and sales contracts are  
191           dispatched per the specific algorithms designed for their archetype.

192   **Q.    Are there any exceptions regarding the procedures just discussed for**  
193   **dispatch of short-term firm or long-term firm contracts?**

194   **A.**    Yes. Whether a wholesale contract is identified as long-term firm is entirely based  
195           on the length of its term. Consistent with previous treatment, the Company  
196           identifies contracts with terms greater than one year by name. Short-term firm  
197           contracts are grouped by delivery point. If a short-term firm contract has  
198           flexibility as described for long-term firm contracts, it will be dispatched using the  
199           appropriate archetype and listed individually with the long-term contracts. Hourly  
200           contract energy dispatch is used in the Dispatch logic to determine the  
201           requirements for thermal generation and system balancing transactions.

202   **Reserve Requirement in Pre-Dispatch**

203   **Q.    Please describe the reserve requirement for the Company's system.**

204   **A.**    The Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) and the North American  
205           Electric Reliability Council (NERC) set the standards for reserves. All companies  
206           with generation are required to maintain Operating Reserves, which comprise two  
207           components – Regulating Reserve and Contingency Reserve. The Company must  
208           carry contingency reserves to meet its most severe single contingency (MSSC) or  
209           5 percent for operating hydro and wind resources and 7 percent for operating  
210           thermal resources, whichever is greater. A minimum of one-half of these reserves

211 must be spinning. Units that hold spinning reserves are units that are under  
212 control of the control area. The remainder (ready reserves) must be available  
213 within a 10-minute period. NERC and WECC require companies with generation  
214 to carry spinning reserves to protect the WECC system from cascading loss of  
215 generation or transmission lines, uncontrolled separation, and interruption of  
216 customer service.

217 Regulating Reserve is an amount of Spinning Reserve immediately  
218 responsive to automatic generation control (AGC) to provide sufficient regulating  
219 margin to allow the control area to meet NERC's Control Performance Criteria.

220 **Q. How does the model implement the operating reserve requirement?**

221 A. The model calculates operating reserve requirements (both regulating reserve and  
222 contingency reserve) for the Company's East and West control areas. The total  
223 contingency reserve requirement is 5 percent of dispatched hydro and wind, plus  
224 7 percent of committed available thermal resources for the hour, which includes  
225 both Company-owned resources and long-term firm purchase and sales contracts  
226 that contribute to the reserve requirement. Spinning reserve is one half of the total  
227 contingency reserve requirement. In GRID, regulating margin is added to the  
228 spinning reserve requirement. Regulating margin is the same in nature as spinning  
229 reserve but it is used for following changes in net system load within the hour.

230 **Q. How does the model satisfy reserve requirements?**

231 A. Reserves are met first with unused hydro capability, then by backing down thermal  
232 units on a descending variable cost basis. Spinning reserve is satisfied before the  
233 ready reserve requirement. For each control area, spinning reserve requirement is

234 fulfilled using hydro resources and thermal units that are equipped with governor  
235 control. The ready reserve requirement is met using purchase contracts for  
236 operating reserves, uncommitted quick start units, the remaining unused hydro  
237 capability, and by backing down thermal units. The allocated hourly operating  
238 reserve requirement to the generating units is used in the Dispatch logic to  
239 determine the energy available from the resources and the level of the system  
240 balancing market transactions.

241 **Q. What is an “uncommitted quick start unit”?**

242 A. As noted above, ready reserves must be available within a 10-minute period. A  
243 quick start unit is a unit that can be synchronized with the transmission grid and  
244 can be at capacity within the 10-minute requirement. If a gas supply is available  
245 and the units are not otherwise dispatched, the Gadsby CT units and the West  
246 Valley units meet this requirement.

247 **Q. Are the operating reserves for the two control areas independent of each  
248 other?**

249 A. Yes, with one exception for spinning reserves and one exception for ready  
250 reserves. The dynamic overlay component of the Revised Transmission Services  
251 Agreement with Idaho Power allows the Company to utilize the reserve capability  
252 of the Company’s West side hydro system in the East side control area. Up to  
253 100 MW of East control area spinning reserves can be met from resources in the  
254 West control area.

255 If the Company leaves transmission open between the East control area  
256 and the West control area, ready reserves may be held in the West control area for

257 the East control area. The model inputs specify that 100 MW of the Path “C”  
258 capability is left open and 100 MW of East side ready reserves is carried in the  
259 West side. The premise is that the West control area can call upon 100 MW of its  
260 reserve and 100 MW of Jim Bridger generation can be rescheduled to Path “C”  
261 within the ten-minute window to qualify for ready reserve.

262 **Q. What is the impact of reserve requirement on resource generating**  
263 **capability?**

264 A. There is no impact on hydro generation, since the amount of reserves allocated to  
265 hydro resources is based on the difference between their maximum dependable  
266 capability and the dispatched energy. However, if a thermal unit is designated to  
267 hold reserves, its hourly generation will be limited to no more than its capability  
268 minus the amount of reserves it is holding.

269 **GRID Model Inputs**

270 **Q. Please explain the inputs that go into the model.**

271 A. As mentioned above, inputs used in GRID include retail loads, thermal plant data,  
272 hydroelectric generation data, firm wholesale sales, firm wholesale purchases,  
273 firm wheeling expenses, system balancing wholesale sales and purchase market  
274 data, and transmission constraints.

275 **Q. Please describe the retail load that is used in the model.**

276 A. The retail load represents the forecasted hourly firm retail load that the Company  
277 serves within all of its jurisdictions for the twelve-month period ending  
278 September 30, 2007. This load is modeled based on the location of the load and

279 transmission constraints between generation resources to load centers. Mr. Reed  
280 Davis is the Company's witness on retail loads.

281 **Q. Please describe the thermal plant inputs.**

282 A. The amount of energy available from each thermal unit and the unit cost of the  
283 energy are needed to calculate net power costs. To determine the amount of  
284 energy available, the Company averages for each unit four years of historical  
285 outage rates and maintenance. The heat rate for each unit is determined by using  
286 a four-year average of historical burn rate data. By using four-year averages to  
287 calculate outages, maintenance and heat rate data, annual fluctuations in unit  
288 operation and performance are smoothed. For this particular filing, the 48-month  
289 period ending September 2005 is used. Other thermal plant data includes unit  
290 capacity, minimum generation level, minimum up/down time, fuel cost, and  
291 startup cost.

292 **Q. Are there any exceptions to the four-year average calculation?**

293 A. Yes. Some plants have not been in service for the entire four year period. For  
294 those plants, the Company uses the manufacturer's expected value for the missing  
295 months to produce a weighted average value of the known and theoretical rates.

296 **Q. Please describe the hydroelectric generation input data.**

297 A. The Company uses the output from the VISTA hydro regulation model for  
298 GRID's hydroelectric generation input data. As stated earlier, the Company has  
299 modified the normalization of its hydro data. The Company uses three sets of  
300 expected generation from VISTA rather than the nineteen sets that the Company

301 used in Docket 04-035-42. The VISTA model is described in more detail later in  
302 my testimony.

303 **Q. Why did the Company move to the three sets of expected generation.**

304 A. There are several reasons for using three exceedence levels versus nineteen  
305 exceedence levels. The Company agrees with interveners' position in prior cases  
306 that the nineteen exceedence levels placed too much emphasis on the extreme  
307 case, which results in a little higher net power cost. Internally the Company uses  
308 the exceedence levels (wet, median, dry) in its planning activities. And, there is a  
309 significant reduction in model run time using three exceedence levels versus  
310 nineteen exceedence levels.

311 **Q. Does the Company use other hydro generation inputs?**

312 A. Yes. Other parameters for the hydro generation logic include maximum  
313 capability, minimum run requirements, ramping restrictions, shaping capability,  
314 and reserve carrying capability of the projects.

315 **Q. Please describe the input data for firm wholesale sales and purchases.**

316 A. The data for firm wholesale sales and purchases are based on contracts to which  
317 the Company is a party. Each contract specifies the basis for quantity and price.  
318 The contract may specify an exact quantity of capacity and energy or a range  
319 bounded by a maximum and minimum amount, or it may be based on the actual  
320 operation of a specific facility. Prices may also be specifically stated, may refer  
321 to a rate schedule or a market index (such as California Oregon Border (COB),  
322 Mid-Columbia (Mid-C) or Palo Verde (PV)), or may be based on some type of  
323 formula. The long-term firm contracts are modeled individually, and the short-

324 term firm contracts are grouped based on general delivery points. The contracts  
325 with flexibility are dispatched against hourly market prices so that they are  
326 optimized from the point of view of the holder of the call/put.

327 **Q. Please describe the input data for wheeling expenses and transmission**  
328 **capability.**

329 A. Firm wheeling expense is based on the wheeling expense for the 12 month  
330 historic period ending September 2006, adjusted for known contract changes in  
331 the forecast period. Firm transmission rights between transmission areas in the  
332 GRID topology are based on PacifiCorp's Merchant Function contracts with  
333 PacifiCorp's Transmission Function and contracts with other parties. The limited  
334 additional transmission to which the Company may have access is based on the  
335 experience of the Company's Commercial and Trading Department. An example  
336 would be the day ahead firm transmission that the Company historically  
337 purchases on Path "C."

338 **Q. Please describe the system balancing wholesale sales and purchase input**  
339 **assumptions.**

340 A. The GRID model uses four liquid market points to balance and optimize the  
341 system. The four wholesale markets are at Mid-C, COB, Four Corners, and PV.  
342 Subject to the constraints of the system and the economics of potential  
343 transactions, the model makes both system balancing sales and purchases at these  
344 markets. The input data regarding wholesale markets include market price and  
345 market size.

346

347 **What market prices are used in the net power cost calculation?**

348 A. The market prices for the system balancing wholesale sales and purchases at four  
349 liquid markets are from the Company's December 31, 2005 Official Forward  
350 Price Forecast shaped into hourly prices. The market price hourly scalars are  
351 developed by the Company's Commercial and Trading Department based on  
352 historical hourly data since 1996. Separate scalars are developed for on-peak and  
353 off-peak periods and for different market hubs to correspond to the categories of  
354 the monthly forward prices. Before the determination of the scalar, the historical  
355 hourly data are adjusted to synchronize the weekdays, weekends and holidays,  
356 and to remove extreme high and low historical prices. As such, the scalars  
357 represent the expected relative hourly price to the average price forecast for a  
358 month. The hourly prices for the test period are then calculated as the product of  
359 the scalar for the hour and the corresponding monthly price.

360 **Normalization**

361 **Q. Please explain what is meant by normalization and how it applies to the**  
362 **production cost model for future test years.**

363 A. For future test years, normalization of input data for the production cost model is  
364 primarily limited to hydro data. Owned and purchased hydroelectric generation is  
365 normalized by running the production cost model for each of the 3 different sets  
366 of hydro generation (wet, medium, dry). The resultant 3 sets of thermal  
367 generation, system balancing sales and purchases, and hydroelectric generation  
368 are then averaged. As previously explained, normalized thermal availability is  
369 based on a four-year average.



370 **Q. Please explain why the regulatory commissions and the utilities of the Pacific**  
371 **Northwest have adopted the use of production cost studies that employ**  
372 **historical water conditions for normalization.**

373 A. In any hydroelectric-oriented utility system, water supply is one of the major  
374 variables affecting power supply. The operation of the thermal electric resources,  
375 both within and outside the Pacific Northwest, is directly affected by water  
376 conditions within the Pacific Northwest. During periods when the streamflows are  
377 at their lowest, it is necessary for utilities to operate their thermal electric resources  
378 at a higher level or purchase more from the market, thereby experiencing relatively  
379 high operating expenses. Conversely, under conditions of high streamflows,  
380 excess hydroelectric production may be used to reduce generation at the more  
381 expensive thermal electric plants, which in turn results in lower operating expenses  
382 for some utilities and an increase in the revenues of other utilities, or any  
383 combination thereof. No one water condition can be used to simulate all the  
384 variables that are met under normal operating conditions. Utilities and regulatory  
385 commissions have therefore adopted production cost analyses that simulate the  
386 operation of the entire system using historical water conditions, as being  
387 representative of what can reasonably be expected to occur under normal  
388 conditions.

389 **VISTA Model**

390 **Q. What is the VISTA model?**

391 A. The Company uses the VISTA Decision Support System (DSS) developed by  
392 Synexus Global of Niagara Falls, Canada as its hydro optimization model. The

393 VISTA model is designed to maximize the value of the hydroelectric resources  
394 for ratemaking purposes by optimizing the operation of hydroelectric facilities  
395 against a projected stream of market prices. VISTA uses an hourly linear  
396 program to define the system configuration and the environmental, political, and  
397 biological requirements for that system. The input to the VISTA model is  
398 historical streamflow data, plant/storage characteristics, license requirements, and  
399 market prices. The output of the VISTA model is the expected generation subject  
400 to the constraints described above.

401 **Q. Is this the same hydro model used in the last rate case?**

402 A. Yes. The VISTA model was used by the Company in Docket 04-035-42. VISTA  
403 has also been used in other general rates case as follows:

- 404 • California general rate case (Docket A05-11-022)
- 405 • Oregon general rate case (Docket No. UE170);
- 406 • Idaho general rate case (Docket No. PAC-E-05-1);
- 407 • Washington general rate case (Docket Nos. UE-050684/UW-050412,  
408 currently pending); and
- 409 • Wyoming general rate case (Docket 20000-ER-03-198).

410 **Q. Does the Company's use of the VISTA model in this general rate case differ**  
411 **from its use in other Company activities?**

412 A. No. The physical project data, constraint description, and historical streamflows  
413 used in the VISTA model in the preparation of hydro generation proposed for use  
414 in this filing are exactly the same data used by the Company's Operations  
415 Planning Group for short term planning, the Company's IRP process, and the

416 filings listed above.

417 **Q. Do other utilities use the VISTA DSS model?**

418 A. The VISTA DSS model is used by a growing number of other energy companies  
419 including BPA.

420 **Q. In previous cases, hydroelectric generation was normalized by using**  
421 **historical water data. Is that still true with the VISTA model?**

422 A. Yes. The period of historical data varies by plant. As explained later in my  
423 testimony, the Mid-Columbia projects use seventy adjusted water years beginning  
424 with water year 1928/29. The Company's large plant data begins in the 1958-1963  
425 range. The Company's small plant data begins in the 1978-1989 range.

426 **Q. Please describe the VISTA model inputs.**

427 A. The VISTA input data come from a variety of sources, which are separated into  
428 the following three groups: Company-owned plants without operable storage,  
429 Company-owned plants with operable storage, and Mid-Columbia contracts.

430 The Company owns a large number of small hydroelectric plants scattered  
431 across its system. These projects have no appreciable storage ponds and are  
432 operated as Run-of-River projects; *i.e.*, flow in equals flow out. For these plants  
433 "normalized generation" is based on a statistical evaluation of historical  
434 generation adjusted for scheduled maintenance.

435 The Company's larger projects (Lewis River, Klamath River, and Umpqua  
436 River) have a range of possible generation that can be modified operationally by  
437 effective use of storage reservoirs. For these projects, the Company feeds the  
438 historical streamflow data through its optimization model, VISTA, to create a set

439 of generation possibilities that reflect the current capability of the physical plant,  
440 the operating requirements of the current license agreements, as well as the  
441 current energy market price projections.

442 For the Lewis and Klamath Rivers, the streamflows used as inputs to the  
443 VISTA model are the flows that have been recorded by the Company at each of  
444 the projects. In most cases the flows, using a simple continuity of water equation  
445 where  $\text{Inflow} = \text{Outflow} + \text{Change in Storage}$ , are used to develop generation  
446 levels.

447 For the Umpqua River, the inflow data was reconstructed by piecing  
448 together a variety of historical data sources. The U.S. Geological Survey gauge  
449 data at Copeland (the outflow of the entire project) was used to true up the  
450 previously recorded flows developed using the continuity equation described  
451 above.

452 The Company's Mid-Columbia energy is also estimated using VISTA to  
453 optimize the operations of the of the six hydro electric facilities below the Chief  
454 Joseph dam. Estimates of Mid Columbia generation are complicated by the fact  
455 that this section of the river is subject to river flows regulated by the many large  
456 projects that are located upstream. The Company's Mid Columbia generation is  
457 based on the regulated stream resulting from 70 years of "modified" stream flow  
458 conditions.

459 The modified streamflows are the flows developed by Bonneville Power  
460 Administration (BPA) by determining the natural streamflow for the period of  
461 record and then modifying the historical data to reflect the year-2000 level of

462 irrigation and development in the Columbia basin. [2000 Level Modified  
463 *Streamflow, 1928-1999*; Bonneville Power Administration. May 2004.] These  
464 modified flows are used by Pacific Northwest Power Pool to model the operation  
465 (regulation) of the entire Columbia Basin as it exists today. There are many  
466 variations of the Columbia River operations model results. We have selected the  
467 “PNCA Headwater Payments Regulation 2004-05” file, also known as “The 2005  
468 70 year Reg” file, completed in July 2005 for hydro conditions that actually  
469 occurred for the period 1928 through 1998. Thus, the inflows to the Mid-  
470 Columbia projects are the result of extensive modeling that reflects the current  
471 operations and constraints of the Columbia River. These stream flow data are the  
472 most current information available to the Company and serve as an input to the  
473 VISTA model. The modeled discharge of the Grand Coulee Reservoir becomes  
474 the source of inflow data to the Company's model of the Mid Columbia River  
475 generation. As in the case of the Company's owned large plants, the energy  
476 production resulting from the set of stream flows is analyzed statistically to  
477 produce a set of probability curves or exceedence levels for each group/week.

478 In the above processes, VISTA works on five groups of hours within a  
479 week. The results are defined as exceedence level statistics for each week.

480 **Q. Is the input of hydro generation located outside of the Northwest modeled in**  
481 **the same manner as the Pacific Northwest hydro generation?**

482 A. Yes. Using the VISTA model, the input of hydro generation located in Utah and  
483 Southeast Idaho is calculated in the same manner as the Pacific Northwest hydro  
484 generation.

485 **Q. Please describe the VISTA model's output.**

486 A. The VISTA model calculates the probability of achieving a level of generation.  
487 The model output is expressed in terms of "exceedence" levels. Each exceedence  
488 level represents the probability of generation exceeding a given level of  
489 generation. The number of output exceedence levels is an input parameter. For  
490 example, the user can ask for a set of three exceedence levels – 25 representing a  
491 wet condition, 50 representing the median condition, and 75 representing a dry  
492 condition. The 25-50-75 exceedence levels are the typical output that the  
493 Company's Operations Planning Group uses in its studies. This filing also  
494 incorporates these exceedence levels for normalization.

495 **GRID Model Outputs**

496 **Q. What variables are calculated from the production cost study?**

497 A. These variables are:

- 498 • Dispatch of firm wholesale sales and purchase contracts;
- 499 • Dispatch of hydroelectric generation;
- 500 • Reserve requirement, both spinning and ready;
- 501 • Allocation of reserve requirement to generating units;
- 502 • The amount of thermal generation required; and
- 503 • System balancing wholesale sales and purchases.

504 **Q. What reports does the study produce using the GRID model?**

505 A. The major output from the GRID model is the Net Power Cost report. Additional  
506 data with more detailed analyses are also available in hourly, daily, monthly and  
507 annual formats by heavy load hours and light load hours.

508 **Q. Do you believe that the GRID model appropriately reflects the Company's**  
509 **operating relationship in the environment that it operates in?**

510 A. Yes. The GRID model appropriately simulates the operation of the Company's  
511 system over a variety of streamflow conditions consistent with the Company's  
512 operation of the system including operating constraints and requirements.

513 **Q. Please describe Exhibit UP&L\_\_\_(MTW-1).**

514 A. This Exhibit is a schedule of the Company's major sources of energy supply by  
515 major source of supply, expressed in average megawatts owned and contracted for  
516 by the Company to meet system load requirements, for the forecast period. The  
517 total shown on line 11 represents the total future usage of resources during the  
518 forecast period to serve system load. Line 12 consists of wholesales sales made to  
519 neighboring utilities within the Pacific Northwest, the Pacific Southwest, and the  
520 Desert Southwest as calculated from the production cost model study. Line 13  
521 represents the Company's System Load net of special sales.

522 **Q. Please describe Exhibit UP&L\_\_\_(MTW-2).**

523 A. This Exhibit lists the major sources of future peak generation capability for the  
524 Company's winter and summer peak loads and the Company's energy load for the  
525 forecast period.

526 **Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

527 A. Yes.