

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

<p>In the Matter of the Application of Rocky Mountain Power for Approval of a Power Purchase Agreement between PacifiCorp and Tesoro Refining and Marketing Company</p>	<p>DOCKET NO. 09-035-__</p>
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PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF PAUL H. CLEMENTS

November 3, 2009

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

3 A. My name is Paul H. Clements. My business address is 201 S. Main, Suite 2300,
4 Salt Lake City, Utah 84111. My present position is Originator/Power Marketer
5 for PacifiCorp Energy. PacifiCorp Energy and Rocky Mountain Power are
6 divisions of PacifiCorp (the Company).

7 **QUALIFICATIONS**

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

9 A. I have a B.S. in Business Management from Brigham Young University. I have
10 been employed with PacifiCorp for five years as an originator/power marketer
11 responsible for negotiating qualifying facility contracts, negotiating interruptible
12 retail special contracts, negotiating renewable energy contracts, and managing
13 wholesale energy and capacity contracts with other utilities and power marketers.
14 I also worked in the merchant energy sector for 10 years in pricing and
15 structuring, origination, and trading roles for Duke Energy and Illinova.

16 **PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

17 **Q. On whose behalf are you testifying in this proceeding?**

18 A. I am testifying on behalf of PacifiCorp, dba Rocky Mountain Power.

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

20 A. I will be presenting information in support of the one year qualifying facility
21 power purchase agreement between PacifiCorp and Tesoro Refining and
22 Marketing Company (the "QF PPA") executed by the parties on October 27,

23 2009. I will be providing an overview of the contract terms and the method used
24 to determine the avoided line loss adjustment.

25 **OVERVIEW OF THE TESORO QF PPA**

26 **Q. Please provide a brief overview of the terms and conditions of the QF PPA.**

27 A. The parties executed a one year QF PPA for calendar year 2010. Under the
28 agreement, the Company pays Tesoro prices which were calculated using the
29 methodology approved by the Commission in a Report and Order in Docket No.
30 03-035-14. Tesoro will be paid, on average, a price of \$39.00 per megawatt hour.
31 The pricing in the agreement is structured as on peak and off peak prices for each
32 month. Tesoro will use the output of the QF generation to first offset their own
33 retail load and will sell only the amount of energy that exceeds the retail load to
34 the Company under the proposed QF PPA. The contract includes an avoided line
35 loss adjustment of 3.46% applicable to all deliveries to the Company.

36 **Q. Is this avoided line loss methodology consistent with other short term QF**
37 **contracts executed in 2009 having terms for calendar year 2010?**

38 A. Yes. This underlying methodology is identical to that used in other short term
39 Utah QF contracts executed in 2009 having terms for calendar year 2010. Each
40 contract may have minor additional adjustments as a result of characteristics
41 unique to that particular QF customer or as a result of negotiations between
42 interested parties. However, the starting point methodology is identical. The
43 remainder of my testimony will explain the methodology.

44 **OVERVIEW OF THE AVOIDED LINE LOSS METHODOLOGY**

45 **Q. Why is the Company required to address avoided line losses for the Tesoro**
46 **QF PPA?**

47 A. In its clarification order dated May 26, 2006 in Docket No. 03-035-14, the
48 Commission set forth on page one the procedure through which avoided line
49 losses for qualifying facilities (QFs) should be considered:

50 “First, we clarify the April Order did not preclude consideration of
51 payments for avoided transmission losses to QFs. The April Order did not
52 approve a generic method for calculating losses. The Commission rejected
53 the two proposed methods due to insufficient evidence upon which to
54 conclude that either method was generally reasonable and met the
55 ratepayer indifference standard. The Commission will consider the
56 reasonableness of payments to QFs for avoided transmission losses on a
57 case-by-case basis when QF contracts including such payments are
58 presented for our approval.”

59 In consideration of the Commission’s order to determine line losses on a case by
60 case basis, the Company evaluated the circumstances unique to the proposed one
61 year Tesoro QF PPA and made the determination that an adjustment to the price
62 to account for avoided line losses was reasonable and necessary.

63 The Company acknowledges that the methodology and analysis used to
64 determine the recommended avoided line loss adjustment for this particular
65 contract does not set precedence for future QF contracts and does not restrict
66 either the Company or any other interested party from recommending a different
67 methodology or position in future proceedings.

68 **Q. What are the general steps the Company proposes be used to determine if an**
69 **avoided line loss adjustment is necessary for the Tesoro QF PPA?**

70 A. The methodology used to determine the avoided line loss adjustment for the
71 Tesoro QF PPA is summarized in the following general steps:

- 72 1. Determine if the QF is located in the Wasatch Front load center,
73 as defined by the combination of the “Utah North” and the “Utah
74 South” transmission nodes/bubbles in the GRID topology.
- 75 2. If the QF is located in the Wasatch Front load center, an
76 adjustment for avoided line losses may be justified. If the QF is
77 not located in the Wasatch Front load center, no adjustment for
78 avoided line losses will be made, unless unique circumstances
79 justify an adjustment (see step 4.)
- 80 3. If the QF satisfies the location condition in step 2, proceed with
81 the “QF Avoided Line Loss Calculation” explained in more
82 detail below.
- 83 4. Review any unique circumstances applicable only to that
84 particular QF that may impact line losses. For example, is the
85 QF at the end of a long isolated radial line or does the QF utilize
86 any project-specific transmission lines that may impact line
87 losses?

88 **Q. Why is a line loss adjustment analysis necessary?**

89 A. Line losses are a physical reality that occurs when electricity flows from the
90 generator source to the load sync. The avoided cost principle provides for the
91 payment to a QF to equal the value or benefit that the QF brings to the system
92 such that the ratepayer is indifferent as to whether the energy comes from the QF
93 or from another source. Therefore, if the QF contract provides a line loss savings

94 (or, conversely, additional cost) when compared to the avoided resource, an
95 adjustment to the price is justified.

96 **Q. Are line losses calculated in the GRID model run that is used to calculate the**
97 **avoided costs?**

98 A. No. The GRID pricing model used to determine the avoided costs, or price, for
99 QF contracts determines the avoided cost of generation only. While the GRID
100 model does take into account transmission constraints when determining which
101 resource is avoided, the model does not calculate or address any potential benefit
102 or detriment attributable to line losses when the QF is added to the resource
103 portfolio. Therefore, any adjustment for avoided line losses must be done outside
104 of the GRID model.

105 **Q. Is there a definitive method that can be used to precisely measure the impact**
106 **a QF has on line losses on the PacifiCorp system?**

107 A. The Company evaluated several methods to measure the impact a QF has on
108 avoided line losses. The only way to precisely measure line losses is to put one
109 meter at the source point and another meter at the sync point and calculate the
110 losses on that isolated path. This is not feasible or possible on an integrated
111 system with multiple sources and syncs. Nor is it cost effective or practical for
112 the issue at hand. All other approaches are subject to the impact of assumptions
113 and inputs which can greatly influence the results. Therefore, the Company set
114 forth to establish a methodology that utilizes reasonable and applicable
115 assumptions and inputs to reasonably estimate the impact a QF has on line losses.

116 **Q. Is there a means by which the impact a QF contract has on line losses can be**
117 **reasonably estimated?**

118 A. Yes. The Company has developed a methodology that it recommends be used to
119 determine the avoided line loss adjustments to be included in the Tesoro QF PPA.
120 The Company has defined this method as the “QF Avoided Line Loss
121 Calculation.” The Company acknowledges that this method contains concepts
122 that are a result of prior collaborative discussions between interested parties in
123 other QF dockets, and, as such, no party is bound by this method, either in part or
124 in whole, in future QF proceedings.

125 **Q. What are the detailed steps included in the QF Avoided Line Loss**
126 **Methodology?**

127 A. The QF avoided line loss methodology utilizes, as a starting point, output from
128 the GRID model run that was used to calculate the avoided costs for the specific
129 QF contract. PacifiCorp’s FERC OATT rate for line losses is also used in the
130 calculation.

131 The GRID model includes several transmission nodes or bubbles that
132 represent major locations of load and/or resources. These locations are often
133 connected by high voltage transmission paths, which are also modeled in GRID
134 consistent with their rated capacities and other constraints. When calculating the
135 avoided cost, GRID determines which resource is backed down or avoided when
136 the QF is added as a resource. The avoided resource may or may not be in the
137 same transmission bubble as the QF resource, as GRID will optimize the available
138 transmission between all bubbles and dispatch the system economically. The

139 GRID output file contains a summary of the number of megawatt hours that were
140 avoided in each transmission bubble as a result of the addition of the QF. The
141 sum of the avoided megawatt hours in all the bubbles equals the total amount of
142 megawatt hours provided by the QF. Therefore, it is possible to determine the
143 percentage of the total megawatt hours that the avoided resource was a resource
144 outside the transmission bubble where the QF is located.

145 The Tesoro QF is located in the Utah North transmission bubble, which,
146 along with the Utah South transmission bubble, defines the Wasatch Front load
147 center. The Utah North transmission bubble consists primarily of the northern
148 Salt Lake valley and parts of southeast Idaho and southwest Wyoming, and the
149 Utah South transmission bubble consists of the area from approximately Mona to
150 the south half of the Salt Lake valley. After reviewing the GRID output, it was
151 determined that there are no current transmission constraints between the Utah
152 North transmission bubble and the Utah South transmission bubble, so these two
153 bubbles were considered to be a single bubble representing the Wasatch Front
154 load center in this analysis. This particular area contains a significant sized load
155 but is primarily a large importer of energy from the other bubbles. Therefore, it is
156 reasonable to assume that locating a resource inside this Wasatch Front load
157 center (the Utah North and Utah South bubbles) will reduce the need to import
158 energy from outside this area, thus decreasing the amount of physical losses that
159 will occur as power does not have to travel as far to serve the load in this area.

160 To calculate a reasonable estimation of the amount of avoided line losses
161 attributable to the Tesoro QF PPA, the Company calculated the percentage of the

162 total megawatt hours that the Tesoro PPA avoided that were outside the Utah
163 North and Utah South transmission bubbles (the Wasatch Front load center) and
164 multiplied it by the PacifiCorp FERC OATT transmission level line loss rate of
165 4.48%. The Company incurs the “cost” of line losses at the tariff rates contained
166 in PacifiCorp’s FERC OATT. The tariff does not differentiate line loss rates
167 based on any factor other than delivery voltage. Therefore, the tariff rate is an
168 appropriate reflection of the financial avoided cost of line losses and is used in
169 these calculations.

170 The Tesoro QF PPA avoided resources which were outside the Utah North
171 and Utah South bubbles 77.24% of the time. Therefore, the starting point for the
172 Tesoro QF PPA contract line loss adjustment should be an increase to the contract
173 price of 3.46% (4.48% x 77.24%.)

174 Once this starting point has been determined, the Company evaluated
175 whether a further adjustment is required to account for any project specific
176 characteristics that impact line losses. In the case of the Tesoro QF PPA, no such
177 characteristic exists. Therefore, no further adjustment is needed to the starting
178 point adjustment of 3.46%, resulting in a total proposed avoided line loss
179 adjustment of 3.46% for the Tesoro QF PPA.

180 **Q. Does a further adjustment need to be made to reflect the fact that the Tesoro**
181 **QF PPA is a non firm PPA, meaning there are no minimum delivery**
182 **obligations?**

183 A. No. The Company does not believe that the level of “firmness” of a contract has
184 any impact on the physical reality of line losses. Line losses occur when physical

185 power actually flows. The actual flow of power is not affected by the firmness of
186 a resource, so line losses are not impacted by whether a resource is firm or non
187 firm. Therefore, no further adjustment is required.

188 **Q. Was a further adjustment made in past Tesoro contracts to reflect the fact**
189 **that the Tesoro QF PPA is a non firm PPA?**

190 A. Yes. A further adjustment was made to the 2009 contract as a result of settlement
191 discussions between interested parties. For the 2010 contract at issue in this
192 docket, Tesoro advised the Company that it would not support such an
193 adjustment. Since the Company also does not believe a further adjustment is
194 required, no such adjustment was made to the proposed 2010 QF PPA.

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

196 A. Yes.