

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

2 A. My name is Lowell E. Alt, Jr. My address is 1396 Wheelwright Court, Mesquite,  
3 Nevada, 89034.

4 **Q. On whose behalf are you testifying?**

5 A. I am testifying on behalf of Rocky Mountain Power Company (the Company), a  
6 division of PacifiCorp.

7 **Qualifications**

8 **Q. Briefly describe your educational and professional background.**

9 A. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and a Master of  
10 Business Administration degree from West Virginia University where I became a  
11 member of the electrical engineering honorary society Eta Kappa Nu. I am a  
12 Registered Professional Engineer licensed in Pennsylvania and Utah. I have  
13 attended numerous conferences and seminars on various aspects of utility  
14 regulation. I retired in December 2005 as Executive Staff Director of the Utah  
15 Public Service Commission after a twenty-five year career in Utah utility  
16 regulation. I served as Director of the Utah Division of Public Utilities from  
17 March 2001 to August 2003, Manager of the Energy Section from October 1995  
18 to March 2001, Chief Engineer from 1983 to 1995 and Rate Engineer from 1980  
19 to 1983. I have testified before the Utah Public Service Commission in numerous  
20 electric, natural gas and telecommunication cases on various topics including  
21 customer charges, interim rates, rate case stipulations, rate design, cost-of-service,  
22 mergers, service extensions and return on equity. I was the Division's witness on  
23 class cost of service and rate design for every Utah Power rate case from 1983 to

24 1998. I have completed numerous cost-of-service studies of various utilities  
25 including Utah Power, U.S. West Communications, several rural electric  
26 cooperatives and two water companies. I previously worked for Pennsylvania  
27 Power and Light Company from 1968 to 1980. My last positions there were  
28 Distribution Senior Engineer-Substations and Senior Tariff Analyst. Since my  
29 retirement in 2005 I published a book, *Energy Utility Rate Setting*, and have done  
30 some utility consulting.

31 **Q. Since this case deals with the classification and allocation of distribution**  
32 **costs, please elaborate on your utility experience in distribution.**

33 A. I worked as a distribution substation engineer for ten years. During that time my  
34 work included calculating substation power transformer thermal loading  
35 capabilities; performing factory inspections of new substation power  
36 transformers; inspecting failed substation power transformers; preparing  
37 substation transformer (and other equipment) operation and maintenance  
38 instructions for substation field people; teaching transformer theory, operation and  
39 maintenance at substation repairman apprentice programs; and assisting in the  
40 development of planning philosophies, major equipment purchases and  
41 engineering designs.

#### 42 **Purpose and Summary of Testimony**

43 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

44 A. The purpose of my testimony is to address classification and allocation issues  
45 regarding distribution costs raised in the direct testimony of Mr. Paul Chernick on  
46 behalf of the Committee of Consumer Services (the Committee).

47 **Q. Please provide a brief summary of your testimony.**

48 A. I explain the role of classification and allocation in class cost of service studies. I  
49 give a brief history of the Company's Distribution Cost Allocation Study and the  
50 classification and allocation of distribution costs. I describe the Company's use  
51 of engineering standards and load data in the process of sizing distribution  
52 transformers and conductors and how it relates to classification and allocation of  
53 distribution costs. I explain why the Commission-approved classification and  
54 allocation methods for distribution costs are still reasonable.

55 **Role of Classification and Allocation in Cost of Service Studies**

56 **Q. What is the purpose of classification and allocation in cost of service studies?**

57 A. Most of PacifiCorp's costs of providing utility service are joint costs. Joint costs  
58 are the costs of shared facilities such as distribution substations and lines that  
59 serve multiple customers. These joint costs must be allocated among customer  
60 classes using the facilities. In order to make the allocation step easier and more  
61 accurate, a classification step is done first. Utility costs are booked into  
62 functional accounts such as distribution station equipment (substations) and  
63 overhead and underground lines. Classification is the further division of these  
64 functional costs into categories bearing a relationship to a measurable cost-  
65 defining service characteristic. Measurable means the service characteristic data  
66 is available for use in the allocation step. Cost-defining means a cost-causal  
67 relationship exists between the service characteristic and the utility costs to be  
68 allocated. Electric utilities traditionally use the classification categories of  
69 customer, energy, and demand. Once the costs are classified, they can be

70 allocated to customer classes. Allocation is the apportionment of joint costs  
71 among rate classes based on each class's relative share of a measurable cost-  
72 defining service characteristic such as kilowatt-hours or peak demand in  
73 kilowatts. Costs classified as customer-related are allocated on the number of  
74 customers, often weighted by some cost information. Energy-related costs are  
75 allocated on relative energy usage. Demand-related costs are allocated on relative  
76 demands.

77 **Q. How is a cost-causal link established?**

78 A. A cost-casual link between customer service characteristics and utility costs is  
79 established when costs are allocated using service characteristics that are the same  
80 or similar to that used by utility engineers in making investment decisions.  
81 Sometimes the data used by engineers is not available by rate class or schedule, so  
82 surrogate data must be used.

83 **Q. What is the difference between energy and demand costs?**

84 A. Demand-related costs are a function of a customer's maximum demand (measured  
85 in kilowatts). This maximum demand is related to the electrical capacity of the  
86 customer's connected appliances, since the maximum demand would occur when  
87 all appliances are used at the same time. A utility must size the parts of its system  
88 to handle the simultaneous peak demand from all its customers at any given hour.  
89 Energy-related costs are a function of a customer's duration of use (measured in  
90 kilowatt-hours) of any connected appliances. For example, a portable electric  
91 heater rated at 1000 watts (equal to 1 kilowatt) would impose an electrical  
92 demand of 1 kilowatt on the electric system each time it is turned on. If the heater

93 is left on for two hours, the energy use would be 1 kilowatt (demand) times 2  
94 hours (duration) or 2 kilowatt-hours.

95 **Distribution Cost Classification and Allocation Background**

96 **Q. How long has the current classification of distribution costs been approved**  
97 **by the Commission?**

98 A. I believe since at least April 12, 1982 when the Commission in Utah Power Case  
99 No. 79-035-12 ordered distribution costs to be classified as demand-related (meter  
100 and service drops were classified as customer-related).

101 The Commission reaffirmed that classification of distribution costs in its  
102 March 7, 1983 order in Utah Power Case No. 81-035-13 when it adopted for  
103 future use the Division's classification of distribution costs. The Commission  
104 stated its intent of the order is to provide guidelines and policies for future cost of  
105 service studies. The Commission further ordered, "...any party who proposes  
106 alternative methods, except those specified in this Order for further study, will  
107 have the burden to demonstrate that the methods adopted in this Order are  
108 unreasonable".

109 **History of the Distribution Cost Allocation Study**

110 **Q. What prompted the Company's Distribution Cost Allocation Study?**

111 A. In Utah Power Case No. 81-035-13 the Division recommended further study to  
112 determine proper allocation methods for distribution costs. The Commission in  
113 its March 7, 1983 Order in that case stated, "The Company shall develop in  
114 consultation with the Division an allocation method that takes into account the  
115 design characteristics of the distribution system."

116 **Q. What happened next?**

117 A. In Utah Power Case No. 83-035-01, the allocation of distribution costs was still  
118 unresolved with the Division again recommending further study. The  
119 Commission in its January 30, 1984 Order directed the Company to conduct a  
120 study to determine the proper allocation of distribution costs and to submit the  
121 study by January 1985.

122 The Company filed its “Distribution Cost Allocation Study” on January  
123 15, 1985. Although the Commission’s directive was to determine the proper  
124 “allocation” of distribution costs, the Company also addressed the “classification”  
125 of distribution costs and confirmed the Commission’s 1982 and 1983  
126 classification decisions.

127 In the next Utah Power Case No. 84-035-01, parties presented testimony  
128 on the Distribution Cost Allocation Study with the Committee claiming that as  
129 much as 20 percent of transformer costs should be classified as energy-related and  
130 allocated accordingly. The Commission, in its June 7, 1985 Order stated, “The  
131 distribution study was also challenged by the Committee of Consumer Services  
132 and the Irrigation Pumpers Association. We believe that a strong and sufficient  
133 case was made for the reasonableness of the distribution study by the stipulating  
134 parties; however, we will permit additional consideration of this issue in a future  
135 proceeding.”

136 In Utah Power Case No. 85-035-06, parties reexamined the Distribution  
137 Cost Allocation Study. An exchange of ideas in that case, including input from  
138 the Committee, and further work on the study resulted in the final version of the

139 Distribution Cost Allocation Study being submitted in October 1989.

140 **Q. When did the Commission finally adopt the Distribution Cost Allocation**  
141 **Study Recommendations?**

142 A. In Utah Power Case No. 89-035-10, the Distribution Cost Allocation Study was  
143 again considered. So after 6 years of study and review in multiple cases, the  
144 Commission in its February 9, 1990 Order adopted the Distribution Study  
145 allocation methods for future cost of service studies. Those allocation methods  
146 are the ones used for the past 18 years.

147 **Q. Although the same allocation methods have been used over that period, have**  
148 **implementation changes occurred?**

149 A. Yes. For example, In PacifiCorp Docket No. 97-035-01, the Commission in its  
150 March 4, 1999 Order established an Allocations Task Force, that I chaired, to  
151 study various unresolved allocation issues. The task force included 19 interested  
152 parties and met over an 8 month period. The December 16, 1999 Allocations  
153 Task Force Report states agreement was reached on the allocation of service drop  
154 costs. Research showed that irrigators had very small service drops, the cost of  
155 which was not included in the service drop account. The result was that the  
156 irrigation class no longer gets allocated service drop costs in the class cost of  
157 service study. This did not change the basic method used to allocate service drops  
158 to other classes. I think this type of approach might be a way to deal with the  
159 Committee issue of shared service drops which I will address later.

160

161 **Distribution Classification Issues**

162 **Q. Committee Witness Mr. Paul Chernick is critical of the Distribution Cost**  
163 **Allocation Study. What do you perceive are his issues?**

164 A. He says the Distribution Cost Allocation Study is not comprehensive since it  
165 limits consideration of energy-related investments, the energy role in distribution  
166 plant decisions is understated (specifically with regard to distribution transformers  
167 and conductors), the weighting of the allocation factor for the substations and  
168 primary conductors does not reflect cost-causation, and the allocation of shared  
169 service drops is not cost-based. I will first address his classification issues and in  
170 a later section the allocation issues.

171 **Q. Do you agree with his comment that the Distribution Cost Allocation Study**  
172 **was not comprehensive with regard to the energy classification issue?**

173 A. No. Could it have been more comprehensive? Yes, because an issue can always  
174 be studied more. But I believe it was comprehensive enough on classification,  
175 especially since the Commission directive to the Company was to do an  
176 “allocation” study, not a “classification” study as distribution classification had  
177 already been decided in 1982 and reaffirmed in 1983. I believe the Distribution  
178 Cost Allocation Study was an excellent study that involved a significant effort and  
179 considerable examination and review over a period of 6 years. In reviewing the  
180 Distribution Cost Allocation Study, I counted about 22 pages, not including  
181 supporting exhibits, discussing the rationale supporting the choice of distribution  
182 plant classifications. In a similar review of Mr. Chernick’s testimony, I counted  
183 about 2 pages of testimony and 2 pages of his exhibit, PLC-8D.2. He offers no



184 alternative comprehensive study, no specific recommendations regarding energy  
185 classifications and very little evidence to support his claims of an improper  
186 understatement of energy classification.

187 **Q. Do you believe the evidence Mr. Chernick has submitted meets the burden of**  
188 **proof established by the Commission in its March 7, 1983 Order regarding a**  
189 **change in distribution cost classifications?**

190 A. No.

191 **Q. Although you believe the Distribution Cost Allocation Study was excellent**  
192 **and comprehensive enough, have you recently reviewed how the Company's**  
193 **engineers make distribution investment decisions?**

194 A. Yes. As I stated earlier, the cost-casual link between customer service  
195 characteristics and utility costs is established when costs are allocated using  
196 service characteristics that are the same or similar to that used by utility engineers  
197 in making investment decisions. The classification of distribution costs should be  
198 based on a similar type of analysis. The important information then is what  
199 distribution design engineers use in making investment decisions, since that  
200 information is the cost-causer.

201 Even though the burden of proof is on the Committee as the party seeking  
202 a change in the classification of distribution costs, I decided to review the current  
203 process used by Company engineers in making distribution investment decisions,  
204 specifically for transformers and conductors. I reviewed the engineering  
205 standards, process and data used by the Company to design the distribution  
206 system to determine the importance of energy and demand in design decisions. I

207 also talked with some of the Company's distribution engineers. The purpose was  
208 to learn if anything has changed that would affect distribution cost classification  
209 in the 19 years since the final Distribution Cost Allocation Study.

210 **Q. What is the current approved classification of distribution plant?**

211 A. The approved Distribution Cost Allocation Study methods break distribution plant  
212 into six categories for allocation purposes: substations, primary lines, line  
213 transformers, secondary lines, service drops, and meters. Meters and service  
214 drops are classified as customer-related. The other plant categories are classified  
215 as demand-related.

216 **Q. Let's start with substations. Please describe how customer loads affect**  
217 **distribution substation design?**

218 A. Substations must be designed to handle the maximum simultaneous load of the  
219 connected customers. The largest piece of equipment in a substation and also the  
220 most costly is the power transformer used to step down transmission voltage to  
221 distribution primary line voltage. The Company's cost of a new typical  
222 distribution substation transformer (18/24/30 MVA, 138,000 volts to 13,200  
223 volts) in Utah is about \$900,000, not including installation. The other substation  
224 equipment is then designed to coordinate with the load capability of the power  
225 transformer.

226 The load capability of transformers is limited by the temperature of  
227 insulating oil and the hottest spot within the windings, which are a function of the  
228 load and ambient temperature. Transformer nameplate capacity (in MVA) is  
229 based on an average ambient temperature of 30 degrees Celsius and represents the

230 continuous load that the transformer can carry and last a normal life of about 40  
231 years. Since transformers rely on air as a heat dissipation medium, higher  
232 altitudes with less air density result in reduced thermal capability. So in  
233 summation, the load-carrying capability of a transformer is a thermal capability  
234 and is primarily dependent on the electrical load, the ambient temperature, and the  
235 altitude.

236 Power transformers are a large mass of metal and oil. It can take a few  
237 hours for this mass to reach a steady state temperature once a given load is  
238 applied. Each transformer has its own set of characteristics (weight of the mass of  
239 metal and oil; no load and load losses; and average winding temperature rise).  
240 These characteristics are used, together with load data, in calculating the thermal  
241 load capability of a specific transformer. The total energy in kilowatt-hours of the  
242 applied load is not an input, because it does not provide the needed information  
243 about the peak load or the off-peak load and the respective durations. The key  
244 data is the peak load and its duration. Transformer nameplate capacity is stated in  
245 either KVA or MVA (measures of demand), not kilowatt-hours.

246 **Q. What did you learn about how the Company sizes distribution substation**  
247 **power transformers?**

248 A. PacifiCorp's Distribution System Planning Study Guide 1E.3.1 under "Substation  
249 Transformers" and "New transformer sizing", states "Transformer sizing is  
250 subject to an economic evaluation. Often the economic evaluation will result in a  
251 transformer at least two standard ratings larger than the projected peak load." The  
252 economic evaluation takes into account the expected load growth which may

253 justify a larger transformer size initially rather than replacement a short time later.  
254 In this case, even with a load cycle that likely would be projected to be the same,  
255 a transformer two sizes larger is selected due to projected peak load growth.  
256 Although altitude, average ambient temperature and load cycle are taken into  
257 account, it is clear that the projected peak load (including growth) is the key  
258 driver in sizing substation transformers and therefore the key cost-driver of  
259 substation equipment. Peak load is demand and therefore the current demand  
260 classification of distribution substations is reasonable.

261 Engineers use peak-loading on substations that is not available by rate  
262 schedule so surrogate data must be used in the allocation step. The Distribution  
263 Cost Allocation Study found after analyzing several possible allocators, that a  
264 factor based on the 12 distribution coincident peaks, weighted by the number of  
265 substations peaking each month, was the best allocator.

266 **Q. What did you learn about the design of distribution primary lines?**

267 A. PacifiCorp's Engineering Handbook, section 1B.10, "Line and Feeder Design  
268 Criteria" states on page 3 under the heading "Conductor Sizing", "Main line  
269 distribution circuit conductors shall be of adequate size to serve the normal circuit  
270 load and shall have a limited reserve capacity margin above the expected peak  
271 loading requirements." Also, "Circuit main line conductors shall be scheduled for  
272 replacement when normal peak loading, based on forecasts from actual field  
273 measurements, exceeds 85 percent of the conductors thermal rating as specified in  
274 PacifiCorp's Distribution Construction Standards."

275 I learned from PacifiCorp's Engineering department that primary line

276 conductor size selection is based on an economic analysis over the estimated 30  
277 year life of the line. I learned the key determinants are the estimated initial peak  
278 load (load current in amperes) and the forecast load growth rate. The initial  
279 conductor size selection is important because the Distribution System Planning  
280 Study Guide 1E.3.1 states, “Costs for reconductoring often are much higher than  
281 for constructing a new pole line.” “Reconductoring may involve significant  
282 reconstruction of the pole line including replacement, and in some cases  
283 relocation of many of the poles.” “When selecting a new conductor, use the  
284 economic size, not the minimum size to carry the load. Once the work is  
285 required, the lowest total ownership cost for the new line should be the important  
286 factor, not the lowest first cost.”

287 The reduction of load losses may affect the conductor size selection, but  
288 forecast high load growth may more likely justify a larger conductor size because  
289 of the high cost of future reconductoring. Estimates of costs of new line  
290 construction and reconductoring are included in PacifiCorp’s Engineering  
291 Handbook, sections 2P.3 and 2P.4. For example, the estimated total (material &  
292 labor) installed cost per mile of new three-phase overhead 4/0 lines under difficult  
293 urban circumstances is \$265,427. The comparable reconductoring cost per mile is  
294 \$336,703.

295 The conclusion is that the sizing of primary lines is likely to be determined  
296 by the forecasted initial peak load and the forecasted growth in peak load.  
297 Therefore the current demand classification of primary lines is reasonable.  
298 The key load data engineers use for sizing primary lines is peak load in amperes

299 on feeders measured at substations. This data is not available by rate schedule so  
300 surrogate data must be used in the allocation step. The Distribution Cost  
301 Allocation Study found after analyzing several possible allocators, that a factor  
302 based on the 12 distribution coincident peaks, weighted by the number of  
303 substations peaking each month, was the best allocator.

304 **Q. What did you learn about the design of distribution line transformers?**

305 A. Line transformers step primary voltage down to secondary levels for use by  
306 customers. The residential class has an average of about 6 customers per line  
307 transformer while most other classes (except small commercial with an average of  
308 2) normally have a single customer connected to a line transformer. Like  
309 substation power transformers, line transformers are thermally limited in load  
310 carrying capacity, which is affected by the ambient temperature, the electrical  
311 load, and the altitude.

312 PacifiCorp has three engineering standards used in sizing line  
313 transformers: General Residential Electrical Demand DA411, Padmounted  
314 Transformers-Sizing Criteria GH011, and Overhead Transformers-Sizing Criteria  
315 EL021.

316 Standard DA411 is used to determine the peak demand (in kilowatts) for  
317 single family and multiple family dwelling units based on connected electric  
318 appliances. Standard DA411 also contains the summer and winter design  
319 coincidence factors that account for the diversity of loads when multiple  
320 customers are connected to a single line transformer. The coincident peak  
321 demand is then used to determine the transformer size using a table with different

322 KVA sizes and respective load capability based on summer and winter ambient  
323 temperatures. The Distribution Cost Allocation Study's recommended allocation  
324 factor for line transformers of the annual schedule non-coincident peak times the  
325 design coincidence factor is very close to the type of data engineers use and was  
326 found by the study to be the best allocator.

327 Standard GH011 for padmounted transformers refers to Standard DA411  
328 for determination of the peak demand for residential customers and uses the same  
329 transformer sizing table. For non-residential loads this standard refers to standard  
330 EL021 for overhead transformers for specific sizing guidelines.

331 Standard EL021 for overhead transformers refers to DA 411 for  
332 determination of the peak demand for residential customers and uses the same  
333 transformer sizing table. For non-residential, a table is provided with three sets of  
334 transformer load capability data for three different preloads (50%, 75% & 90% of  
335 nameplate) with each set including load capabilities for different ambient  
336 temperatures and peak load periods. These preload levels represent continuous  
337 loading exclusive of peak load. Exhibit RMP\_\_\_(LEA-1R-COS) shows that for a  
338 50 KVA transformer and an 8 hour peak period, increases in the preload have a  
339 small effect on the load capability while increases in the ambient temperature  
340 have a much larger impact. The difference in average ambient temperature and  
341 even altitude for different customers has not been taken into account in allocation  
342 of transformer costs even though these parameters affect transformer sizing. I  
343 believe the reason is that the key cost driver is peak demand. When sizing a  
344 transformer for a bigger preload, a larger size may not be needed depending on

345 the customer's peak load. Further, the exhibit shows that even if the next size line  
346 transformer is required, the incremental cost is small. The conclusion is that the  
347 key cost driver for line transformer investment is customer peak demand.  
348 Therefore the current demand classification of line transformers is reasonable.

349 **Q. What did you learn about the design of distribution secondary lines?**

350 A. Secondary lines are used primarily to serve residential customers since frequently  
351 several residential customers are served from the same line transformer (currently  
352 an average of 6 per transformer). The secondary lines eliminate the need for the  
353 very long service drops that would be needed to connect each customer directly to  
354 the shared line transformer. So in essence the secondary lines are an extension of  
355 the secondary voltage side of the line transformer and should be classified and  
356 allocated the same.

357 Standard DA411, for determining residential demand, provides several  
358 examples of sizing distribution line transformers to serve residential loads. Each  
359 example uses common residential appliance demands together with a table of load  
360 capabilities for various transformer sizes and ambient temperatures. The standard  
361 states that these calculated coincident peak demands are used in determining the  
362 transformer "and secondary sizes". So the load data engineers use to size  
363 secondary lines is the same as that used to size line transformers, and therefore,  
364 using the same classification and allocator is reasonable.

365 Standard ES001, Overhead Secondary-General Information, states  
366 "Overhead single phase secondaries shall be installed when service requirements  
367 to one or more customers will require more than one span of low voltage



368 conductors (service drop) or when the maximum allowable length of the service  
369 conductors will be exceeded.” (Due to voltage drop) And “When constructing  
370 new lines in urban areas where many homes are served from the line, this cable  
371 can be an economical method of providing service. Because the economical  
372 choice between using secondary cable or using multiple transformers varies in  
373 each situation, cost comparisons should be made between the two alternatives  
374 before finalizing a cost estimate.” The standard lists several situations that favor  
375 the economics of using secondary aerial cable instead of installing additional  
376 transformers.

377 Standard ES001, under the heading, “Conductor Size Selection for  
378 Overhead Secondary” lists the first rule as, “Determine customers total peak  
379 demands and calculate load current with a possible load growth rate for the next 5  
380 to 10 years.” Then it says to use Table 2 in Standard ES011 (which lists physical  
381 characteristics and ampacity for 1/0 and 4/0 conductors) to “...select a secondary  
382 conductor to carry this amount of load current.” Expected peak load current is the  
383 key cost driver here.

384 Standard GS001, Underground Secondary and Service-General  
385 Information lists steps in selection of cable size. For residential the first step is to  
386 use Standard DA411 to determine customer’s peak demand and load factor and  
387 then use a graph in Underground Secondary and Service-Residential Economical  
388 Service Cable Selection Standard GS041 to determine the economical cable size.  
389 A typical residential load with A/C might have 10 to 13 kilowatts of peak demand  
390 and an annual load factor of about 40 percent per Standard DA411. For a demand

391 of 10-13 kilowatts, using the graph in Standard GS041, load factor has no impact  
392 on the cable size selection. In fact, for a peak demand of 13 kilowatts, the same  
393 underground cable size would be selected for the complete range of load factors  
394 of 20 to 80 percent. Again the conclusion is that peak demand is the key cost  
395 driver for secondary lines, and therefore, the current demand classification for  
396 secondary lines is reasonable.

397 **Q. What about service drops?**

398 A. Service drops connect customers either directly to a line transformer or to  
399 secondary lines that are connected to a line transformer. Service drops are  
400 classified as customer related (even though they are sized based on demands  
401 similar to secondary lines) since every customer needs one (although as Mr.  
402 Chernick has pointed out some are shared) and allocated using average service  
403 drop cost (for each rate schedule) times the number of customers. I believe the  
404 current customer classification for service drops is reasonable

405 **Q. What do you conclude about distribution cost classifications?**

406 A. In conclusion, the Commission decided the classification of distribution plant  
407 about 26 years ago with all distribution costs as demand-related except for meters  
408 and service drops. The Commission has not changed that decision. The  
409 Commission further placed the burden of proof on any party seeking a change. I  
410 do not believe the Committee has met that burden and based on my research of  
411 PacifiCorp's distribution investment decision process, I believe the current  
412 Commission approved classifications are reasonable.

413 **Distribution Allocation Issues**

414 **Q. What are the Commission approved distribution cost allocation methods?**

415 A. The following distribution allocation methods have been approved by the PSC  
416 and in use in Utah for the past 18 years.

417 Substation equipment and primary lines are classified as demand and  
418 allocated with a factor based on the 12 monthly distribution coincident peaks  
419 weighted by the number of distribution substations peaking in each month.

420 Line transformers and secondary lines are classified as demand and  
421 allocated with a factor based on schedule annual non-coincident peak (NCP)  
422 times the design coincidence factor (which takes into account load diversity for  
423 schedules with multiple customers on a single transformer).

424 Service drops are classified as customer-related and allocated using  
425 average service drop cost (for each rate schedule) times the number of customers.

426 Meters are classified as customer-related and allocated using average  
427 meter cost (for each rate schedule) times the number of customers.

428 **Q. What are Mr. Chernick's issues regarding the allocation of distribution  
429 costs?**

430 A. He says the allocation of shared service drops is not cost based and the weighting  
431 of the allocation factor for substations and primary conductors does not reflect  
432 cost-causation.

433 **Q. Do you agree with his concern about shared service drops?**

434 A. If the Utah census information he presented is representative of the magnitude of  
435 residential shared service drops in the Company's Utah service area, then a

436 change in the calculation of the service drop allocation factor would be warranted.  
437 If multiple residential or commercial customers use a shared service drop, the  
438 conductor size would be larger than a normal single customer service drop and  
439 some diversity might be taken into account. I would expect the average cost per  
440 customer of a shared service drop to be smaller than the average cost per customer  
441 of individual service drops. The question is how much smaller? This is an area  
442 where some additional study is needed. First, data on the quantity of shared  
443 services would be needed (is the census data reflective of the Company's Utah  
444 customer base?) and second, the typical number of customers sharing those  
445 services, and third, how large are the shared service conductors and the related  
446 costs. Depending on the outcome of that study, the service drop allocation factor  
447 could be modified.

448 **Q. Do you agree with Mr. Chernick's concern about the weights used in the**  
449 **allocation factor for substations and primary lines?**

450 A. No. The approved allocation factor uses the 12 monthly coincident distribution  
451 peaks multiplied by a weighting factor based on the number of distribution  
452 substations that peak in each of the twelve months. The 12 monthly coincident  
453 distribution peaks are developed from load research data since actual coincident  
454 distribution peaks are not measured. The substation weighting factor is based on  
455 recent actual measured substation monthly peak loads. Mr. Chernick presents two  
456 alternative allocation factors for substations and primary lines, which he believes  
457 to be more cost causal. He states the first is computed from the ratio of the  
458 monthly peak on the substation to the annual peak on the substation, and squared

459 so as to rapidly reduce the contribution as load falls, and summed the squares over  
460 the substations to derive the monthly weights. He states, “The second approach is  
461 similar, but starts with the ratio of the monthly peak on the substation (in MW) to  
462 the substation’s capacity (in MVA).”

463 After reviewing his actual spreadsheet calculations, it appears that the  
464 actual calculation of both ratios is somewhat different from the description. The  
465 squared ratios are actually multiplied by the summer capacity before calculating  
466 the weighting percentages, but the effect of this difference is small. Apparently  
467 the capacity is used in the calculation to eliminate his concern about small and  
468 large substations being treated equally in the weighting factor calculation.

469 To examine Mr. Chernick’s concern that a small KVA difference in peak  
470 load of a substation might have impacted the weighting factor calculation and his  
471 concern that small and large substations carry the same weight but have much  
472 different costs, I prepared Exhibit RMP\_\_\_(LEA-2R-COS). In this exhibit, I used  
473 Mr. Chernick’s spreadsheet (Attachment CCS 10.28) as a starting point to  
474 examine the actual substation monthly peak loads for the months of June, July and  
475 August. I eliminated all substations for which loads were not available for all  
476 twelve months. I sorted all data by peak month. Then I calculated the difference  
477 between the load in the peak month and each of the other two months and  
478 summed the columns of differences. The results show that the substations that  
479 peaked in July had a total load of 159,299 kilowatts in July more than the same  
480 substations did in August. The July peaking substations had a total load of  
481 223,675 kilowatts in July more than the same substations did in June.

482                   Next the results for the August peaking substations showed that they had a  
483 total load of 12,584 kilowatts more than the same substations did in July and  
484 33,109 kilowatts more than the same substations did in June.

485                   Lastly the results for the June peaking substations showed that they had a  
486 total load of 51,976 kilowatts more than the same substations did in July and  
487 76,580 kilowatts more than the same substations did in August.

488                   The conclusions drawn from this actual data mean that July was far more  
489 important in terms of cost causing peak load than either June or August. The total  
490 numbers are not close. It also means that June is more important than August as  
491 its total kilowatts load difference over August was 76,580 kilowatts compared to  
492 only 33,109 kilowatts for August over June (a net difference of 43,471 kilowatts).

493                   Mr. Chernick's proposed two new weighting factors would result in  
494 August being considered more important than June and much closer to July than  
495 the above results would support.

496 **Q. What do you conclude from your analysis of these three summer months?**

497 A. In conclusion, I believe the weighting factors proposed by Mr. Chernick would  
498 result in movement away from cost causation, and therefore, does not warrant any  
499 change from the current weighting method used with the 12 distribution CP  
500 allocation factor for substations and primary lines.

501 **Q. In your analysis of the summer months did you discover an error in the**  
502 **Company's original calculation of the substation weighting factor?**

503 A. Yes. Apparently the spreadsheet function used in the calculations ignored  
504 duplicate monthly peaks that occurred for some substations. I recalculated the

505 number of substations that peaked each month. For substations with duplicate  
 506 peaks, I gave those months an equal fractional share of 1. I also eliminated  
 507 substations with less than 12 months of data to address concerns of the  
 508 Committee. The result is shown below:

	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07
Original	130	27	11	5	16	19	16	9	3	8	14	58
Revised	120.4	26.9	12.7	4.7	15.5	18.9	17.6	10.4	4.0	9.0	14.7	59.4

509 **Q. Does this correction affect the results of your analysis of the summer**  
 510 **months?**

511 A. No. My analysis focused on the total kilowatt load differences between the  
 512 months and any duplicate peaks would have a zero difference before and after the  
 513 correction.

514 **Summary**

515 **Q. Please summarize your conclusions and recommendations regarding the**  
 516 **classification and allocation of distribution costs.**

517 A. I believe no change should be made in the classification or allocation methods for  
 518 distribution costs for the following reasons:

- 519 1. The Commission in its March 7, 1983 Order in Utah Power Case No. 81-035-  
 520 13 adopted for future use the same classification of distribution costs being  
 521 used today and put the burden of proof on any party seeking a change. I  
 522 believe the Committee has not met that burden.
- 523 2. The Company's extensive Distribution Cost Allocation Study was developed,  
 524 refined and thoroughly examined over a 6 year period before the Commission

525 finally adopted the recommended distribution cost allocation methods in 1990.

526 3. The Committee has not provided any new study to show results different than  
527 the Company's Distribution Cost Allocation Study.

528 4. My current review of the Company's distribution engineering standards  
529 results in the conclusion that peak demand is the key cost driver in distribution  
530 transformer and conductor investment decisions.

531 5. The Committee's proposed two new weighting factors for the allocation factor  
532 used to allocate substations and primary lines would result in a movement  
533 away from cost causation and therefore no change is warranted in the current  
534 method. My mentioned correction of an error in the current weighting  
535 calculation is not a method change.

536 6. I recommend study of shared service drops to determine what modification of  
537 the allocation factor calculation is needed. I believe this modification is not a  
538 method change, but a refinement in the calculation. The current method uses  
539 weighted customers to allocate service drops. I believe a modification to the  
540 calculation of the weights might be needed.

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

542 A. Yes.