

1 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

2 A. My name is Steven R. McDougal and my business address is 201 South Main,
3 Suite 2300, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84111.

4 **Q. Are you the same Steven R. McDougal who submitted prefiled direct**
5 **testimony in this proceeding?**

6 A. Yes.

7 **PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

8 **Q. What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony in this proceeding.**

9 A. My rebuttal testimony will respond to the prefiled direct testimony filed by the
10 intervening parties regarding the Company's use of a June 30, 2009 forecast test
11 period and the Commission's selection of a test period for this proceeding. The
12 intervening parties who filed testimony include the following:

- 13 • Mr. Kevin C. Higgins, representing the UAE Intervention Group (UAE).
- 14 • Ms. Donna DeRonne, representing the Committee of Consumer Services
- 15 (CCS).
- 16 • Ms. Joni S. Zenger, representing the Division of Public Utilities (DPU).
- 17 • Mr. Roger J. Ball.

18 **GENERAL RESPONSE**

19 **Q. Please describe the test year proposed by PacifiCorp in this case?**

20 A. As discussed further in my prefiled direct testimony and the prefiled direct
21 testimony of Company witnesses A. Richard Walje, A. Robert Lasich, G. Michael
22 Rife, Douglas N. Bennion, and Gregory N. Duvall (adopting the prefiled written
23 direct testimony of Mark T. Widmer), the Company has proposed a forecast test
24 period that begins on July 1, 2008 and ends on June 30, 2009 ("Proposed Test
25 Period"). The Proposed Test Period was chosen by the Company because this test

26 period best reflects the conditions the Company will encounter during the rate-
27 effective period, which is consistent with the statutory mandate set forth in Utah
28 Code Ann. §54-4-4. Rocky Mountain Power also believes that the Proposed Test
29 Period will provide the Company with a reasonable opportunity to recover its
30 prudent costs of providing retail electric service to its Utah customers.

31 **Q. Do other Company witnesses address the need for a forecast test period in**
32 **this case?**

33 A. Yes. Company witnesses A. Richard Walje, A. Robert Lasich, G. Michael Rife,
34 Douglas N. Bennion, and Gregory N. Duvall further describe in their respective
35 prefiled direct testimony the conditions the Company reasonably anticipates
36 experiencing during the rate-effective period.

37 **Q. Does the Company believe a test period determination by the Commission is**
38 **necessary at this stage of this proceeding?**

39 A. As indicated by the Company in its opposition to UAE's request for a hearing, the
40 Company contends that a test period hearing is unnecessary at this point in time
41 and that a more appropriate time, and a more efficient use of the Commission's
42 resources, would be to address this issue concurrent with the revenue requirement
43 phase of this case when the Commission is determining just and reasonable rates.
44 However, if the Commission determines that a test period hearing is appropriate
45 at this time, the Company implores the Commission that it enter an order
46 following the hearing in a timely manner so that parties to this proceeding are not
47 compelled to argue the same issues that will be presented to the Commission at

48 the February 7, 2008 test period hearing at a subsequent hearing in this
49 proceeding.

50 **Q. How is the Company's Proposed Test Period different from those being**
51 **proposed by intervening parties?**

52 A. All of the parties in this case either support or do not oppose the use of a forecast
53 test period. Mr. Higgins questions what time frame should be in place for the test
54 period, but does not oppose the use of a forecast test period. It is unclear if Mr.
55 Ball is a proponent of a specific test period, but instead, recommends that if the
56 Commission selects the Company's Proposed Test Period the Company should
57 adjust return on equity downwards.

58 **Q. At this point in time, what options are available to those parties who oppose**
59 **the Company's Proposed Test Period with respect to making adjustments to**
60 **the Company's case?**

61 A. The Company believes that in light of the testimony of all parties, the
62 Commission should select the Company's Proposed Test Period of June 30, 2009.
63 The reasons proffered by the parties for opposing the Proposed Test Period can be
64 addressed simply by proposing revenue requirement adjustments to the
65 Company's case. They can propose adjustments to the load forecast and
66 escalation factors to reflect what they believe to be reasonable levels of costs for
67 the Company's Proposed Test Period.

68 **DOCKET 04-035-42**

69 **Q. What factors besides Utah Code Ann. §54-4-4 do you believe the Commission**
70 **should consider when selecting a test period?**

71 A. It appears from the testimony in this case that all parties consider §54-4-4. In
72 addition, the DPU and UAE referred to the factors identified by the Commission
73 in its order approving the test period stipulation in Docket No. 04-035-42 as
74 appropriate for the Commission to consider in making its selection of a test
75 period.

76 **Q. What was the DPU's conclusion regarding the factors included in Docket No.**
77 **04-035-42?**

78 A. In the testimony of Ms. Zenger, she has analyzed these factors on an individual
79 basis and has concluded that the Company's Proposed Test Period "most closely
80 reflects the conditions that the Company will encounter during the rate effective
81 period." These factors help point out that only a forecast test period can fully
82 capture the rate-making impacts of a growing customer load, the increased capital
83 investment required to serve the customer load, and the operation and
84 maintenance costs required to maintain a safe and reliable system.

85 **Q. What factors did the Commission identify in Docket No. 04-035-42?**

86 The Commission identified eight factors that need to be considered when
87 selecting a test period. These factors are:

- 88 (1) the general level of inflation;
- 89 (2) changes in the utility's investment, revenues, or expenses;
- 90 (3) changes in utility services;
- 91 (4) availability and accuracy of data to the parties;
- 92 (5) ability to synchronize the utility's investment, revenues, and expenses;
- 93 (6) whether the utility is in a cost increasing or cost declining status;
- 94 (7) incentives to efficient management and operation; and
- 95 (8) the length of time the new rates are expected to be in effect.

96
97 **Q. Did the Company consider these eight factors when it selected June 30, 2009**
98 **as its Proposed Test Period?**

99 A. Yes. The Company fully supports the Commissions findings and believes these
100 factors are important to consider and have utilized them in the selection of its
101 proposed Test Period.

102 • **Level of Inflation** – The Company is facing inflationary pressure and needs to
103 adjust amounts in the case to account for inflation. This was supported in the
104 testimony of Ms. Zenger, wherein she states that the U.S. Department of
105 Labor reported that consumer prices rose by 4.1 percent in 2007. Inflation is
106 expected to continue in the future as can be seen in the Global Insights non-
107 labor inflation factors included on page 4.16 of Exhibit SRM-1. The
108 Company also has price increases included in many of its union contracts. In
109 addition, as discussed by Mr. Widmer (Duvall) and Mr. Lasich, the Company
110 is experiencing and expects to continue to experience significant increases in
111 net power costs.

112 • **Changes in Utility Investment, Revenues, and Expenses** – As stated in Mr.
113 Walje’s testimony, the Company expects a considerable amount of new load
114 in the Utah service territory. Because of this load growth the Company will
115 have to acquire new resources to serve this increased load, which will cause
116 changes in the Company’s investment, revenue, and expenses. Increases in
117 load are impacting not only investment, but also revenues and expenses. The
118 load growth will increase both retail revenues and will also increase net power
119 costs and operation and maintenance costs of the Company.

120 • **Changes in Utility Services** – The Company has included in its filings
121 anticipated changes in utility services, such as changes in Utah related to the

122 automated meter reading project. In excess of eighty percent of the
123 anticipated four million dollar savings related to this program do not occur
124 until the proposed test period.

125 • **Availability and Accuracy of Data to Parties** – The Company has been very
126 open and willing to share information with the parties involved in the case.
127 Mr. Higgins states in his testimony that the Company has done a
128 commendable job at making data available to the parties. The Company has
129 provided data for the periods ending June 2007, June 2008 and June 2009 with
130 plant detail supporting these periods provided by month. Additionally, the
131 Company has provided two sets of master data requests. Finally, the parties
132 have asked over four hundred data requests that the Company has either
133 responded to or is in the process of responding to.

134 • **Ability to Synchronize the Utility’s Investment, Revenues, and Expenses** –
135 The Company has synchronized the investment, revenues and expenses in the
136 Proposed Test Period. The investment, net power costs, revenues and
137 expenses are all based on the same load growth assumptions as described by
138 Dr. Rife, and all are synchronized to reflect the anticipated conditions for the
139 twelve months ending June 30, 2009.

140 • **Whether the Utility Is in a Cost Increasing or Cost Declining Status** – As
141 discussed in the direct testimony of the Company, the Company is in a time of
142 increasing costs. The Company is experiencing significant increases in net
143 power costs and investments. These increases are partially offset by increases
144 in revenues associated with load growth.

- 145 • **Incentives to Efficient Management and Operation** – The Company
146 management is continually looking for ways to increase the efficiency of the
147 Company. The Company has reduced many costs related to employees, and
148 the overall number of employees. Adjustments for these savings are included
149 in the proposed test year. The Company is adding investment to serve load
150 growth and improve reliability and needs the level of investment included in
151 the proposed test period. To not allow the proposed test period would be a
152 disincentive to the Company.
- 153 • **Length of Time New Rates Are Expected To Be in Effect** – The Company
154 has not made any decision on the length of time the new rates are expected to
155 be in effect. Future rate cases will be filed based on Utah jurisdictional
156 earnings as well as the Company’s ability to get timely recovery of its costs.

157 **RESPONSE TO MR. HIGGINS**

158 **Q. What test year does Mr. Higgins support in this rate case?**

159 A. Mr. Higgins claims that the best test year to use in this case is calendar year 2008,
160 consisting of the period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

161 **Q. What arguments does Mr. Higgins use to support his proposed test year?**

162 A. Mr. Higgins argues that a projected test period that is closer in time than Rocky
163 Mountain Power’s Proposed Test Period is a more reasonable choice. He further
164 argues that using the Company’s Proposed Test Period would require customers
165 to pay for capital investments, equity infusions, and cost increases before they
166 occur, and that this is a violation of the rate making principle of plant being used
167 and useful.

168 **Q. Does the Company agree with Mr. Higgins' suggestion that the use of a**
169 **forecast test period ending in June 2009 results in payment for inflation,**
170 **labor increases, and equity infusions prior to their occurrence?**

171 A. No. The Company proposes the use of a twelve month period ending June 30,
172 2009 as the Proposed Test Period to set just and reasonable rates. All costs during
173 those twelve months are averaged to determine the appropriate customer rates.
174 During any period of time, costs change due to inflation and new capital
175 additions. This has been accounted for by using the average costs during the
176 Proposed Test Period. The averaging principle that is used for capital additions is
177 also used for other costs. The customers are only paying the costs associated with
178 the months the price change or plant will have occurred during the proposed test
179 period, and are not paying the annualized amount. For example, inflation uses
180 monthly indices, labor increases are effective on contractually determined dates,
181 and cost of capital takes into account the dates of equity infusions. Customers do
182 not pay the full amount of these costs until they are incurred.

183 Applying Mr. Higgins philosophy, the only way the Company could
184 recover increased costs associated with wage increases, inflation and new capital
185 projects occurring after the first day of the rate effective period would be to have
186 monthly price changes, which would be confusing to customers and unduly
187 burdensome on the Company. Furthermore, if Mr. Higgins proposed test period
188 is selected it would result in the Company receiving less than fifty percent
189 recovery on capital additions and inflation increases that will have occurred by
190 June 2008 in rates that go into effect in August, 2008. In addition any capital

191 investments or cost increases occurring after January 1, 2009, just four months
192 into the rate effective period, would be completely excluded from customers'
193 rates.

194 **Q. In his testimony Mr. Higgins states that, "under the Company's proposal,**
195 **customers in August 2008 would be paying for some capital investments that**
196 **will not occur for another 10 months." Does the Company agree with this**
197 **statement?**

198 A. No. As stated in my direct testimony, the Company has used a 13-month average
199 method of calculating rate base in this case so capital additions are not included in
200 rate base until the month they are placed into service. The result is that rates at
201 the beginning of the test period only reflect a prorated portion of plant that is
202 introduced into rate base part way through the year. If future capital additions are
203 not in rates, customers are not bearing the cost of assets that will provide service
204 to them during the rate effective period. It is important in the current environment
205 of energy resource debates that customers know the true cost of serving them and
206 that tariffs reflect these costs.

207 **Q. Do you believe that the 13-month average approach used by the Company to**
208 **forecast test year rate base is conservative and beneficial to customers?**

209 A. Yes. During the first year the new rates are in effect, customers will bear the cost
210 of new assets only for the period of time they are actually in service during that
211 period. After the first year, these assets will be fully in service, but cost recovery
212 will continue to be based on their partial inclusion in the test year until the
213 Company files a new rate case.

214 **Q. Are budget targets rather than specific projects used in the Proposed Test**
215 **Period as asserted by Mr. Higgins?**

216 A. Projects under construction and other planned capital expenditures necessary to
217 meet the Company's obligations to serve its customers are included in the
218 Proposed Test Period. The Company's process for determining Proposed Test
219 Period capital expenditures is largely project driven. Projects greater than \$1
220 million are identified individually in Exhibit SRM-1. The budgets of the business
221 units and the Company managers who will be constructing the capital projects and
222 operating and maintaining the system are the source of the costs that are included
223 in the case.

224 **Q. Do you agree with Mr. Higgins assertion that an overstatement of allocation**
225 **factors led to "higher-than-warranted Utah rates"?**

226 A. No. The accuracy of allocation factors is always an area of concern as the
227 Company operates in six different states. However, allocation factors are only
228 one element of the revenue requirement calculation. A comparison of actual
229 results to the forecast for the same time period must be based on all elements of
230 revenue requirement, not a single element. If, as Mr. Higgins implies, the
231 Company had been charging higher-than-warranted rates in Utah, this should be
232 apparent in the Utah jurisdictional earnings. For the twelve months ending June
233 30, 2007 the Company's actual return on equity in Utah was 6.2%, and the fully
234 normalized return on equity was 7.3%. Both of these amounts are significantly
235 below the 10.25% return on equity presently authorized by the Commission.

236 The Company is committed to filing Utah Results of Operations semi-
237 annually so parties can review the Company's earnings to verify that the
238 Company is not over-earning its allowed rate of return.

239 **Q. What is your response to Mr. Higgins' concern with the Lake Side**
240 **generating plant?**

241 A. Mr. Higgins expresses concern that the Lake Side generating plant came online in
242 September, 2007 rather than its projected May 2007 date as a reason why the
243 Commission should not select the Company's Proposed Test Period. The
244 Company does acknowledge that while the plant came online and was
245 dispatchable during the summer, "acceptance" did not occur under the terms of
246 the contract until September, 2007. The big issue is if the delay had a material
247 effect on the total Electric Plant in Service (EPIS), which it did not. If you look in
248 the CCS-DPU Reporting Commitment tab (in the Utah Results of Operation June
249 2007 book) you will find an EPIS comparison that was completed for the October
250 2006 – September 2007 test period used in the last general rate case. The
251 variance for overall EPIS on September 30, 2007 was \$93 million which is less
252 than 1% of the total actual EPIS number for that period in time. Furthermore, the
253 Company's actual plant in service on September 30, 2007 was larger than the
254 forecasted plant in service in the last general rate case. Please see Exhibit SRM-
255 1R.

256 Mr. Higgins' focus on one or two components (Lake Side and the SG
257 allocation factor) out of hundreds of variables that go into a general rate case and
258 setting just and reasonable rates is misplaced. Both of these items had offsetting

259 impacts such as increased NPC and revenue changes. These items cannot be
260 viewed in isolation. The proper focus should be on the totality of the conditions
261 that the utility anticipates experiencing during the rate effective period, including
262 the total prudent outlay of capital and expenses to be incurred by the Company
263 during the rate effective period. As noted above, focusing on the Company's
264 prudent outlay demonstrates the reasonableness and conservative nature of the
265 Company's forecasts.

266 **RESPONSE TO MS. DERONNE**

267 **Q. What is Ms. DeRonne's position with regard to the Company's Proposed**
268 **Test Period in this case?**

269 A. Ms. DeRonne's position is that the Company's proposed test year can be
270 reasonably reflective of the conditions the Company is likely to encounter during
271 the rate effective period, if adjusted appropriately, by implementing certain
272 safeguards for customers.

273 **Q. Do you believe additional customer safeguards are necessary?**

274 A. No. The Company is presently committed to filing Utah Results of Operations
275 semi-annually with the Commission, DPU, and CCS. This allows parties a
276 chance to review the Company's earnings and verify that the Company is not
277 over-earning on its allowed rate of return. Furthermore, through the utilization of
278 the averaging principle both customers and the utility equally share risks that
279 might be associated with the use of forecast test periods.

280 **Q. If the Commission implements additional safeguards what should the**
281 **Commission take into account?**

282 A. If the Commission is inclined to implement additional safeguards, the safeguards
283 should be symmetrical to customers and the Company. For example, if the
284 expense is less than projected and the Company is required to refund that amount
285 back to customers, then when the expense is more than projected the Company
286 should get recovery for that expense. Ms. DeRonne's recommendation to
287 implement safeguards focuses solely on the customer side of the equation.

288 **RESPONSE TO MS. JONI S. ZENGER**

289 **Q. What is Ms. Zenger's position with regard to the Company's Proposed Test**
290 **Period in this case?**

291 A. Ms. Zenger states that, "Based on the principles and statutes, analysis to date, and
292 the changes the Company is currently facing as described above, the July 2008-
293 June 2009 forecast test period most closely reflects the conditions that the
294 Company will encounter during the rate effective period." Ms. Zenger does not
295 have any objections to the use of the Company's Proposed Test Period.

296 **Q. Please comment on Ms. Zenger's view of the accuracy of the Company's**
297 **Demand and Energy load projections and how that compares with Mr.**
298 **Higgins' view?**

299 A. During her analysis of the case, Ms. Zenger determined that the accuracy of the
300 Company's projections of Energy and Demand is acceptable. Using the June
301 2007 Utah Semi-Annual Report Tab 11 (CCS-DPU Reporting Commitments) and
302 the response from DPU Data Request #5, Ms. Zenger has compared the actual
303 Demand and Energy for both Utah and the whole system. Ms. Zenger has
304 concluded that the Company's forecasts in its last general rate case proved to be

305 accurate within three percent in all instances, except when weather related issues
306 caused the variance to be larger than predicted. The Company agrees with this
307 analysis.

308 **RESPONSE TO MR. BALL**

309 **Q. What is Mr. Ball's position with regard to the Proposed Test Period in this**
310 **case?**

311 A. It does not appear that Mr. Ball recommends selection of a specific test period,
312 but rather recommends that if the Test Period proposed by the Company is
313 selected, the Company's return on equity should be adjusted downwards by about
314 \$89 million to account for the difference between the historic and Proposed Test
315 Period revenue requirement amount.

316 **Q. Why do you disagree with Mr. Ball's position?**

317 A. Mr. Ball calculated the \$89 million by looking at the difference between the
318 Company's Proposed Test Period in this case and the base period. Mr. Ball does
319 not provide any analysis on why this \$89 million adjustment is appropriate. Mr.
320 Ball's recommendation also incorrectly assumes that the return on equity
321 proposed by the Company includes a risk adder that can be eliminated if the
322 Commission does not use the Proposed Test Period. To follow Mr. Ball's logic, if
323 the Proposed Test Period is not selected, then the Company should include a risk
324 adder of \$89 million to its return on equity proposal, as one does not presently
325 exist. This demonstrates the inappropriateness of with such a recommendation.

326 **Q. Is the assertion of Mr. Ball that the Company relies on a forecast period**
327 **rather than actual data to determine whether it is over or under earning**
328 **correct?**

329 A. No. The Company relies on historic data to determine whether it is over or under
330 earning. However, the Company believes rates should be set using a forecasted
331 test period, as this test period best reflects the conditions that will be experienced
332 by the Company during the rate-effective period. As mentioned above, the
333 Company files with the Commission, DPU and CCS on a semi-annual basis its
334 actual and normalized results of operations allowing them to verify that the
335 Company is not over earning its authorized return on equity.

336 **CONCLUSION**

337 **Q. Please summarize your rebuttal testimony.**

338 A. Based upon the foregoing, my prefiled direct testimony, and the prefiled
339 testimony of Company witnesses A. Richard Walje, A. Robert Lasich, G. Michael
340 Rife, Douglas N. Bennion, and Gregory N. Duvall (adopting the prefiled written
341 direct testimony of Mark T. Widmer), the Company determined that the Proposed
342 Test Period best reflects the conditions it will experience during the rate-effective
343 period, as well as provides the Company with a reasonable opportunity to recover
344 its prudently incurred costs and earn its authorized rate of return. In this
345 testimony I have addressed Mr. Higgins' issues regarding payment for capital
346 additions and expenses prior to their occurrence. I have also explained how the
347 rate making principle of averaging diffuses the concerns expressed by Mr.
348 Higgins. I have also demonstrated that there are additional safeguards for

349 customers that are in place to ensure that customers only pay for costs when they
350 are actually incurred by the Company.

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

352 A. Yes.