

1 **Q. Please state your name.**

2 A. My name is William R. Griffith.

3 **Q. Are you the same William R. Griffith who has testified previously in this case?**

4 A. Yes I am.

5 **Q. What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony?**

6 A. The purpose of my rebuttal testimony is to:

- 7 • Provide updated rate design exhibits showing the Company's proposed rate design  
8 proposals that reflect the rate spread and revenue requirement from the Stipulation  
9 Regarding Revenue Requirement and Rate Spread which was filed with the  
10 Commission on July 26, 2006 (Revenue Requirement Stipulation).
- 11 • Address the residential Customer Charge issues raised in the direct testimonies of  
12 Mr. Anthony Yankel for the Committee of Consumer Services (CCS), Dr.  
13 Abdinasir M. Abdulle for the Division of Public Utilities (DPU), Mr. Ronald J.  
14 Binz for AARP (AARP), and Ms. Elizabeth A. Wolf for Salt Lake Community  
15 Action Program and Crossroads Urban Center (SLCAP).
- 16 • Address the proposed residential energy charge structures also raised in the direct  
17 testimonies of CCS, DPU, AARP and SLCAP.

18 **Updated Rate Design Exhibits**

19 **Q. Please explain Exhibit UP&L\_\_\_(WRG-1R).**

20 A. Exhibit UP&L\_\_\_(WRG-1R) contains billing determinants and proposed rate designs  
21 for all rate schedules in this case. These reflect the proposed rate spread and revenue  
22 requirement from the Revenue Requirement Stipulation. For Schedules 6, 8, 9, and  
23 31 the proposed rates in Exhibit UP&L\_\_\_(WRG-1R) reflect the two Rate Design

24 Stipulations filed in this docket. Proposed Schedule 6 rates reflect the Schedule 6  
25 Stipulation filed with the Commission on August 25, 2006. Proposed rates for  
26 Schedules 8, 9 and 31 reflect the rates agreed to in the Schedule 8/9/31 Stipulation  
27 filed with the Commission on September 15, 2006. All other proposed rates in  
28 Exhibit UP&L\_\_\_\_(WRG-1R) have been updated to reflect the Revenue Requirement  
29 Stipulation and have been prepared consistent with the Company's proposed rate  
30 design methodologies described in my direct testimony in this docket.

31 **Proposed Residential Rate Design Update**

32 **Q. Based on the Revenue Requirement Stipulation, please describe the Company's**  
33 **proposed updated Residential Rate Design.**

34 A. As stated in my direct testimony, the Company has proposed to increase the current  
35 residential Customer Charge from \$0.98 per month to \$3.40 per month, an increase of  
36 \$2.42 per month. In light of the proposed \$3.40 per month Customer Charge, the  
37 Company has proposed to reduce the current Minimum Bill from \$3.67 to \$3.40 per  
38 month, and to thereby eliminate the Minimum Bill. At the same time the Company  
39 has proposed to apply uniform cents per kWh increases to both the winter residential  
40 one-block energy charge and the summer residential three-block inverted energy  
41 charge. Based on these principles and reflecting the Revenue Requirement  
42 Stipulation target, the Company proposes to increase all present summer and winter  
43 residential energy charges by 0.451 cents per kWh.

44 **Residential Customer Charge**

45 **Q. Please address the residential Customer Charge proposals from the other parties**  
46 **in this docket. Please respond to the DPU's proposed Customer Charge.**

47 A. Utilizing the Commission's proposed method for calculating the Customer Charge,  
48 the DPU's witness Dr. Abdulle proposes to increase the residential Customer Charge  
49 to \$3.75 per month. This proposed amount exceeds the Company's proposal of \$3.40  
50 per month.

51 **Q. What do you believe accounts for the difference in the two proposals?**

52 A. I believe that it is primarily due to differences in the proposed return on rate base and  
53 the number of average customers used in calculating the charge. Exhibit  
54 UP&L\_\_(WRG-2R) shows the Company's updated calculation of the residential  
55 Customer Charge using the Commission's methodology. My revised calculation  
56 applies a before-tax return on rate base rather than the after-tax return originally  
57 utilized in my direct testimony. The Company was informed of this oversight during  
58 the discovery phase of this case. As a result, the proposed customer charge would be  
59 \$3.84 based on the Commission's methodology.

60 **Q. Has the Company modified its proposed residential Customer Charge based on**  
61 **these results?**

62 A. No. The Company continues to support a \$3.40 monthly Customer Charge. Based on  
63 the findings that a higher customer charge is supportable, we believe that the  
64 proposed \$3.40 Customer Charge is fair and fully supported.

65 **Q. Does the Company continue to support its proposal to eliminate the Minimum**  
66 **Bill if its proposed Customer Charge is implemented?**

67 A. Yes. If a Customer Charge of at least \$3.40 per month is implemented, the Company  
68 believes that the Customer Charge would be cost-based and proposes that the  
69 Minimum Bill should be eliminated. However, if a Customer Charge less than \$3.40

70 per month were implemented, the Company proposes that the present Minimum Bill  
71 of \$3.67 per month be increased by the residential class increase of 10.31 percent.  
72 This would result in a proposed Minimum Bill equal to \$4.05 per month. Company  
73 witness Lowell Alt discusses the Minimum Bill in more detail.

74 **Q. Please comment on AARP's proposed Customer Charge.**

75 A. For its base case, AARP proposes to increase the Customer Charge to \$2.50 per  
76 month. AARP believes that rates should be set to recover costs, and it does not reject  
77 the Company's proposed Customer Charge or the methodology used in arriving at the  
78 proposed rate; however, it believes that "\$3.40 is the *highest* price the Commission  
79 should approve for the customer charge." Binz, page 11.

80 **Q. Please comment on CCS's proposed Customer Charge.**

81 A. CCS proposes "that the Customer charge remain at \$0.98 per month (or even be  
82 decreased)" while the Minimum Bill should be increased to \$4.05 per month.  
83 (Yankel, page 32) In addition, based on its summary of the Company's analysis of  
84 other customer charges in Utah, CCS states that "The 'average' of what other utilities  
85 [in Utah] charge should not serve as a basis for increasing the Residential Customer  
86 charge in this case." While the Company has not proposed that the Customer Charge  
87 be set at the Utah state average of \$5.39 per month discussed by Mr. Yankel, the  
88 Company does believe that the proposed \$3.40 customer charge compares very  
89 favorably with the state average - averaging only about 2/3 of the state average  
90 Customer Charge reported by Mr. Yankel.

91 **Q. Exhibit CCS 3.1 reviews the history of residential rates in Utah since 1945,**  
92 **please comment.**

93 A. Exhibit CCS 3.1 provides some key findings concerning the Residential Customer  
94 Charge that strongly support the need to increase the Customer Charge in this docket:

95 • As shown by Mr. Yankel, the Utah residential charge is lower today than it  
96 was in 1985.

97 • Both the Customer Charge and the Minimum Bill have remained virtually  
98 unchanged for over 21 years. This was not the intent of the Commission as  
99 addressed by the testimony of Company witness Lowell Alt.

100 • The minimum bill in Utah was \$0.75 per month in 1945. Adjusted for  
101 inflation, the minimum bill today would be \$8.14 per month.

102 **Q. Please summarize the Company's testimony concerning the Residential**  
103 **Customer Charge.**

104 A. We believe the Company's proposed Residential Customer Charge of \$3.40 per  
105 month, along with the elimination of the Minimum Bill once this cost-based customer  
106 charge is put in place, is long overdue. No party in this case has provided an analysis  
107 that has disputed the proposed \$3.40 per month Customer Charge based on the  
108 Commission's methodology for computing a Customer Charge. The proposed  
109 increase of \$2.42 per month is strongly supported by the evidence in this case. If this  
110 proposal is approved by the Commission, Rocky Mountain Power will continue to  
111 have one of the lowest residential customer charges in Utah.

112 **Residential Energy Charge Proposals**

113 **Q. Please respond to the parties' proposals concerning the winter and the summer**  
114 **residential energy charge structures.**

115 A. There are three base residential energy charge structures proposed by the parties in  
116 this case.

117 Option 1. Proposed by the Company, this option proposes to retain the existing  
118 summer and winter block structure and to increase all energy charge blocks by a  
119 uniform cents per kWh equal to 0.451 cents per kWh. (DPU also proposes to retain  
120 the existing summer and winter block structures, but it does not take a position on  
121 changes to the energy charge rates.)

122 Option 2. Proposed by AARP, this option also retains the existing summer and  
123 winter block structure. The written testimony indicates that the “rates in Block 2 and  
124 Block 3 are set equal to the rates originally filed by the Company in this case.” The  
125 revenue requirement reduction from the Company’s originally filed case reflected in  
126 the Revenue Requirement Stipulation flows through to the 1<sup>st</sup> block and the winter  
127 energy charge as a residual. (While the language is clear, the illustrative table on page  
128 12 of Mr. Binz’ testimony does not appear to apply this principle.)

129 Option 3. Proposed by CCS, this option proposes to expand the 1<sup>st</sup> summer energy  
130 charge block from 400 kWh to 600 kWh per month. It asserts that “High use  
131 Residential customers (especially those using over 1,000 kWh per month during the  
132 summer) should realize a higher percentage increase in their bills than those using 600  
133 kWh or less.” (Yankel, page 31)

134 **Option 1**

135 **Q. Please comment on Option 1.**

136 A. The structure of Option 1 is identical to the residential price change approved by the  
137 Commission in 2005. It uniformly distributes the revenue requirement increase

138 across all usage levels on a uniform cents per kWh basis. The Company believes it  
139 properly reflects cost causation and takes into account historical changes in Utah  
140 residential energy charges.

141 **Q. Please explain.**

142 A. Exhibit UP&L\_\_\_(WRG-3R) displays the historical change in Utah residential energy  
143 charges since 2001. Looking at residential rates in effect today, Exhibit  
144 UP&L\_\_\_(WRG-3R) shows that the winter residential energy charge rate and the first  
145 block (0-400 kWh) of the summer residential energy charge rate have increased by  
146 only 13 percent since 2001. At the same time, the summer residential tailblock rate  
147 (> 1000 kWh) has increased by 51 percent since 2001—an increase equal to nearly 4  
148 times the first block increase.

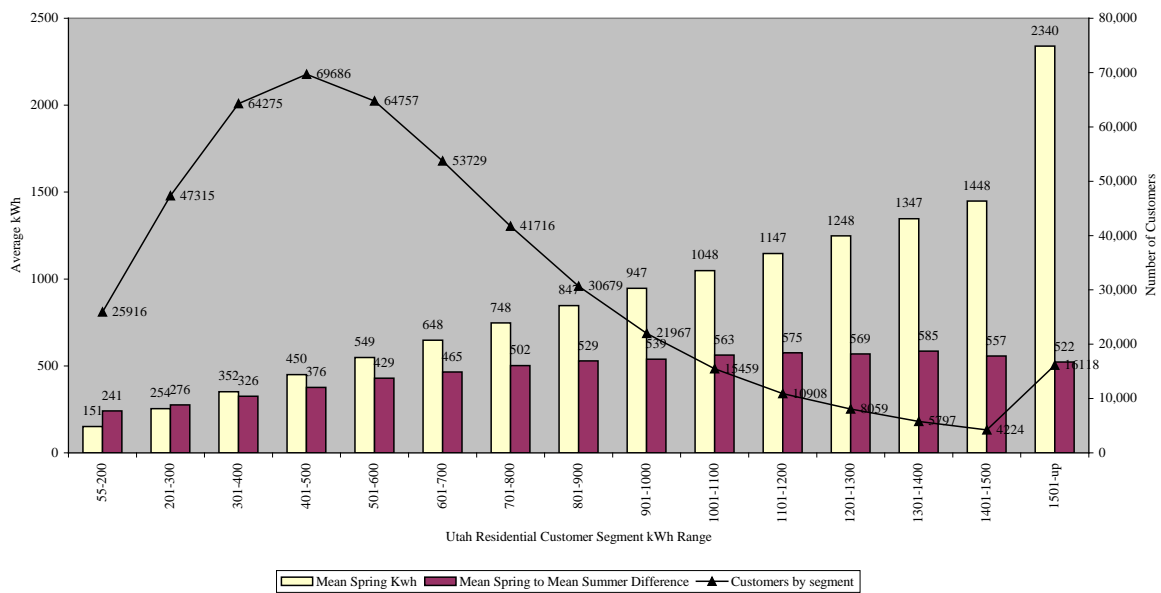
149 Based on the Company's proposed Option 1, Exhibit UP&L\_\_\_(WRG-3R)  
150 shows that the residential tailblock rate will continue to see much larger increases  
151 than the other energy blocks. The tailblock rate will increase by 59 percent over the  
152 rate that was in effect in 2001, while the low usage first block will increase by only 20  
153 percent under the Company's proposal. The proposed increase to the first block will  
154 result in a rate that has increased approximately one third of the percentage increase to  
155 the tailblock rate since 2001. This means that with the Company's proposal since  
156 2001, large customers will continue to receive stronger price signals than smaller  
157 usage customers concerning the higher cost of electric energy, while, at the same time  
158 smaller customers will receive strong price signals concerning the increasing cost of  
159 energy.

160 Q. But aren't only the large kWh users responsible for increasing kWh growth in  
161 the summer?

162 A. No. All kWh usage groups are responsible for increasing summer kWh growth.

163 Q. Please explain.

164 A. Figure 1 below was prepared in 2004 and it shows the growth in summer residential  
165 usage across all usage levels.



166

167

Figure 1.

168 Figure 1 shows that the increase in Utah residential summer usage occurs across all  
169 usage categories. The kWh segments shown across the x-axis classify customers

170 based on their non-summer usage (non-summer usage is the average of April and May  
171 usage). The light bar for each category shows the non-summer monthly average

172 usage. The dark bar for each category shows the corresponding average monthly

173 additional usage occurring during summer (average of July and August). As the

174 figure clearly shows, all usage categories experience increases in summer usage, and



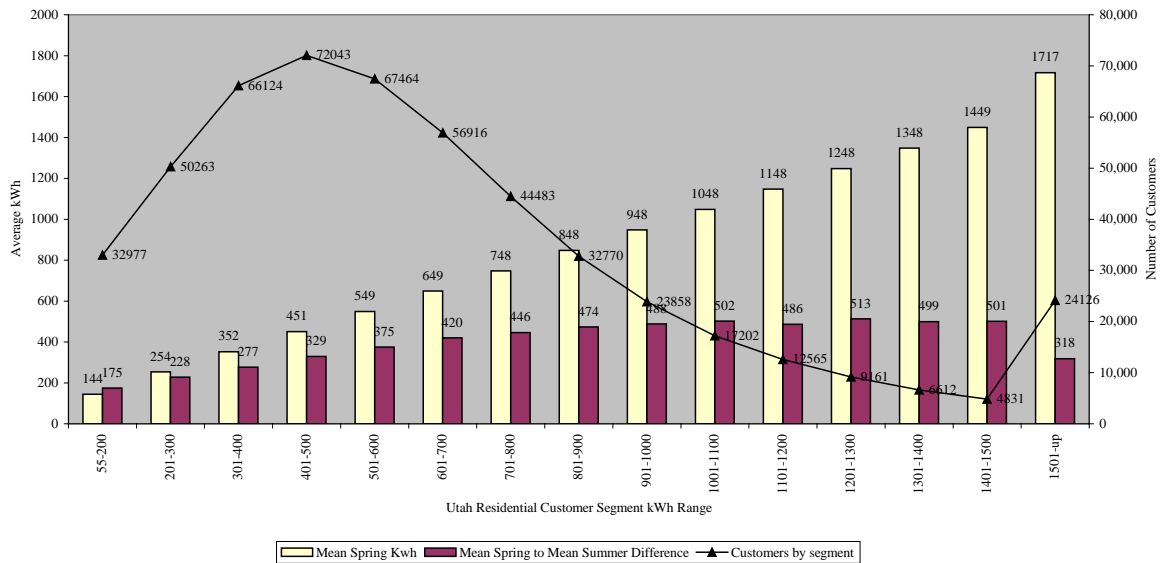
175 for many of these categories, none of their additional usage falls in the residential  
176 tailblock (over 1000 kWh).

177 For example, a customer who averaged 450 kWh in the non-summer months  
178 (the 401-500 kWh segment), on average, increased usage by 376 kWh in the summer  
179 months. This customers' total summer usage averaged 826 kWh—well below the  
180 tailblock level of 1,000 kWh.

181 In addition, Figure 1 contains a solid line that shows customer counts for each  
182 kWh segment. Of the 480,000 customers in the study, 56.6 percent averaged no  
183 summer usage that occurred in the tailblock. Of the remaining customers, an  
184 additional 30.8 percent had average usage increases that occurred in the second (401-  
185 1000 kWh) block. Clearly, as these data indicate, residential usage increases are  
186 occurring throughout all usage levels, and a large portion of usage increases occur in  
187 usage blocks other than the tailblock.

188 **Q. You indicate that Figure 1 was prepared in 2004, has the Company conducted**  
189 **any more recent studies of residential kWh growth in Utah?**

190 A. Yes it has. Figure 1 was provided to CCS on September 11, 2006 in response to data  
191 request CCS 24.1 to provide “any studies prepared by the Company that analyze  
192 electricity usage changes by season for residential customers.” In October 2006, the  
193 Company conducted an updated study using 2005 data. Figure 2 shows the results of  
194 that study.



195

196

Figure 2.

197 **Q. What does Figure 2 show?**

198 A. The results shown in Figure 2 are consistent with the results shown earlier in Figure  
 199 1: residential usage increases are occurring throughout all usage levels, and a large  
 200 portion of usage increases occur in usage blocks other than the tailblock. In addition,  
 201 it shows that on a percentage basis, the largest spring-to-summer growth occurred for  
 202 the smallest customers. The 55-200 kWh group more than doubled its baseline spring  
 203 usage in the summer months. Given these findings it is clear that Option 1 properly  
 204 reflects growth in kWh usage across all usage blocks while continuing to signal to  
 205 large users the higher cost of electric energy.

206 **Option 2**

207 **Q. Please comment on Option 2.**

208 A. Option 2 proposed by AARP states that it retains the filed summer energy charge rates  
 209 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> blocks submitted by the Company in my direct testimony and

210 reflects the revenue requirement adjustment from the Revenue Requirement  
211 Stipulation in the 1<sup>st</sup> block and the winter energy charge (along with a lower  
212 Customer Charge). While it is true, as AARP states, that the Company originally  
213 proposed the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> block charges that AARP adopted, it is also true that these  
214 rates assumed higher revenue requirement recovery than the Company achieved.

215 **Q. Why is the level of the summer 3<sup>rd</sup> block (the tailblock) rate important to the**  
216 **Company?**

217 A. Assuming that rates have been properly designed to recover the revenue requirement  
218 under normal weather conditions, the level of the tailblock rate remains important  
219 because it increases potential revenue volatility to the Company. The higher the  
220 tailblock rate, the higher the risk to the Company, as a larger share of its total  
221 revenues is subject to weather and economic variability. Given the lack of an  
222 appropriate customer charge in Utah, all of the residential kWh charges (i.e.,  
223 volumetric charges) are heavily relied upon to recover both variable and fixed costs  
224 incurred to serve our customers.

225 **Q. Throughout its testimony, AARP refers to residential energy charges as**  
226 **“commodity rates”, do you agree with that characterization?**

227 A. No. Residential energy charges in Utah recover much more than the commodity cost  
228 of electricity. These volumetric rates are necessary to recover distribution,  
229 transmission and generation costs incurred to serve our customers. Many of our  
230 distribution costs are fixed costs. These fixed costs are being recovered on a per kWh  
231 basis from residential customers; therefore, the higher the tailblock charge, the more  
232 of the Company’s fixed cost revenue is placed into the tailblock rate, and, as usage

233 varies from year to year, the higher the probability that the Company will not be able  
234 to recover its costs incurred to serve customers. The end result of this can be that the  
235 Company will find it necessary to file a rate case when it could have avoided that  
236 outcome with a rate design that minimized revenue volatility and allowed the  
237 Company to properly recover both its fixed and variable costs.

238 **Option 3**

239 **Q. Please comment on Option 3.**

240 A. The most significant features of Option 3 proposed by CCS are the expansion of the  
241 1<sup>st</sup> summer usage block from 0-400 kWh per month to 0-600 kWh per month along  
242 with a greater increase to the summer tailblock charge.

243 **Q. Does the Company agree with CCS' proposal to increase the 1<sup>st</sup> summer usage**  
244 **block from 0-400 to 0-600 kWh per month?**

245 A. No. This proposal will send the wrong price signals to residential customers and is  
246 poor ratemaking. In particular, CCS' proposal would set rates that are less than they  
247 are today for usage levels from 401-600 kWh per month in the summer. In a period  
248 of rising costs, this is exactly the wrong price signal to send to customers.

249 **Q. Does CCS offer any support for its proposed expansion of the first kWh block**  
250 **and the corresponding proposed rate reduction for the 401-600 kWh usage**  
251 **block?**

252 A. No. Mr. Yankel states that expanding the first block is aimed at ensuring that  
253 "Lower-use customers (that are not extensively using air-conditioning) should not be  
254 punished for the cost increases that are being imposed by these larger users." Yankel,  
255 page 31.

256 **Q. Do you agree with this Mr. Yankel's assertion?**

257 A. No. As I discussed above, increases in summer residential usage occur across all  
258 kWh usage blocks, and in many cases, none of this additional usage falls in the  
259 residential tailblock (over 1000 kWh). Moreover, as indicated in Figure 2, for 2005,  
260 the smallest users displayed the highest percentage increase in usage from spring to  
261 summer.

262 **Q. Do you believe that customers who use over 1000 kWh per month use electric**  
263 **energy less efficiently than customers who use less than 400 kWh per month?**

264 A. No. I do not believe that the size of a residential customer is necessarily related to  
265 how efficiently a customer uses electric energy.

266 **Q. Please explain.**

267 A. A residential electric customer is a single metering delivery point. In Utah, one  
268 residential customer can be a single person household while another residential  
269 customer can comprise a very large family. It is not uncommon that the larger  
270 customers will use energy more efficiently per household member than the smaller  
271 customers. Under Mr. Yankel's proposed rate design, these large families will  
272 continue to see disproportionately higher prices due to their family size, rather than  
273 due to their energy efficiency. I believe that the Company's proposal strikes a  
274 reasonable balance for all residential customers between cost, efficiency and fairness.

275 **Q. Please summarize your testimony concerning the proposed residential energy**  
276 **charge structure.**

277 A. The Company's proposal (Option 1) to increase all residential energy charge blocks  
278 uniformly by 0.451 cents per kWh acknowledges that all customer usage groups have

279 contributed to energy use growth in Utah. Moreover, it will provide a higher  
280 likelihood that the Company will be able to recover its fixed costs to serve our  
281 residential customers. This will reduce revenue volatility. It will also reduce the need  
282 for the Company to file for rate relief if forecasted loads do not materialize and the  
283 Company is not able to recover its prudently incurred fixed costs necessary to serve  
284 customers. This proposal will not further increase revenue volatility which will make  
285 it more difficult for the Company to recover its prudently incurred costs, but it will  
286 instead continue to send clear, fair price signals to all residential customers of the cost  
287 of electricity.

288 **Q. Does this conclude your rebuttal testimony?**

289 **A.** Yes, it does.