

PUBLIC

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

)	
)	DOCKET NO. 09-035-23
In the Matter of the Request of Rocky)	
Mountain Power for Authority to)	Exhibit No. DPU 12.0
Increase its Retail Electric Utility Service)	
Rates in Utah and for approval of Its)	Testimony
Proposed Electric Service Schedules and)	
Electric Service Regulations)	Douglas D. Wheelwright
)	
)	

**FOR THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
STATE OF UTAH**

**Testimony of
Douglas D. Wheelwright**

October 8, 2009

1 **Q: Please state your name, business address and title.**

2 A: My name is Douglas D. Wheelwright. I am a Utility Analyst in the Division of Public
3 Utilities (Division). My business address is 160 East 300 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114.

4

5 **Q: On whose behalf are you testifying?**

6 A: The Division of Public Utilities.

7

8 **Q: Please describe your position and duties with the Division.**

9 A: I review public utility documents and financial data and conduct other research to support
10 Division policy positions.

11

12 **Q: What is the purpose of your testimony?**

13 A: My purpose is to present part of the Division's position on the hedging policies and practices
14 currently in place at PacifiCorp (Company).

15

16 **Q: Why is this issue included in the general rate case?**

17 A: Natural gas fired power plants represent 22% of the Company's total owned generating
18 capacity and represented 12% of the energy supplied in 2008. As part of this application, the
19 Company has included an expense of \$174.2 million¹ in the net power costs for natural gas
20 swaps relating to the Company's purchases in the hedging program. The Company has also
21 included revenue of \$187.8 million² from electric swaps for a net reduction of \$13.6 million
22 in net power costs. While the primary focus of this analysis is dealing with natural gas
23 hedging, the net result of the natural gas and the electric hedging program should be
24 reviewed. The Company provided information in the May 18, 2009 technical conference
25 indicating a strong correlation between the power and the natural gas hedges. Concerns with
26 hedging were raised in the previous general rate case, Docket No. 08-035-38, by the Division
27 and by other intervening parties. On April 9, 2009, the Utah Public Service Commission
28 (Commission) opened Docket No. 09-035-21 to further study the natural gas price risk

¹ Exhibit RMP ____ (GND-1), page 5 – line labeled Gas Swaps.

² Exhibit RMP ____ (GND-1), page 4 – line labeled STF Electric Swaps.

29 management policies and procedures of the Company and to allow interested parties to
30 participate and better understand the issues. These issues are being addressed in this rate
31 case because of the possible impact to ratepayers and to determine how the Company's
32 hedging policies compare to those of other utility companies.

33

34 **Q: What is hedging?**

35 A: Hedging is similar to purchasing insurance to protect against unforeseen circumstances. In
36 the case of natural gas, the utility purchases various contractual arrangements or financial
37 instruments to put limits on the future price that will be paid for the commodity. These
38 products have an associated cost and when utilized can provide a more stable and predictable
39 price for the commodity. The Company has been using various hedging products to reduce
40 risk and volatility for several years and has a well established energy and trading department.
41 The expenses for these various hedging products are included in the cost of service and are
42 ultimately paid by ratepayers. Any hedging program should be cost effective and should not
43 add unnecessary expense to the total fuel costs paid by ratepayers. With a rapidly changing
44 commodity market, the net result of any hedging program should be periodically reviewed.
45 It should be understood that there will be periods when the cost exceeds the benefit and
46 periods when benefits will exceed costs. Any review or cost benefit analysis should be
47 conducted over an extended period of time.

48

49 **Q: Are you aware of other groups or state commissions that are looking at these issues?**

50 A: Yes. Derivative contracts are receiving attention in many areas and are the focus of
51 published reports and training seminars³. Additionally, with the recent drop in natural gas
52 prices, this issue is being reviewed by several commissions. In January 2009, Vantage
53 Consulting and its subcontractor Pace Global Energy Services completed an analysis of gas
54 hedging for the board of the New Jersey Gas Distribution Companies.⁴ In February 2009, the

³ National Regulatory Research Institute, "Aligning a Utility's Interests with the Public Interest in Cost-Effective Purchased Power Transactions," David Magnus Boonin, April 6, 2009.

NARUC, "Energy Portfolio Management: Tools & Resources for State Public Utility Commissions," October 2006.

⁴ Vantage Consulting, Inc. "Analysis Of The Gas Purchasing Practices And Hedging Strategies Of The New Jersey Major Gas Distribution Companies Final Report." 15 January 2009.

55 NARUC Board of Directors adopted a resolution addressing excessive speculation in the
56 natural gas markets.⁵ In February 2009, the Consumer Advocate Division of the West
57 Virginia Public Service Commission requested a general investigation into the natural gas
58 hedging practices.⁶ Changes in the accounting procedures for reporting hedging activities is
59 changing as well.

60 In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 161, “Disclosures about Derivative
61 Instruments and Hedging Activities – an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133” (“SFAS
62 No. 161”). SFAS No. 161 is intended to improve financial reporting about derivative
63 instruments and hedging activities by requiring enhanced disclosures to enable investors to
64 better understand how and why an entity uses derivative instruments and their effects on an
65 entity’s financial results. PacifiCorp adopted SFAS No. 161 on January 1, 2009 and included
66 the required disclosures within its Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

67 In April 2009, the FASB issued Staff Positions (“FSP”) No. FAS 107-1 and APB 28-1,
68 “Interim Disclosures about Fair Value of Financial Instruments” (“FSP FAS 107-1”).
69 FSP FAS 107-1 requires publicly traded companies to include the annual fair value
70 disclosures required for all financial instruments within the scope of SFAS No. 107,
71 “Disclosures about Fair Value of Financial Instruments,” in interim financial statements.
72 PacifiCorp adopted FSP FAS 107-1 on April 1, 2009 and included the required disclosures
73 within its Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.⁷

74

75 **Q: Please briefly describe the issues related to the Company’s current hedging policies and**
76 **practices.**

77 A: **BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL** [REDACTED]
78 [REDACTED]
79 [REDACTED]
80 [REDACTED]
81 [REDACTED]

⁵ [www.naruc.org/Resolutions/CA Resolution Addressing Excessive Speculation in Natural Gas Markets](http://www.naruc.org/Resolutions/CA%20Resolution%20Addressing%20Excessive%20Speculation%20in%20Natural%20Gas%20Markets)

⁶ Public Service Commission of West Virginia, Case No. 09-0148-G-PC.

⁷ PacifiCorp 2008 10-K report.

82 [REDACTED]
83 [REDACTED]
84 [REDACTED]
85 [REDACTED]
86 [REDACTED]
87 [REDACTED]
88 [REDACTED]
89 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

90
91 END CONFIDENTIAL

92 Based on a comparison of hedging practices of other utilities performed by Blue Ridge
93 Consulting Services, a consulting firm hired by the Division for this case, it appears that
94 PacifiCorp's hedging strategy reaches farther into the future than most other utility
95 companies and allows for large tolerance bands.⁸ This creates an environment where prices
96 will be locked in for longer periods and does not allow the Company to take advantage of
97 downward price movement in natural gas or upward movement in electricity markets.

98
99 **Q: How does the Company summarize the purpose of its hedging program?**

⁸ Blue Ridge Consulting Services, DPU Exhibit 3.8, p. 23-25.

100 A: As stated in the PacifiCorp Front Office Procedures and Practices,⁹ BEGIN

101 CONFIDENTIAL

102 [REDACTED]

103 [REDACTED]

104 [REDACTED]

105 [REDACTED]

106 [REDACTED]

107 [REDACTED]

108 [REDACTED]

109 [REDACTED]

110 [REDACTED]

111 [REDACTED]

112 [REDACTED]

113 [REDACTED]

114 [REDACTED]

115 [REDACTED]

116 [REDACTED]

117 [REDACTED]

118 [REDACTED]

119 [REDACTED]

120 [REDACTED]

121 [REDACTED]

122 [REDACTED]

123 [REDACTED]

124 [REDACTED]

125 [REDACTED]

126 [REDACTED]

127 e. [REDACTED]

128 [REDACTED] END CONFIDENTIAL

129 In the technical conference May 18, 2009, PacifiCorp indicated in the summary that BEGIN

130 CONFIDENTIAL [REDACTED]

131 [REDACTED] END

132 CONFIDENTIAL Some purchases will be made during periods when prices are low and
133 some will be made when prices are high. The average will be more stable prices over time
134 and will allow the company to maintain more consistent rates.

⁹ PacifiCorp Energy – Commercial and Trading Front Office Procedures and Practices, Approved July 31, 2008, p. 59 (CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIATARY).
¹⁰ Commodity Price Risk Management Presentation to Utah Public Service Commission Technical Conference, May 18, 2009 p.5

135 The current practice will not always result in the least cost. This can be seen in response
136 to data request UIEC 2.23 (09-035-21).

137 (Question) Please explain each vehicle in place inside RMP to protect against a sudden and
138 rapid decline in natural gas prices.

139

140 (Answer) **BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL**

141

142

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144

145

146

END CONFIDENTIAL

147 In the May 18, 2009 technical conference, the Company indicated the strong long-term
148 correlation between movements in natural gas and electricity prices. This creates an internal
149 hedge, with an increase in natural gas prices offset by a decrease in power prices. This
150 internal hedge assumes that the Company will remain in a long position with excess power
151 and that the correlation will remain unchanged. This correlation could change with the
152 expiration of long term agreements and changes in market conditions.

153

154 **Q: Does the Division have any concerns with the Company's current hedging program?**

155 **A:** The Division recognizes that there is no one strategy that will work for all energy producers
156 or consumers. Each company will design and implement its own strategy based on its unique
157 needs and risk policy. As identified in the Blue Ridge Consulting report¹¹, there are many
158 different hedging policies throughout the country and many different ways that commissions
159 monitor their performance. The Utah Public Service Commission (Commission) opened
160 Natural Gas Hedging Docket No. 09-035-21 due to the concern and lack of understanding of
161 this very complicated issue. The Company's current hedging program has been designed to
162 minimize volatility in commodity prices in a rising price environment and does not use
163 options or other instruments to minimize exposure in a falling price environment. That said,
164 the Division has three major concerns with the Company's hedging strategy.

165

166 **Q: Can you explain the first concern?**

¹¹ Blue Ridge Consulting Services, DPU Exhibit 3.8, p. 23-25.

167 **A:** Certainly. Both the purpose, and usually the effect, of the Company's strategy is stability
168 and predictability in its realized net power costs. However, as explicitly stated by the
169 Company, minimizing price is not important in this strategy. **BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL** [REDACTED]

170 [REDACTED] **END**

171 **CONFIDENTIAL** and it is unable to respond to short- or even intermediate-term changes in
172 markets. This lack of flexibility can mean missed opportunities to benefit ratepayers.

173

174 **Q: How could the Company be more flexible in its hedging program?**

175 **A:** There are several potential ways that the Company could be more flexible in order to benefit
176 ratepayers. **BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL** [REDACTED]

177 [REDACTED]

178 [REDACTED]

179 **END CONFIDENTIAL** Another is to enter into contracts with options. Such options,
180 purchased at a price premium, allow the holder to take advantage of market changes.
181 Hedging contracts with price banding are also common, whereby the ultimate price paid may
182 vary within a specific band, but up- or down-side can be limited, albeit with a price premium.
183 The National Regulatory Research Institute published a report that identified some of the
184 actions currently being taken by other utility companies and commissions.¹² The Company
185 could include discretionary hedging triggered by the relationship of expected prices to
186 current prices.

187

188 **Q: Couldn't such changes lead to more volatility in the net prices the company pays and**
189 **therefore prices to consumers?**

190 **A:** Yes it could, and this reflects the policy trade-off in question. The Company's current
191 strategy strongly emphasizes stability. A strategy with no hedging could result in the least
192 cost over-time to consumers, but also would provide the least price stability. The Division
193 does not advocate either strategy. Rather, we are concerned that the current hedging policy is
194 unbalanced and sacrifices the ability to respond to unexpected market conditions. A more

¹² National Regulatory Research Institute, Gas Supply Planning and Procurement: A Comprehensive Regulatory Approach, June 2008.

195 balanced approach would accept some degree of volatility risk in exchange for the
196 opportunity to benefit from lower than forecast prices. The Company's hedging strategy
197 should be flexible enough to accommodate changes in market conditions and updated
198 information.

199

200 **Q: Why has this become an issue now?**

201 **A:** As I recounted above, the Company's strategy is premised upon limiting volatility in an
202 environment of rising commodity costs. However, within the past 15 months, we have seen
203 that this premise has not held. Natural gas prices have fallen from a July 2, 2008 high of
204 \$13.28 to the September 2, 2009 low of \$1.92.¹³ With its natural gas prices essentially
205 locked into place at prices **BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL** [REDACTED]
206 **END CONFIDENTIAL**, the Company has been unable to pass these gas prices savings on to
207 consumers in this rate case. This is seen in Mr. Duvall's Exhibit GND-1, where the gas burn
208 costs are forecast at \$272,557,507 and swaps are forecast to cost an additional \$174,152,653.
209 This results in paying the equivalent of \$6.66 per MMBtu for the gas that will be consumed
210 during the test year. Had the company had price bands or options in its hedge contracts, a
211 significant discount to consumers could have been realized from the unexpected downturn in
212 gas prices.

213

214 **Q: In the past, hasn't the opposite happened, where gas prices rose unexpectedly, and the**
215 **Company's hedging has protected consumers?**

216 **A:** Yes it has. In the 2008 rate case, the Company's supplemental direct testimony showed that
217 gas swaps had reduced net natural gas costs by [REDACTED]. (See Confidential Exhibit
218 RMP_GND-1S in Docket No. 08-035-38.) However, it would be wrong to assume that a
219 change in strategy would subject customers to all volatility risk or, for that matter, that risks
220 would be symmetrical. With a carefully crafted hedging strategy, many large natural gas
221 consumers protect themselves against up-side risk with mechanisms such as caps, while also
222 leaving the possibility to benefit from down-side price changes. While such caps, options,
223 and other devices may come at a cost premium, we believe that the Company and the

¹³ Wall Street Journal, Henry Hub

224 Commission should explore these possibilities in pursuit of a more balanced hedging
225 strategy.

226

227 **Q: What is the Division's second concern?**

228 A: A key part of the Company's hedging strategy is the balancing of gas swaps with electric
229 swaps, as I described above. However, this strategy assumes two things: 1) That gas and
230 electricity prices will always move in close tandem, and 2) That gas and electric swaps must
231 be conceptualized together.

232

233 **Q: Why is this first assumption a problem?**

234 A: While gas and electricity prices are often correlated, there are times when their prices diverge
235 or the price of one commodity moves proportionally more than the other. The 2001 western
236 states electricity crisis, for example, was one such time. So too was the aftermath of
237 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Thus, even though in more "normal" times, one might expect
238 swaps wins when electricity prices are falling to offset swaps losses from similarly falling
239 natural gas prices, there are times when these will not offset and the net effect will be higher
240 customer costs, so long as simple swaps such as the Company has employed are used.

241

242 **Q: Why is conceptualizing gas and electric swaps together a problem?**

243 A: The Division feels that the Company and Commission should explore whether the Company
244 should structure its overall swaps policy not as an electricity / natural gas tandem, but rather
245 as two separate strategies – protection for the Company (and ratepayers) as a natural gas
246 consumer and a separate strategy to protect the Company as an electricity seller. For
247 example, contracts can be structured such that the up-side risk of gas is capped, while at the
248 same time the upside price of electricity has no ceiling. Thus, if both commodities' prices
249 rise in tandem, the Company's cost for gas is capped, but its increased revenues from
250 electricity would not be limited. Similar protections can be achieved through other contract
251 structured with options and bands. This permits both ratepayer protection against rising gas
252 costs or falling electricity market prices, and the opportunity for ratepayers to benefit from

253 falling gas costs and rising electricity market prices. As it is now, ratepayers have all of the
254 former but none of the latter.

255

256 **Q: What is the Division's third concern?**

257 A: Our third concern is simply that fact that the current swapping strategy that the Company has
258 employed has been conducted without the scrutiny or approval of regulators. The current
259 policy, in essence, provides the Company with full protection against price risks, so long as
260 most or all of its hedges for a given time period are completed before the filing of a rate case.
261 That is, so long as the Commission approves – either explicitly or tacitly – the recovery of
262 swapping costs, the Company has no price risk so long as rates remain in effect during the
263 life of those swaps contracts. This elimination of risk to the Company, and the rate stability
264 that goes with it, may well be something that the Commission would see as beneficial, but in
265 recent rate cases, the issue has not been explored. We are concerned that this aspect of
266 Company operation, involving as it does, hundreds of millions of dollars every year, receive
267 careful and periodic review. This will help to ensure that the policy preferences of the
268 Commission with regard to the tradeoff between price volatility risk and least-cost pricing be
269 addressed and clear guidance be given to the Company on how to proceed.

270

271 **Q: How does the Company use different types of instruments to manage different types of**
272 **risk?**

273 A: The Company uses financial hedges to manage the price volatility and physical hedges to
274 manage the volumes. PacifiCorp manages its natural gas supply requirements by entering
275 into forward commitments for physical delivery of natural gas.
276 PacifiCorp manages its exposure to increases in natural gas supply costs through forward
277 commitments for the purchase of forecasted physical natural gas requirements at fixed prices
278 and financial swap contracts that settle in cash based on the difference between a fixed price
279 that PacifiCorp pays and a floating market-based price that PacifiCorp receives. PacifiCorp
280 reported hedging percentages in its 10-K reports as of December 31, 2008, had economically
281 hedged 64% of its forecasted physical exposure and 94% of its forecasted financial exposure

282 for 2009. For 2010, PacifiCorp currently has hedged 48% of its forecasted physical exposure
283 and 85% of its forecasted financial exposure.¹⁴

284
285 There is a great deal of confusion on this issue and the actual percentage of physical and
286 financial hedging. Below is a summary of the natural gas hedging percentages by year based
287 on the Company's 10-K reports. While it is a concern today, it should be noted that the
288 actual percent of hedging is lower in 2008 than it was in 2005.

289

PacifiCorp Natural Gas Hedging Practices							
Based on information provided in 10K Reports							
As of	Type	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
3/31/2005	Physical	100%	100%	77%			
	Financial	100%	100%	83%			
3/31/2006	Physical		100%	100%	88%		
	Financial		100%	100%	96%		
12/31/2006	Physical			100%	89%		
	Financial			100%	100%		
12/31/2007	Physical				82%	61%	
	Financial				97%	84%	
12/31/2008	Physical					64%	48%
	Financial					94%	85%

290

291

292 **Q: How does the natural gas price identified in this case compare to the current spot price.**

293 A: Current spot market price as of Sept 30, 2009¹⁵

294 Henry Hub **3.38**
295 Opal **3.14**

296

297 Exhibit RMP ___(GND-1), page 11 identifies all of the natural gas facilities and the estimated
298 average fuel costs for each facility over the test period.¹⁶ If we include the \$174 million in gas
299 swaps to the gas costs it would add \$2.596 to the fuel cost for each facility, as displayed below.

300 The adjusted costs can then be compared to the current spot price.

¹⁴ 2008 PacifiCorp 10-K.

¹⁵ Wall Street Journal

¹⁶ Exhibit RMP ___(GND-1), page 11 – Average Fuel Cost (\$/MMBtu).

301				
302		Average Fuel	Gas Swaps	Adjusted Cost
303	Chehalis	5.014	2.596	7.610
304	Current Creek	3.954	2.596	6.550
305	Gadsby	4.099	2.596	6.695
306	Gadsby CT	4.099	2.596	6.695
307	Hermiston	3.887	2.596	6.483
308	Lake Side	3.986	2.596	6.582
309	Little Mountain	4.099	2.596	6.695
310				

311 **Q: How does this compare to the historical gas prices identified by other utilities?**

312 **A:** Only a few utilities provide a summary of their fuel costs in their annual reports. Below is a
313 brief list of other utility fuel prices. This information illustrates significant fluctuations in
314 natural gas prices from year to year for various utilities.

315

Natural Gas Fuel Costs

	2008	2007	2006
Alliant Energy Corporation ¹⁷			
Interstate Power and Light	8.18	9.21	10.45
Wisconsin Power and Light	8.64	13.86	14.28
SCANA Corporation ¹⁸	10.92	8.28	8.18
Xcel Energy ¹⁹	10.09	7.6	7.28
Progress Energy ²⁰	10.03	8.51	7.41

316

317 The Company should provide a summary of the fuel costs similar to what is provided by
318 Alliant Energy (see below). The total fuel cost should include the costs associated with gas
319 swaps. This would provide all parties with a simple more accurate presentation of total fuel
320 costs and could reduce the second guessing that is inherent in any hedging program.

¹⁷ Alliant Energy Corporation, 2008 10-K report, p 8

¹⁸ Scana Corporation, 2008 10-K report

¹⁹ Xcel Energy, 2008 10-K report

²⁰ Progress Energy, 2008 10-K report

	Alliant Energy Corporation²¹					
	Interstate Power and Light			Wisconsin Power and Light		
	2008	2007	2006	2008	2007	2006
Natural Gas	8.18	9.21	10.45	8.64	13.86	14.28
Coal	1.58	1.35	1.25	1.93	1.69	1.52
Nuclear			0.56			
All Fuels	2.09	2.35	2.18	2.06	1.97	1.8

321 **Q: Can you explain the mark-to-market adjustments?**

322 A: When the Company purchases a derivative contract, there is an associated market value
323 based on the maturity and estimated future commodity price. The specific terms are fixed for
324 the term of the contract. As market conditions change and as the price of natural gas
325 fluctuates, the fair market value of the associated contract changes and can be higher or lower
326 than the original value. The adjusted fair value is the price that would be received in an
327 orderly transaction between market participants on a specific date. The practice is known as
328 mark to market. The fair value of derivative instruments is determined using unadjusted
329 quoted prices for identical instruments on the applicable exchange in which PacifiCorp
330 transacts. When quoted prices for identical instruments are not available, PacifiCorp uses
331 forward price curves derived from market price quotations, when available. The Company
332 may also derive prices from internally developed and commercial models, with internal and
333 external fundamental data inputs. With fluctuations and changes in market conditions, it is
334 possible to incur mark to market gains or losses in one period that could be reversed in
335 subsequent periods.

337 **Q: How are the derivative contracts identified in the Company's financial statements?**

338 A: Derivates are found as both current and long-term assets and liabilities. A summary of the
339 balances from 2006 through June 2009 is included below. In reviewing the extent of the
340 Company's current hedging program, the balance sheet information has been summarized
341 and compared to other utility companies in DPU Exhibit 12.1.

²¹ Alliant Energy Corporation, 2008 10-K report, p 8.

PACIFICORP - Fair Value of Derivates - Data from 10K Report

	March 2006	2006	2007	2008	Jun-09
Current Derivative Assets	221.7	150.9	143.0	174.0	128.0
LT Derivative Contract Assets	345.3	234.9	215.0	86.0	75.0
Total Assets	567.0	385.8	358.0	260.0	203.0
Current Derivative Liabilities	(97.9)	(109.5)	(117.0)	(130.0)	(75.0)
LT Derivative Contract Liabilities	(461.2)	(504.5)	(497.0)	(490.0)	(405.0)
Total Liabilities	(559.1)	(614.0)	(614.0)	(620.0)	(480.0)
TOTAL	7.9	(228.2)	(256.0)	(360.0)	(277.0)
Net Regulatory Assets	94.7	229.8	256.0	442.0	302.0
Regulatory Assets represent costs that are expected to be recovered in future rates. (Form 10K - p. 88)					
Net Unrealized Loss on Derivative		229.8	256.0	442.0	302.0
Substantially all of PacifiCorp's derivative contracts are probable of recovery in rates or are accounted for as cash flow hedges. Therefore, changes in fair value are recorded as a net regulatory asset or liability or accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) ("AOCI"). Accordingly, amounts are generally not recognized in earnings until the contracts are settled. (2008 Form 10K - p. 64)					

342

343

Q: How are these hedging contracts monitored and reported?

344

A: The Company's Commodity and Trading group (C & T) currently uses several different

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programs to monitor the results of current hedging portfolio. [BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL]

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[END CONFIDENTIAL]

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352

Q: Are there other items that should be considered when looking at the value of the

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derivative portfolio?

354 A: Yes. There are several large contracts for both natural gas and electricity that should
355 be identified, addressed and separated from the more traditional market transactions. In
356 the May 18, 2009 technical conference, the Company provided a 5 year cost benefit
357 analysis for the hedging program. This same information was presented excluding only
358 the Hermiston contract and the results were dramatically different.²² [BEGIN

359 CONFIDENTIAL] [REDACTED]

360 [REDACTED]

361 [REDACTED]

362 [REDACTED] [END

363 CONFIDENTIAL]

364

365 The Division has identified seven significant long term electric contracts that should be
366 reviewed to determine their impact to the net energy profitability. Due to the length of time
367 and the large dollar amounts associated with these contracts, they have the potential to distort
368 the net profitability. The impact of these contracts can be seen in response to Docket No. 09-
369 035-21 DPU data request 1.25 concerning the \$442 million loss on derivative contracts in
370 2008²³. The Company's response to this query is listed as follows:

371 [BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL] [REDACTED]
372 [REDACTED]
373 [REDACTED]
374 [REDACTED]
375 [REDACTED]
376 [REDACTED]
377 [REDACTED] [END

378 CONFIDENTIAL]

379

380 **Q: Please summarize the Division's conclusions and recommendation.**

381 **A:** The Division recognizes that there is no one strategy that will work for all energy producers
382 and that the Company's current hedging program is designed for price stability. As
383 identified by Blue Ridge Consulting and by the National Regulatory Research Institute, there

²² Commodity Price Risk Management Presentation to Utah Public Service Commission Technical Conference, May 18, 2009, Page 33.

²³ 2008 PacifiCorp 10-K.

384 are many different hedging policies throughout the country and many different ways that
385 commissions monitor their performance. The Company's current program has worked well
386 to reduce the volatility during periods of dramatic price movement. Based on the
387 information obtained by Blue Ridge it appears that the Company's current practice of
388 hedging [BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL] [REDACTED] [END CONFIDENTIAL]
389 is longer than most other utilities.²⁴ The Commission's Natural Gas Hedging docket, Docket
390 No. 09-035-21, was opened due to the concern and lack of understanding of this very
391 complicated issue. The Division would recommend the following as it relates to the
392 Company's natural gas and electric hedging program.

393 1. The Commission should require the Company to complete an analysis and review all
394 available investment options similar to the report completed by the New Jersey Major Gas
395 Distribution Companies.²⁵ Information on alternative investment instruments such as the use
396 of options, caps, collars and their associated cost should be examined and presented along
397 with guidelines or trigger points for their use. The Company should prepare
398 recommendations for submission to the Commission with guidelines for the suggested
399 hedging strategy.

400 2. The Commission should seek input from interested parties and then provide guidance and
401 standards for the Company hedging strategy. This guidance would not need to contain rigid
402 goals or strategies but should include the following: (1) the objective of hedging, (2) the cost
403 of hedging, (3) the mix of hedging tools allowed, (4) the time horizon for financial
404 derivatives, (5) the appropriate criteria or triggers for discretionary hedging, and (6) the
405 appropriate reporting requirements. Guidelines would need to be reviewed every 3 – 5 years
406 or if there were significant changes in market conditions. Commission approval of such
407 plans would serve to protect the Company from retrospective "second-guessing," so long as
408 the approved plan was followed. Allowance should be made, however, for approving
409 deviations from such a plan when extraordinary conditions warrant.

²⁴ Blue Ridge Consulting Services, DPU Exhibit 3.8, p. 23-25.

²⁵ Vantage Consulting, Inc. "Analysis Of The Gas Purchasing Practices And Hedging Strategies Of The New Jersey Major Gas Distribution Companies Final Report." 15 January 2009. New Jersey Study.

410 3. Once the hedging portfolio plan has been reviewed and approved by the Commission, the
411 Company should provide an annual report to the Commission on the performance of the
412 program for the previous year compared to the guidelines and an explanation of any
413 deviation. The report should include projections and forecasts for future years and should
414 include a breakdown of the physical and financial contracts for both natural gas and electric
415 contracts and a breakdown of the impact of large contracts on the performance.

416

417 **Q: Does this conclude your testimony?**

418 A: Yes

419

420