

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

3 A. My name is Mark C. Mansfield. My business address is 1407 West North Temple,
4 Suite 310, Salt Lake City, Utah. My position is vice president, thermal operations for
5 PacifiCorp Energy.

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

7 A. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Brigham Young
8 University, and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Utah.
9 During my career, I have served as an engineer and maintenance supervisor at the
10 Carbon Plant; Maintenance Superintendent at the Hunter Station; Director of
11 Technical Support for PacifiCorp's Generation Engineering in Salt Lake City, Utah,
12 and as the Plant Manager for the Naughton, Huntington and Hunter Stations. I was
13 appointed vice president of thermal operations in August 2006 with responsibilities
14 for PacifiCorp's coal-fueled, gas-fueled and geothermal generation assets and
15 operations.

16 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?**

17 A. The purpose of my testimony is twofold. First, I will describe the process used by
18 PacifiCorp engineers to develop estimated plant depreciable lives for the Company's
19 steam generating stations. I will explain how steam estimated plant depreciable lives
20 were chosen for the purpose of this proceeding, and I will show how these estimated
21 plant depreciable lives provide a framework for estimating the retirement date for
22 each steam plant. In a similar manner I will describe the procedure used to estimate
23 the retirement date for the Company's hydroelectric generating stations. I will

24 demonstrate that the estimated retirement dates proposed by the Company for both
25 steam and hydro generation plants are reasonable and prudent and are appropriate
26 inputs for Mr. Roff's depreciation analysis.

27 Second, I will explain why the rates the Company proposes to include as
28 terminal net salvage, or "decommissioning costs," in the calculation of depreciation
29 rates for generating plants are reasonable and prudent.

30 **GENERATION PLANT LIFE ESTIMATION**

31 Steam Plant Estimated Depreciable Lives

32 **Q. Please explain what you mean by the "estimated plant depreciable life" of a**
33 **steam generating plant.**

34 A. For the purpose of determining depreciation, the estimated plant depreciable life of a
35 steam plant is the period of time that begins when the plant is initially placed in
36 service and begins to generate electricity and ends when the plant is finally removed
37 from service and ceases to generate electricity. In other words it is the period of time
38 during which electric customers benefit from the generation output of the plant.

39 **Q. When a steam plant is removed from service, will it be retired and its investment**
40 **removed from the Company's accounting records?**

41 A. It may not be immediately retired from an accounting perspective. More likely the
42 plant will be retained in a reserve status for a period of time until plans for its final
43 disposition are made.

44 **Q. If an accounting retirement is not made, will the plant remain in rate base and**
45 **continue to impose costs on customers?**

46 A. No. Under the estimated plant depreciable life concept a plant will be fully

47 depreciated by the time it is finally removed from service.

48 **Q. Why is it necessary to estimate the depreciable life of a steam plant?**

49 A. One major component of PacifiCorp's cost of service is the recovery of capital
50 investment in steam generating plants. This recovery is accomplished through
51 depreciation expense over the productive life of each plant. From the standpoint of
52 setting depreciation rates it is necessary to have a reasonable estimate of the life of a
53 plant as soon as it is placed in service. For depreciation purposes all steam plant lives
54 are estimates that may be adjusted over time as circumstances warrant.

55 **Q. What circumstances warrant the adjustment of a plant's life for depreciation
56 purposes?**

57 A. One example under which a plant's life is adjusted for depreciation purposes is the
58 addition of significant emissions control equipment. The PacifiCorp steam
59 generating plants perform well and serve as an important source of baseload
60 generation for PacifiCorp customers. Changing environmental regulations may
61 ultimately require the installation of emissions control equipment to ensure that these
62 plants operate in compliance with the environmental laws and regulations. The
63 significant capital investment that is required to install emissions reduction equipment
64 is a benefit to customers that will allow the plants to continue operation. The
65 adjustment of the plants' depreciable life reflects the company's ability to recover its
66 plant investment for the benefit of the customer.

67 **Q. What are PacifiCorp's current estimated plant depreciable lives for its steam
68 generating plants?**

69 A. Please refer to Exhibit RMP____(MCM-1), "Power Supply Estimated Plant Lives," for

70 a complete list of PacifiCorp plants and their expected lives.

71 **Q. Who prepared the estimated plant depreciable life analysis?**

72 A. The estimated plant depreciable life analysis was prepared by PacifiCorp Energy's
73 engineering staff under my direction. This group includes individuals with over
74 twenty years of service with the Company who are experienced in all areas of steam
75 plant operation, including the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the
76 Company's existing units.

77 **Q. What criteria were considered in the estimated plant depreciable life analysis?**

78 A. The estimated plant depreciable life analysis focused on three main areas: (1) an
79 evaluation of the operating and maintenance history of the plants as determined by
80 owner operational requirements; (2) an assessment of the current condition of major
81 equipment components; and (3) capital expenditures made and anticipated to be made
82 at the plant.

83 **Q. Did the Company evaluate the operating and maintenance history of its steam
84 plants to determine compliance with original design parameters?**

85 A. Yes. A review of historical records indicates that PacifiCorp's steam plants have been
86 operated and maintained in a manner consistent with the expectation reflected in
87 original design parameters. Manufacturer's guidelines and/or operating
88 recommendations from design engineers have been translated into training materials
89 and operating procedures used throughout the Company's thermal fleet. A review of
90 preventative maintenance logs, work order and equipment histories, and overhaul
91 histories indicates that required maintenance procedures have been consistently
92 applied for all plants. This is further demonstrated by the high capacity factors and

93 high equivalent availability factors exhibited by PacifiCorp's thermal fleet.

94 **Q. Did the Company make an assessment of the current condition of major**
95 **equipment components?**

96 A. Yes. During the annual planning cycle plant operating and engineering personnel
97 review the loss histories for major equipment components, the planned overhaul
98 schedule and the planned operating requirements for the plant. The plant personnel
99 use this data to determine condition of the equipment and potential projects to reduce
100 risk of equipment failure.

101 **Q. Has the expenditure of capital had an effect on the estimated plant depreciable**
102 **life for any of the Company's generating plants?**

103 A. Yes. Periodic capital expenditures allow these generating plants to continue to operate
104 as designed and to serve as cost-effective resources needed to meet PacifiCorp's load
105 requirement. Since the last depreciation study the Company has spent more than \$621
106 million on capital projects that maintain the ability of the steam and hydro plants to
107 continue to provide a valuable and low-cost source of electricity.

108 Recommended Estimated Steam Plant Lives for Depreciation Study

109 **Q. Has the Company reflected its estimated plant depreciable lives in the current**
110 **depreciation study?**

111 A. Yes. PacifiCorp provided retirement dates for each steam and hydro plant to Mr.
112 Donald Roff of Depreciation Specialty Resources for use in preparing the
113 depreciation study that is the subject of this proceeding. The depreciation study
114 performed by Mr. Roff (Exhibit RMP____(DSR-3)), which is based on plant balances
115 as of December 31, 2006, will be referred to hereafter as "the DSR study". The

116 retirement dates provided by the Company to Mr. Roff are the same retirement dates
117 contained in Schedule 3 of the DSR study.

118 Steam Plant Retirement Dates

119 **Q. How was the estimated plant depreciable life for each plant converted into an**
120 **estimated retirement date?**

121 A. The estimated plant depreciable life was added to the original in-service date for each
122 generating unit to arrive at its estimated retirement date. For example, if a unit had an
123 in-service date of 1980 and a 64-year estimated plant depreciable life, its estimated
124 retirement date would be 2044. For multiple-unit plants, the age was calculated for
125 each unit. Then a weighted-average age for the entire plant was determined by
126 weighting the capacity of each unit. An average retirement date was then calculated
127 based on the remaining life.

128 Hydroelectric Plant Retirement Dates

129 **Q. Is the process used to estimate retirement dates for PacifiCorp's hydro**
130 **generation plants similar to the process used for steam plants?**

131 A. Conceptually the process is very similar. The primary difference is that it is not
132 possible to use generic estimated plant depreciable life for hydro plants. While steam
133 plants of similar size, vintage, and design requirements would be expected to have the
134 same estimated plant depreciable life, each hydro plant is unique. Therefore, it is
135 necessary to estimate the estimated plant depreciable life of each hydro plant
136 separately; or in effect, to determine the retirement date for each hydro plant on an
137 individual basis.

138

139 **Q. What criteria are important in estimating the retirement date of a hydro plant?**

140 A. The remaining useful lives of hydro facilities are governed either by the terms of
141 operating licenses or by the remaining life of critical civil/structural or electro-
142 mechanical components.

143 **Q. Who prepared the estimated retirement dates for hydro plants?**

144 A. The hydro plant retirement dates were estimated by PacifiCorp's Hydro Engineering
145 and Planning staff. These individuals have experience in both plant operation and
146 maintenance and in project relicensing.

147 **Q. What license are you referring to?**

148 A. The majority of PacifiCorp's hydro projects are federally licensed under the
149 jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) which acts under
150 the authority of the Federal Power Act (FPA). Hydro projects receive their initial
151 license when they are first placed in service and may be re-licensed upon expiration
152 of the initial term. This initial term is usually for 50 years. FERC may grant new
153 licenses of up to 50 years, depending upon the unique circumstances at each project.
154 Currently, the most common relicensing period is 30 years. Over 90 percent of the
155 Company's hydro capacity is currently in the relicensing process or has received a
156 new license within the last few years.

157 **Q. How were the decision criteria applied to determine the retirement date for each
158 hydro plant?**

159 A. As previously mentioned, most of the Company's hydro capacity has been recently
160 re-licensed, or is currently undergoing relicensing. For plants currently in the
161 relicensing process the estimated retirement date is the date of expiration of the

162 current license plus 30 years (the most common period for new FERC licenses). For
163 example, if a plant's current license expires in 2007, the estimated retirement date for
164 that facility is 2037. For plants that have been recently re-licensed, the estimated
165 retirement date is the expiration date of the new license. The remaining estimated
166 plant depreciable life of the plant is the same as the life of the license.

167 **Q. Is there any exception to the practice of basing estimated retirement dates on**
168 **FERC license expirations?**

169 A. Yes. As I indicated before, the other primary driver of expected hydro plant life is the
170 remaining life of critical components. PacifiCorp has a number of smaller hydro
171 projects where significant new investment could make the plants uneconomical to
172 operate given current alternative options to supply this energy. If an aging critical
173 component were to fail at such a plant, it is common practice to perform an economic
174 analysis to determine if it would be in the best interest of the Company's customers to
175 make the investment required to extend the plant's life and continue operation of the
176 plant, or alternatively pursue an alternative action to divest or retire the plant. For
177 plants where Company engineers have determined that the expected remaining life of
178 a critical component is shorter than the FERC license period, the retirement date of
179 that plant has been estimated to reflect only the remaining useful life of the
180 component. For example, consider a hydro plant with a flow line that is judged to
181 have a limited remaining life of 15 years. It is expected that the investment necessary
182 to replace this flow line would place the economic viability of the project in jeopardy
183 as a generation resource. Because a decision regarding the continued operation of that
184 project would be necessary at that future time, the estimated remaining useful life of

185 the project is considered to be equivalent to the remaining life of that critical
186 component (the flow line), or 15 years.

187 **Q. If the continued operation of a hydro plant is not constrained by critical**
188 **component failures, why should its estimated plant depreciable life be limited to**
189 **the expiration of a FERC license? Wouldn't it be reasonable to expect FERC**
190 **licenses to continue to be renewed indefinitely?**

191 A. It would be imprudent to anticipate approval of license renewals beyond the present
192 term of the license. The FERC is responsible for hydroelectric project licensing under
193 the Federal Power Act. Historically, FERC has balanced the need for power produced
194 by projects with the need to protect the surrounding environment and natural
195 resources. However, FERC no longer has the discretion to balance hydro interests
196 with other resource issues given the U.S. Supreme Court's rulings on Section 401 of
197 the Clean Water Act (CWA), endangered species listings under the Endangered
198 Species Act (ESA) and other rulings under the FPA. For example, the U.S. Fish and
199 Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service have prescriptive
200 authority under the FPA to provide fish passage in any manner they deem reasonable.
201 As a result, typical license conditions now routinely include revised operating
202 requirements and construction of new environmental mitigation facilities that may
203 make the project(s) uneconomical to continue to operate in the future. This economic
204 viability will need to be determined for each project, but such determination cannot
205 be conclusively made until the expected terms and conditions of a new license are
206 determined through the relicensing process with the FERC. For this reason PacifiCorp
207 cannot reliably forecast operating lives beyond current license expiration dates. The

208 estimated hydro plant retirement dates developed by Company engineers using the
209 criteria that I have just described are reasonable and prudent in this dynamic,
210 changing arena and are the appropriate inputs for Mr. Roff's depreciation analysis.

211 **Q. How were the estimated hydro plant retirement dates developed by the**
212 **Company provided to Mr. Roff?**

213 A. The estimated hydro plant retirement dates were provided to Mr. Roff in the form of
214 Exhibit RMP___(MCM-1).

215 OTHER PRODUCTION PLANT

216 **Q. What process was used by PacifiCorp to estimate retirement dates for its Other**
217 **Production Plants?**

218 A. The process was similar to that used for the hydro generation facilities. The estimated
219 plant depreciable life for Other Production was assumed to be the length of either the
220 Power Purchase Agreement for the specific facility or the expected life of a critical
221 component. For example Little Mountain and Foote Creek (aka Wyoming Wind) use
222 the contract length as the estimated plant depreciable life for their respective
223 facilities, while the estimated plant depreciable life for the simple-cycle combustion
224 turbines and wind farms use a 25-year estimated plant depreciable life based on the
225 original equipment's design lives.

226 **Q. Why is the contract life a good estimate of plant life?**

227 A. Given the uncertainty in the power market, it is difficult to project the depreciable
228 value of the plant past the end of the contract life. The future economic viability for
229 each project will need to be evaluated as it nears the end of its estimated depreciable
230 life.

231 **Q. Why is there a different estimated plant depreciable life for the combined-cycle**
232 **gas-fueled plant than the simple-cycle gas-fueled plant?**

233 A. The Hermiston gas-fueled plant is a combined-cycle base-loaded facility, which is
234 designed to run at a steady state condition. Gadsby Units 4, 5 and 6 are flexible
235 resources and are, therefore, expected to cycle on and off at a higher rate. While the
236 Currant Creek and Lake Side plants are not base loaded, they run for longer periods
237 of time when called upon. Therefore, they have less cycling than a flexible resource.
238 The cycling of the plant takes life out of the combustion turbines and may reduce its
239 estimated plant life.

240 **Q. How were the estimated other production plant retirement dates developed by**
241 **the Company provided to Mr. Roff?**

242 A. The estimated other production plant retirement dates are included in Exhibit
243 RMP___(MCM-1).

244 **TERMINAL NET SALVAGE (DECOMMISSIONING COST)**

245 **Q. Please explain the term “terminal net salvage” or “decommissioning cost”?**

246 A. As I use the term, terminal net salvage refers to the cost of removing facilities that
247 have been retired and restoring the site to its original grade. It does not contemplate
248 site re-vegetation or other landscaping activities.

249 **Q. Why should there be a difference in the recovery of terminal net salvage between**
250 **steam and hydro plants?**

251 A. Conceptually there should be no difference—terminal net salvage should be reflected
252 in depreciation rates. The cost of removing coal-fired plants is generally consistent
253 for plants of similar size and vintage. This consistency facilitates preparation of

254 reasonable terminal net salvage estimates for steam plants. However, every hydro
255 plant is uniquely situated and the estimated removal costs would have to be
256 individually determined. PacifiCorp will continue to evaluate the most appropriate
257 way to reflect hydro terminal net salvage in future depreciation studies, but it was
258 decided to include those amounts which have been specifically identified in
259 settlement agreements and amounts for small hydro plants which have some
260 probability of being removed in the next ten years.

261 **Q. How were the terminal net salvage factors for steam production plant**
262 **determined?**

263 A. The terminal net salvage for PacifiCorp's steam generating plants was estimated by
264 Mr. Roff. A description of the procedures used is presented in his direct testimony
265 filed in this proceeding on page 11.

266 **Q. Was the study of steam production demolition cost performed as required by the**
267 **last depreciation rate case and how does that compare to the costs used in this**
268 **study?**

269 A. Yes. Black & Veatch was retained to perform a study of steam production demolition
270 costs, as ordered during the last depreciation study. This study estimated that the costs
271 to decommission the Carbon plant at \$164.47 per installed net kilowatt, the Dave
272 Johnston plant at \$61.27 per installed net kilowatt and the Hunter plant at \$48.55 per
273 installed net kilowatt. Mr. Roff used a conservative industrial average of \$50 per
274 installed kilowatt.

275

276 **Q. Does PacifiCorp expect to remove steam generating plants that are retired in the**
277 **future?**

278 A. Yes. It has been the Company's practice to remove thermal plants upon retirement for
279 a variety of reasons, and it is its current intention to continue to do so. PacifiCorp
280 assumes that even if laws and regulations do not currently exist which require
281 removal of generation plants upon retirement, laws and regulations may be enacted
282 that would require removal if the owner or operator fails to do so. There are public
283 safety and environmental issues associated with generation plants, and the public may
284 demand their removal if the owner or operator does not do so. The Company does not
285 believe it is reasonable to assume that retired generation plants will be allowed to
286 remain in place indefinitely in the future. In addition, it is unlikely that PacifiCorp
287 could dispose of the sites of retired generation plants without removal. In fact, even if
288 the Company were to retain the site for its own use, it would probably be necessary to
289 remove the old plant before a new plant could utilize transmission or other site
290 advantages. The Company believes that consideration of the potential obligations
291 associated with indefinitely holding a retired generation plant might indicate that
292 removal is the most prudent course and is in the long-term public interest.

293 **Q. Does recovery of terminal net salvage costs through steam plant depreciation**
294 **expense represent sound ratemaking policy?**

295 A. Yes, it does. Two of the most basic precepts of ratemaking policy are that customers
296 should pay for their cost of service and that costs should be matched with benefits.
297 Consistent with these principles, customers who benefit from the output of a steam
298 generating plant should bear all the costs of producing that output, including the cost

299 of constructing the plant and subsequent capital additions, the costs of operating and
300 maintaining the plant over its productive life, and ultimately the cost of retiring and
301 removing the plant. Recovery of terminal net salvage through depreciation expense
302 over the useful life of the plant is the only way to achieve a full and fair matching of
303 costs and benefits. If recovery of terminal net salvage were to be deferred until the
304 plant is actually retired, some customers would inevitably pay less than their cost of
305 service while other customers would pay more than their fair share.

306 **CONCLUSION**

307 **Q. Based on the foregoing testimony, what conclusions have you reached?**

308 A. It is my opinion that the estimated plant depreciable lives set forth in this study for
309 PacifiCorp's steam generating plants provide a reasonable basis in this case for the
310 estimated retirement dates used as inputs for Mr. Roff's depreciation analysis.
311 Similarly, it is my opinion that the hydro plant retirement dates provided to Mr. Roff
312 are reasonable and are based on the latest engineering estimates. I conclude that the
313 terminal net salvage calculated by Mr. Roff for PacifiCorp steam generating plants is
314 reasonable and conservative based on the Company's actual experience and the study
315 performed by Black & Veatch. It is necessary to include steam plant terminal net
316 salvage in depreciation rates to properly match customer benefits with customer costs
317 and to ensure that all customers pay their full and fair cost of service. These same
318 principles of ratepayer equity require that all hydro plant decommissioning costs be
319 recovered through depreciation expense from the customers being served by these
320 hydro plants.

321 Furthermore, it is my opinion that these assets provide a valuable and low-cost

322 resource for the benefit of the ratepayers.

323 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

324 **A. Yes.**