

1 **Q. Please state your name, business address and present position with Rocky**
2 **Mountain Power Company (the Company), a division of PacifiCorp.**

3 A. My name is Bruce N. Williams. My business address is 825 NE Multnomah,
4 Suite 1900, Portland, Oregon 97232. I am the Vice President and Treasurer.

5 **Qualifications**

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

7 A. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a
8 concentration in Finance from Oregon State University in June 1980. I also
9 received the Chartered Financial Analyst designation upon passing the
10 examination in September 1986. I have been employed by the Company for 22
11 years. My business experience has included financing of the Company's electric
12 operations and non-utility activities, investment management, and investor
13 relations.

14 **Q. Please describe your present duties.**

15 A. I am responsible for the Company's treasury, credit risk management, pension
16 and other investment management activities. In this proceeding, I am responsible
17 for the preparation of Rocky Mountain Power's embedded cost of debt and
18 preferred equity and the testimony related to capital structure.

19 **Purpose of Testimony**

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

21 A. I will first present a financing overview of the Company. Next, I will discuss the
22 planned amounts of common equity, debt, and preferred stock to be included in
23 the Company's planned capital structure. I will then analyze the embedded cost

24 of debt and preferred stock supporting Rocky Mountain Power's electric
25 operations in the state of Utah for the period of July 2008 through June 2009.
26 This analysis includes the use of forward interest rates, historical relationship of
27 security trading patterns, and known and measurable changes to the debt and
28 preferred stock portfolios.

29 **Q. What time period does your analysis cover?**

30 A. The test period in this proceeding is the twelve months ending June 30, 2009. To
31 appropriately match the Company's costs with customers' rates, the capital
32 structure and costs of debt and preferred applied in this case are the average of
33 those measures at June 30, 2008 and June 30, 2009. The determination of the
34 embedded cost of debt and preferred stock was conducted using the Company's
35 actual costs at October 31, 2007 adjusted for changes through those two dates as I
36 later detail in this filing.

37 **Q. Please explain Rocky Mountain Power's requirements to generate new
38 capital?**

39 A. To address the load growth challenges outlined in Mr. Walje's testimony, the
40 Company is in the process of completing or adding significant new generation,
41 transmission and environmental resources as well as local distribution facilities.
42 This new investment will require the Company to raise approximately \$2.6 billion
43 of new long-term debt in the capital markets over the next three years while also
44 receiving new capital contributions from its parent company and retaining all
45 earnings during this period.

46

47 **Q. What is the overall cost of capital that you are proposing in this proceeding?**

48 A. Rocky Mountain Power is proposing an overall cost of capital of 8.59 percent.

49 This cost includes the Return on Equity recommendation from Dr. Hadaway and

50 the following capital structure and costs:

51 **Rocky Mountain Power**

52 Overall Cost of Capital

53	Percent of	%	Weighted	
54	<u>Component</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Average</u>
55	Long Term Debt	47.9%	6.28%	3.01%
56	Preferred Stock	0.4%	5.41%	0.02%
57	Common Stock Equity	<u>51.7%</u>	10.75%	<u>5.56%</u>
58	Total	100.0%		8.59%

59 **Financing Overview**

60 **Q. How does the Company finance its electric utility operations?**

61 A. The Company finances the cash flow requirements of its regulated utility
62 operations utilizing a reasonable mix of debt and equity designed to provide a
63 competitive cost of capital and predictable capital market access.

64 **Q. How does the Company meet its debt and preferred equity financing**
65 **requirements?**

66 A. The Company relies on a mix of first mortgage bonds, other secured debt, tax
67 exempt debt, unsecured debt and preferred stock to meet its long-term debt and
68 preferred stock financing requirements.

69 The Company has concluded the majority of its long-term financing

70 utilizing secured first mortgage bonds issued under the Mortgage Indenture dated
71 January 9, 1989. Exhibit RMP___(BNW-1) shows that, as of June 30, 2009 the
72 Company is projected to have approximately \$5.0 billion of first mortgage bonds
73 outstanding, with an average cost of 6.57 percent and average remaining maturity
74 of 19 years. Presently, all outstanding first mortgage bonds bear interest at fixed
75 rates. Proceeds from the issuance of the first mortgage bonds (and other financing
76 instruments) are used to finance the combined utility operation and are not
77 allocated on a divisional basis.

78 Another important source of financing has been the tax-exempt financing
79 associated with certain qualifying equipment at power generation plants. Under
80 arrangements with local counties and other tax-exempt entities, the Company
81 borrows the proceeds and guarantees the repayment of the long-term debt in order
82 to take advantage of their tax-exempt status in financings. As of June 30, 2009 the
83 Company's tax-exempt portfolio is projected to be \$738 million in principal
84 amount with an average cost of 4.60 percent (which includes the cost of issuance
85 and credit enhancement).

86 **Planned Capital Structure**

87 **Q. How did you determine the amount of common equity, debt, and preferred**
88 **stock to be included in Rocky Mountain Power's planned capital structure?**

89 A. As a regulated utility, Rocky Mountain Power has a duty and an obligation to
90 provide safe, adequate and reliable service to customers in its Utah service
91 territory while balancing cost and risk. Significant capital expenditures for new
92 generation, transmission and distribution plant investment, operating and

93 maintenance costs for new and existing utility plant assets and clean air
94 investments are required for Rocky Mountain Power to fulfill this obligation.
95 Through its planning process, the Company determined the amounts of necessary
96 new financing needed to support these activities and calculated the required
97 equity and debt ratios required to maintain our current 'A-' credit rating for senior
98 secured debt.

99 **Q. Have the Company's recent actions and budgets reflected an expectation that**
100 **the capital structure will include an increase in equity?**

101 A. Yes. Following the acquisition by MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company on
102 March 21, 2006, the Company has received a total of \$415 million of cash capital
103 contributions from its direct parent company, PPW Holdings, LLC. Similarly,
104 the Company's budget includes additional cash equity contributions of \$350
105 million prior to June 30, 2009.

106 **Q. Why is there the need for additional equity in the capital structure?**

107 A. The Company's preliminary budget reflects the cost increases described in this
108 case, including investment in utility plant and power costs. These cost increases,
109 coupled with the credit rating agencies expectations for credit metrics and balance
110 sheet strength, mean that additional equity will be required along with improved
111 business results and other considerations to support our current 'A-' credit rating
112 from Standard & Poor's, its 'A3' rating from Moody's Investors Service
113 ("Moody's"), and 'A-' from Fitch Ratings.

114 **Q. Please describe the changes to the Company's levels of debt financing.**

115 A. Over the period ending June 30, 2009, the balance of the outstanding long-term

116 debt will change through maturities, principal amortization and sinking fund
117 requirements, and issuance of new securities. Based upon the long-term debt
118 series outstanding at October 31, 2007, I have calculated the reduction to the
119 outstanding balances for maturities, principal amortization and sinking fund
120 requirements, which are scheduled to occur during the period ending June 30,
121 2009. The total long-term debt maturities and principal amortized over this
122 period is \$412.4 million. Then I added \$1.0 billion of long-term debt issuances
123 necessary to fund our operations and to refinance the debt maturing through June
124 30, 2009. This new debt financing is consistent with our budget and balanced by
125 the projected increase in equity provided through the cash infusion from our
126 parent company, as discussed above, as well as increased retained earnings.

127 **Q. How does this projected capital structure compare to comparable electric**
128 **utilities?**

129 A. The projected capital structure is consistent with the comparable group that Dr.
130 Hadaway has selected in his estimate of Return on Equity. Both the Company
131 and the group of comparable companies show an increasing percentage of
132 common equity in their capital structures. The Value Line estimate of common
133 equity ratio for the comparable group is 50.7 percent.

134 **Q. Is the proposed capital structure consistent with the Company's current**
135 **credit rating?**

136 A. Yes. This capital structure is intended to enable the Company to deliver its
137 required capital expenditures while maintaining credit ratios that support the
138 continuance of our current 'A-' credit rating.

139 **Q. How does maintenance of a strong credit rating benefit customers?**

140 A. The credit rating given to a utility has a direct impact on the price that utility pays

141 to attract the capital necessary to support its current and future operating needs. A

142 strong credit rating directly benefits customers by reducing immediate and future

143 borrowing costs related to the financing needed to support regulatory operations.

144 **Q. Are there other benefits?**

145 A. Yes. During periods of capital market disruptions, higher-rated companies are

146 more likely to have on-going, uninterrupted access to capital. This is not always

147 the case with lower-rated companies, which during such periods find themselves

148 either unable to secure capital or able to secure capital only on unfavorable terms

149 and conditions. In addition, higher-rated companies have greater access to the

150 long-term markets for power purchases and sales. Such access provides these

151 companies with more alternatives when attempting to meet the current and future

152 load requirements of their customers. Finally, a company with strong ratings will

153 often avoid having to meet costly collateral requirements that are typically

154 imposed on lower-rated companies when securing power in these markets.

155 **Q. Is the Company subject to rating agency debt imputation associated with**

156 **Purchase Power Agreements?**

157 A. Yes. Rating agencies and financial analysts consider Purchase Power Agreements

158 (PPAs) to be debt-like and will impute debt and related interest when calculating

159 financial ratios. For example, Standard & Poor's Ratings Services (S&P) will

160 adjust the Company's published financial results and add in debt and interest

161 resulting from PPAs when assessing creditworthiness. They do so in order to

162 obtain a more accurate assessment of a company's financial commitments and
163 fixed payments. Exhibit RMP____(BNW-2) is the May 12, 2003 publication by
164 S&P detailing its view of the debt aspects of PPAs which was refined in the
165 March 30, 2007 publication (Exhibit RMP____(BNW-3)).

166 **Q. How does this impact the Company?**

167 A. During a recent ratings review, S&P evaluated our PPAs and other related long-
168 term commitments. The impact of PPAs was approximately \$469 million of
169 additional debt and related interest expense being added to our debt and coverage
170 tests.

171 **Q. How would the inclusion of this PPA related debt affect the Company's**
172 **capital structure?**

173 A. By including the \$469 million imputed debt resulting from PPAs, the Company's
174 capital structure would have a lower equity component as a corollary to the higher
175 debt component.

176 **Financing Cost Calculations**

177 **Q. How did you calculate the Company's embedded costs of long-term debt and**
178 **preferred stock?**

179 A. I calculated the embedded costs of debt and preferred stock using the
180 methodology relied upon in the Company's previous rate cases in Utah and other
181 jurisdictions.

182 **Q. Please explain the cost of debt calculation.**

183 A. I calculated the cost of debt by issue, based on each debt series' interest rate and
184 net proceeds at the issuance date, to produce a bond yield to maturity for each

185 series of debt. It should be noted that in the event a bond was issued to refinance
186 a higher cost bond, the pre-tax premium and unamortized costs, if any, associated
187 with the refinancing were subtracted from the net proceeds of the bonds that were
188 issued. The bond yield was then multiplied by the principal amount outstanding
189 of each debt issue, resulting in an annualized cost of each debt issue. Aggregating
190 the annual cost of each debt issue produces the total annualized cost of debt.
191 Dividing the total annualized cost of debt by the total principal amount of debt
192 outstanding produces the weighted average cost for all debt issues. This is the
193 Company's embedded cost of long-term debt.

194 **Q. How did you calculate the embedded cost of preferred stock?**

195 A. The embedded cost of preferred stock was calculated by first determining the cost
196 of money for each issue. This is the result of dividing the annual dividend rate by
197 the per share net proceeds for each series of preferred stock. The cost associated
198 with each series was then multiplied by the total par or stated value outstanding
199 for each issue to yield the annualized cost for each issue. The sum of annualized
200 costs for each issue produces the total annual cost for the entire preferred stock
201 portfolio. I then divided the total annual cost by the total amount of preferred
202 stock outstanding to produce the weighted average cost of all issues. This is the
203 Company's embedded cost of preferred stock.

204 **Q. A portion of the securities in the Company's debt portfolio bears variable**
205 **rates. What is the basis for the projected interest rates used by the**
206 **Company?**

207 A. The majority of the Company's variable rate debt is in the form of tax-exempt

208 debt. Exhibit RMP____(BNW-4) shows that these securities on average had been
209 trading at approximately 83 percent of the 30-day LIBOR (London Inter Bank
210 Offer Rate) for the period January 2000 through October 2007. Therefore, the
211 Company has applied a factor of 83 percent to the forward 30-day LIBOR Rates
212 at June 30, 2008 and June 30, 2009 and then added the respective credit
213 enhancement and remarketing fees for each floating rate tax-exempt bond. Credit
214 enhancement and remarketing fees are included in the interest component because
215 these are costs which contribute directly to the interest rate on the securities.

216 **Q. Regarding the \$1.0 billion of new long-term debt issuances mentioned above,**
217 **how did you determine the interest rate for this new long-term debt?**

218 A. I projected this debt would be issued at the Company's estimated November 2007
219 credit spread over the projected long-term Treasury rates as of June 30, 2009.
220 Finally, I added in the effect of issuance costs. This reflects the Company's best
221 estimate of the cost of new debt, assuming the Company's senior secured long-
222 term debt ratings remain unchanged. Currently the Company's senior secured
223 long-term debt is rated A- and A3 by Standard & Poor's and Moody's
224 respectively.

225 **Q. What is the resulting estimated interest rate for this new long-term debt?**

226 A. The Company's estimated November 2007 credit spread for twenty-year debt was
227 1.52 percent. The forward long-term Treasury rate for June 30, 2009, is 4.91
228 percent. Issuance costs for this type of debt add approximately 9 basis points (*i.e.*,
229 0.09 percent) to the all-in cost. Therefore the projected cost of replacement debt
230 is $4.91 + 1.52 + 0.09 = 6.52\%$.

231 **Embedded Cost of Long-Term Debt**

232 **Q. What is the Company's embedded cost of long-term debt?**

233 A. The cost of long-term debt is 6.28 percent, which is the weighted average of the
234 costs at June 30, 2008 and June 30, 2009 as shown in Exhibit RMP____(BNW-1).

235 **Embedded Cost of Preferred Stock**

236 **Q. What is the Company's embedded cost of preferred stock?**

237 A. Exhibit RMP____(BNW-5) shows the embedded cost of preferred stock at June 30,
238 2008 and also June 30, 2009 at 5.41 percent.

239 **Fulfillment of MEHC Commitment**

240 **Q. Did Rocky Mountain Power and MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company**
241 **(MEHC) make certain commitments concerning cost of incremental debt?**

242 A. Yes. During the regulatory approval process related to the acquisition of the
243 Company, MEHC stated that the incremental cost of long-term debt would be
244 reduced as a result of the acquisition by MEHC, due to the association with
245 Berkshire Hathaway. In Docket No. 05-035-54, MEHC and Rocky Mountain
246 Power made a formal commitment (General Commitment 37) that over the next
247 five years, they would demonstrate that incremental long-term debt issuances
248 would be at a spread ten basis points below its similarly rated peers.

249 **Q. Has the Company issued any debt that would be subject to this commitment?**

250 A. Yes. On August 10, 2006, the Company issued \$350 million of new long-term
251 debt. In addition, on March 9, 2007 the Company issued \$600 million of new
252 long-term debt. More recently, on October 3, 2007 the Company issued \$600
253 million of 6.25 percent first mortgage bonds due October 15, 2037.

254 **Q. Have you assessed whether the MEHC commitment was fulfilled with respect**
255 **to this long-term debt issuance?**

256 A. Yes. Based on separate studies by banks knowledgeable about the Company's
257 debt issuances, market conditions and long-term debt issuances by other market
258 participants, the Company's issuances of long-term debt not only met, but
259 exceeded, the promised level of savings. Confidential Exhibit Nos.
260 RMP__(BNW-6), (BNW-7), (BNW-8), (BNW-9), (BNW-10), (BNW-11),
261 (BNW-12), (BNW-13) and (BNW-14) demonstrate that each of the respective
262 issuances of long term debt fulfilled the requirements of General Commitment 37.

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

264 A. Yes.