

1 **Q. Please state your name, business address and present position with Rocky**  
2 **Mountain Power (or the “Company”).**

3 A. My name is David L. Taylor. My business address is 201 South Main, Salt Lake  
4 City, Utah, where I am employed as the Manager of Regulatory Affairs for the  
5 state of Utah.

6 **Qualifications**

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

8 A. I received a B.S. in Accounting from Weber State College in 1979 and a M.B.A.  
9 from Brigham Young University in 1986. I have been employed by Rocky  
10 Mountain Power or its predecessors since 1979. At the Company, I have worked  
11 in the Accounting, Budgeting, and Pricing and Regulatory areas. From 1987 to  
12 the present, I have held several supervisory and management positions in Pricing  
13 and Regulation.

14 **Q. Have you appeared as a witness in previous regulatory proceedings?**

15 A. Yes. I have testified on numerous occasions in Utah as well as in California,  
16 Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming.

17 **Purpose and Summary of Testimony**

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

19 A. In my testimony I provide the need and justification for the twelve months ending  
20 December 31, 2010 test period proposed by the Company in this case (the “Test  
21 Period”).

22 **Test Period**

23 **Introduction**

24 **Q. What test period did the Company use to determine revenue requirement in**  
25 **this case?**

26 A. Rocky Mountain Power proposes to use a twelve month ending December 31,  
27 2010, forecast test period with a thirteen month average rate base in this general  
28 rate case. In accordance with the Commission's Order on Motion for Approval of  
29 Test Period issued October 30, 2008 in Docket No. 08-035-38, it plans to file  
30 other material in the case on or about June 15, 2009.

31 **Q. Why is a forward-looking test period necessary?**

32 A. Robert Hahne, in his book *Accounting for Public Utilities*, states that "[T]he test  
33 period, by nature and by design, is a surrogate for conditions of the period of rate  
34 use and, to repeat, is presumed to be representative of future conditions." (7-11,  
35 Section 7.06.) This objective is captured in Section 54-4-4(3)(a) of the Utah Code  
36 which states:

37 If in the commission's determination of just and reasonable rates  
38 the commission uses a test period, the commission shall select a  
39 test period that, on the basis of evidence, best reflects the  
40 conditions that a public utility will encounter during the period  
41 when the rates determined by the commission will be in effect.

42 It is typical for orders in general rate cases to become effective near the  
43 end of the statutory 240-day period provided under section 54-7-12(3) of the Utah  
44 Code. Based on the anticipated filing date of the full revenue requirement in this  
45 case, June 15, 2009, new rates will become effective on or before February 9,  
46 2010. A forecast test period allows for better matching of costs with revenues  
47 during the rate-effective period. In order for rates to be based on costs to support

48 the financial integrity of the Company, it is essential to have rates set on costs that  
49 reflect the time period that the rates will be in effect.

50 A forecast test period is fundamental during a period of major construction  
51 and/or rising expenses. In the current environment, a future test period best  
52 reflects the costs the Company will necessarily incur in the rate-effective period to  
53 provide the level of service required by its customers. Although load growth in  
54 the Utah service territory has moderated somewhat in the near term, the Company  
55 expects load growth over the long term to continue. Planning to serve growing  
56 load requires the Company to acquire new generating resources. Significant new  
57 investments in transmission and distribution systems are required to integrate  
58 these new resources, connect new customers and ensure continued reliability.  
59 During this period of increased capital investment and rate base growth, a  
60 historical or near term forecast test period cannot adequately capture the  
61 conditions that the Company will experience during the rate-effective period;  
62 rather, use of a historical test period or a near term forecast test period would  
63 understate the true cost of service.

64 **Q. What is the impact of “regulatory lag” on the Company?**

65 A. “Regulatory lag” refers to the time difference between when costs are incurred  
66 and when they are included in rates. More than anything else, regulatory lag can  
67 be the result of the rate-making process, including test period selection. If new  
68 rates do not reflect the costs being incurred at the time the rates are in effect,  
69 regulatory lag is created.

70 Regulatory lag is a serious problem for the Company when rates are based  
71 on a time period other than the anticipated rate-effective period, especially when  
72 the Company is experiencing a steady upward trend in investments. Basing rates  
73 on a test period that doesn't reflect the true costs to serve customers during the  
74 rate-effective period gives poor price signals to customers while also effectively  
75 denying the Company a reasonable opportunity to recover the costs of providing  
76 service, including the opportunity to earn the return on investment authorized by  
77 the Commission.

78 **Factors in Selection of Test Period**

79 **Q. Why did the Company choose the year ending December 31, 2010, as the**  
80 **Test Period?**

81 A. As previously discussed, the primary objective of determining a test period is to  
82 develop normalized results of operations based on a period of time that will best  
83 reflect the conditions during which time the new rates will be in effect. Many  
84 factors must be considered to determine which test period best reflects those  
85 expected conditions. This Commission previously identified eight such factors,<sup>1</sup>  
86 including:

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

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<sup>1</sup> Order Approving Test Period Stipulation, Docket No. 04-035-42 (October 20, 2004); Order on Test Period, Docket No. 07-035-93 (February 14, 2008).

95                   In its Order on Test Period issued February 14, 2008 in Docket No. 07-  
96                   035-93, the Commission also expressed its desire to balance Company and  
97                   ratepayer interests. The Company is proposing the Test Period in this case after  
98                   consideration of the current regulatory environment, Utah statutes governing test  
99                   period development, and the factors identified above by the Commission.

100   **Q.   Please describe how the Company considered the factors identified above in**  
101   **choosing the Test Period in this rate case.**

102   A.   Below is a brief discussion of the factors identified by the Commission and an  
103   explanation of how the Company evaluated its proposed Test Period based on  
104   these factors.

105       •   **Level of Inflation** – While inflation is not a significant driver of the case, the  
106           Company is striving to absorb cost increases as much as possible. Indeed,  
107           certain inflationary pressures still remain and must be reflected in test period  
108           cost projections. Based on the latest Global Insight indices, non-labor costs  
109           for the utility sector are projected to remain relatively flat between 2008 and  
110           2010. While the final projections for the case are not yet complete, net power  
111           costs and non-labor operation and maintenance expenses are anticipated to  
112           remain close to the levels reflected in current rates. However, the Company  
113           will still experience cost increases in some areas such as labor costs due to  
114           negotiated increases in many of its union labor contracts.

115       •   **Changes in Utility Investment, Revenues, and Expenses** – Although load  
116           growth in the Utah service territory has moderated somewhat in the near term,  
117           Utah, notwithstanding the current economy, continues to grow and long term

118 load growth is expected to continue. Because of past, current, and future load  
119 growth, the Company will have to acquire new resources, impacting not only  
120 the level of investment needed to be included in rate base, but also retail  
121 revenues, net power costs and operation and maintenance costs. The impact  
122 of the Company's capital expenditure program will continue to put pressure  
123 on the Company's earnings even with the use of forecasted test periods.

124 This case includes Utah's portion of approximately three billion  
125 dollars in new plant investments the Company has made or will make between  
126 the December 31, 2008, historical base year and December 31, 2010, the end  
127 of the Test Year. Only a portion of the 2009 investment, and none of the 2010  
128 investment, is included in the rates that will become effective on May 8, 2009.  
129 The failure to include this level of investment in rates will understate the cost  
130 of serving customers and put significant financial pressure on Rocky  
131 Mountain Power. I will provide a more detailed description of the current and  
132 projected major capital projects later in my testimony.

- 133 • **Changes in Utility Services** – No change in service levels is anticipated,  
134 however the Company continues to fund maintenance to allow the provision  
135 of safe and reliable electric service and meet our merger commitments.
- 136 • **Availability and Accuracy of Data to Parties** – The Company remains open  
137 and willing to share information with the parties involved in the case. The  
138 Company has agreed to provide, upon the terms of the 2008 general rate case  
139 stipulation, answers to Master Data Request A concurrent with filing of the  
140 other material and to Master Data Request B within 30 days after the filing of

141 the other material, with certain power cost information provided earlier than  
142 the 30 days. The Company is committed to responding to additional data  
143 requests from the parties in a timely manner.

144 The accuracy of data in our cases is supported by past variance reports  
145 which demonstrated that total Company actual non-power cost operations and  
146 maintenance expense levels were within 1% of the forecast level in the rate  
147 case and that rate base actually exceeded the rate case levels by \$380 million.  
148 The variance report filed today confirms that the Company's forecasts  
149 continue to be very accurate. The table below shows some of the key  
150 comparisons from that report.

	<b>2008 Actual Results of Operations</b>		<b>Docket No. 07-035-93</b>	
	<b>Total Company</b>	<b>Utah Allocated</b>	<b>Total Company</b>	<b>Utah Allocated</b>
Dec 2008 Net Electric Plant in Service	11,598,762,742	4,923,524,138	11,214,380,125	4,899,787,009
Net Power Costs	1,120,615,735	460,797,538	1,014,284,026	424,118,555
Non-NPC O&M Expense	967,711,280	399,196,416	960,760,189	409,380,314

151 *\*\*Source: Company variance report filed April 30, 2009.*

152 There is no good reason to assume that a 12-month forecast would be  
153 any more likely to be accurate for that period than an 18-month forecast. The  
154 time periods are not significantly different in terms of forecasting. While a  
155 case could be made that a one-year forecast would likely be more accurate  
156 than a five- or ten-year forecast, the case is not nearly as strong for 12 months  
157 versus 18 months.

158 Even assuming a 12-month forecast would be more accurate than an  
159 18-month forecast, it does not follow that a 12-month forecast would be a  
160 better predictor of costs that will be prudently incurred during the rate-  
161 effective period than an 18-month forecast. In fact, because we know that

162 major capital investments will be added during the 18-month period, it is  
163 highly likely that a forecast that includes those facilities in rate base during the  
164 period of time they are in service will be a more accurate estimation of costs  
165 during the rate-effective period than one that does not include them.

166 Other parties have suggested in prior cases that the most important  
167 criteria for test period selection is the accuracy of the data or forecasts during  
168 the test period. If this suggestion is taken to its logical extreme, it would  
169 always require the use of a historic test period because data from a historic test  
170 period is always going to be more accurate than data from a forecast test  
171 period. However, such a conclusion misses the point. As Dr. Alfred Kahn  
172 noted years ago,

173 The fact is ... regulatory commissions have always been in the  
174 business of projecting, whether they knew it or not. When they  
175 used historic test year statistics, fully verifiable and verified,  
176 graven in stone, as the basis of future rates, they were in fact  
177 projecting. They were assuming that the future would be similar to  
178 the past. It is no more speculative, then, to make the best possible  
179 estimate of future costs when setting future rates; and honesty  
180 compels its.<sup>2</sup>

181 The issue is not that data for a historic test period may be audited or  
182 may be certain. The issue is whether the data for the historic test period is a  
183 better predictor of the rate-effective period than a forecast for that period.

184 • **Ability to Synchronize the Utility's Investment, Revenues, and Expenses**

185 The synchronization or "matching" of a utility's revenues, expenses and  
186 investments in setting rates is a traditional rate making concept; however, it is  
187 one that cannot be viewed in isolation without taking into consideration the

188 rate-effective period. The goal in setting rates should be to set rates that  
189 properly reflect the costs that will be incurred by a utility during the period  
190 that the rates will be in effect. If the rate-effective period is not considered,  
191 then the process of matching revenues, expense and investments may capture  
192 interdependent impacts, but the result may not reflect the costs to be incurred  
193 during the rate-effective period. For example, a test period based on purely  
194 historical information may be properly synchronized between the revenues,  
195 expenses and investments included in the test period, but may have very little  
196 to do with the costs that will be incurred when new rates go into effect. When  
197 the test period does not properly match the rate-effective period, other  
198 regulatory tools have been used to adjust the test period to reflect the proper  
199 level of costs to be considered in new rates, including, year-end rate base,  
200 known and measurable adjustments (often one-sided, non-matching  
201 adjustments), and budget levels.

202 The Company will be proposing a 13 month average rate base for the  
203 test period. This is consistent with the Commission's direction in its Order on  
204 Motion for Approval of Test Period in Docket No. 08-035-08. The Company  
205 believes this is appropriate in this case because the test period corresponds  
206 quite closely with the first year of the rate-effective period. The rate-effective  
207 period is likely to start about 40 days after the start of the test period.

208 In the last case, the Company proposed a year-end rate base because  
209 its proposed test period did not correspond with the rate-effective period. In

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<sup>2</sup> A. Kahn, "Between Theory and Practice: Reflections of a Neophyte Public Utility Regulator," *Public Utilities Fortnightly* 29 (Jan. 2, 1975).

210 that case, the proposed test period was July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, but  
211 the rate-effective period did not start until March, 2009, (later changed by  
212 Commission order to May, 2009).

213 The important synchronization under the statute is synchronization  
214 between the revenue requirement determined for the test period and the costs  
215 that will be incurred during the rate-effective period. Notably, section 54-4-  
216 4(3)(a) requires the Commission to select a test period that best reflects the  
217 conditions that a utility will encounter during the rate-effective period. The  
218 purpose of using a test period is simply to attempt to predict the costs that the  
219 utility will incur during the rate-effective period. Synchronization of  
220 revenues, expense and rate base is only helpful if it achieves that end.

221 The December 2010 test period is the best way to reflect costs of  
222 serving customers and not understate them while providing the Company with  
223 an opportunity to recover Utah's share of approximately \$600 million of total  
224 Company investments that the Company will make between July 2010 and  
225 December 2010. In addition, a December 2010 test year will also ensure that  
226 customer rates will more fully reflect the costs associated with the \$1 billion  
227 in total Company investments made between January 2010 and June 2010. If  
228 a June 2010 test period is used, however, rates would only reflect between  
229 1/13 and 6/13 of those investments. If that were the case, then additional  
230 alternative adjustments such as end-of-period rate base adjustments would  
231 need to be included in order to properly reflect the costs to serve customers

232 and to give the Company an opportunity to earn a reasonable return on those  
233 investments.

234 As previously mentioned, the most important element of matching is  
235 that the test period should reflect the costs that the Company expects to incur  
236 during the rate-effective period. As stated in *Accounting for Public Utilities*  
237 by Robert L. Hahne “If the period forecasted coincides with the period in  
238 which the new rates will be in effect, the matching of investment levels to  
239 operating results should produce the earnings levels authorized”. (Hahne 7-5,  
240 Section 7.04).

241 In this case, the rate-effective period begins in February 2010. By  
242 adopting a December 2010 test period, the Commission would be adopting a  
243 test period in which approximately 10.5 months are aligned with the rate-  
244 effective period. In contrast, by adopting a June 2010 test period, the  
245 Commission would be adopting a test period in which only approximately 4.5  
246 months would be aligned. In the 2008 General Rate Case (Docket 08-035-  
247 21), the Commission allowed for approximately 8 months of alignment of the  
248 forecasted test period with the rate-effective period (December 2009 test  
249 period with a May 8, 2009 rate-effective date).

250 • **Whether the Utility Is in a Cost Increasing or Cost Declining Status** – As  
251 discussed above, while some of the pressures of increasing costs on the  
252 Company have moderated in recent months, as a result of its capital  
253 investment program, the Company is still in a rising cost environment. This is

254 discussed in greater detail later in my testimony. In addition, the Company  
255 faces cost pressures from increasing labor costs and other costs.

256 • **Incentives to Efficient Management and Operation** – The Company  
257 management is continually looking for ways to increase the efficiency of the  
258 Company. The Company has reduced many costs related to employees and  
259 the overall number of employees; adjustments for these savings will be  
260 included in the proposed Test Period. The Company is adding investment to  
261 serve load growth and improve reliability and needs the level of investment  
262 included in the proposed Test Period. To not allow the proposed Test Period  
263 would be a disincentive to the Company in these efforts.

264 Some parties have argued that regulatory lag provides an incentive for  
265 management efficiency because it forces management to cut costs in order to  
266 have the opportunity of recovering the Company's true costs of providing  
267 service to customers when rates are based on a period prior to the rate-  
268 effective period. The circular logic of this argument is dubious in any  
269 circumstances, but is particularly dubious in the context of a case in which the  
270 rate increase is sought to recover the costs of new investments which are  
271 necessary to provide reliable service to customers. The incurrence of prudent  
272 costs of major capital resources cannot be reduced by management efficiency.

273 • **Length of Time New Rates Are Expected To Be in Effect** – The Company  
274 has not made any decision on the length of time the new rates are expected to  
275 be in effect. Future rate cases will be filed based on Utah jurisdictional  
276 earnings and the Company's ability to get timely recovery of its costs. This

277 factor is best satisfied by setting rates that are expected to recover the true  
278 costs of providing service during the first full year that new rates are in effect.

279 **Q. Should each of these factors be given equal weight by the Commission?**

280 A. No. Certain factors will be more important at a given point in time than other  
281 factors. In this case, changes in utility investments should be given predominant  
282 weight

283 **Capital Investments - Major Driver of this Case**

284 **Q. What is the primary driver of this case?**

285 A. The main driver for this general rate case is the significant level of capital  
286 investment the Company is making on behalf of our customers. With this capital  
287 investment comes the need for rates to reflect the cost associated with generation,  
288 transmission, and distribution plants that will be in service during the rate-  
289 effective period. The following table shows, in round numbers, the level of total  
290 Company capital investment currently planned for 2009 and 2010.

<b>PacifiCorp Projected Capital Investment</b>	<b>Capital Amount</b>
January to June 2009	\$850 million
July to December 2009	\$800 million
January to June 2010	\$1,000 million
July to December 2010	\$600 million

291  
292 The 2009 investment will be partially included in the rates that go into  
293 effect on May 8, 2009. Because a 13 month average rate base is being used in  
294 this case, rates based on a June 2010 test period will not reflect full recovery of  
295 the June to December 2009 investment that will be in service prior to the February  
296 2010 effective date of new rates in this case. The proposed December 2010 Test  
297 Period will ensure that customer rates will more fully reflect the costs associated  
298 with the \$1 billion in total Company investments made between January 2010 and

299 June 2010. If a June 2010 test period is used, however, rates would only reflect  
300 between 1/13 and 6/13 of those investments. The proposed December 2010 test  
301 period is the best way that rates will reflect any of the costs associated with the  
302 approximately \$600 million of total Company investments to be made between  
303 July and December 2010, a period of time included in the first year of the rate-  
304 effective period.

305 **Q. Doesn't the newly-enacted section 54-7-13.4 approved in Senate Bill 75**  
306 **earlier this year remove the need to look forward a full 20 months as allowed**  
307 **by current statute?**

308 A. No. The newly-enacted section 54-7-13.4 provides an alternative cost recovery  
309 for major plant additions. It allows a utility to start recovering the cost of a major  
310 plant addition at the time it is placed into service. The statute defines a major  
311 plant addition as "any single capital investment project of a gas corporation or an  
312 electrical corporation that in total exceeds 1% of the gas corporation's or electrical  
313 corporation's rate base." For Rocky Mountain Power, the threshold investment  
314 level is over \$100 million. The table below shows the plant additions in excess of  
315 \$20 million each scheduled to be in service by December 2010 that are either not  
316 included in current rates or, in the case of some past investments, are not fully  
317 included in current rates:

<b>PacifiCorp Major Plant Additions</b>	<b>In-Service</b>	<b>Project Total</b>
Glenrock III Wind Plant Project (39 MW)	Jan-09	\$90 million
Rolling Hills Wind Project (99 MW)	Jan-09	\$210 million
Camp Williams SVC Installation	Jun-09	\$40 million
Oquirrh New 345-138kV Substation	Jun-09	\$25 million
U4-Boiler Economizer/Low Temp SH Upgrade	Jul-09	\$25 million
High Plains Wind Plant Project (99 MW)	Oct-09	\$245 million
McFadden Ridge I Wind Project (28.5 MW)	Oct-09	\$70 million
Chappel Crk 230kV Cimarex Energy 20 MW - Phase 1	Nov-09	\$20 million
301 Turbine Upgrade HP/IP/LP (15MW)	May-10	\$30 million
Dave Johnston Casper 230kV Rebuild	May-10	\$40 million
Pinto 345kV Series Capacitors	May-10	\$20 million
DJ U3 SO2 & PM Emission Cntrl Upgrades	May-10	\$300 million
St George-Red Butte 138kV Line	May-10	\$25 million
Three Peaks Sub: Install 345 kV Sub - Phase 2	Jun-10	\$50 million
Ben Lomond - Terminal	Jun-10	\$230 million
Huntington U1 Clean Air - PM	Nov-10	\$90 million
HTN U1 Turbine Upgrade HP/IP/LP	Dec-10	\$30 million

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These large projects account for only half of the projected \$3 billion investment over this time period. The Company's application in this case will also include other capital investments that are not as significant individually, but that together make up half of the investment that will be incurred prior to the end of 2010 in providing safe, reliable and adequate service to the Company's customers.

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Only four of these projects meet the threshold in the major plant addition definition, two in 2009 and two more in 2010. No projects over the threshold level are included in the \$600 million in plant investment scheduled to go into service during the July to December 2010 time period.

329 **Q.**

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**Does Rocky Mountain Power plan to use the alternative cost recovery for major plant additions in the future?**

331 **A.**

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Yes. The second phase of the Populus to Terminal transmission project, Populus to Ben Lomond, is not included in the table. It is scheduled to be completed near the end of 2010. It is not included in the table and will not be included in the application in this case for two reasons: First, the project may not be completed during the proposed test period. Second, the Company anticipates filing an

336 application under section 54-7-13.4 to start recovering the cost of this investment  
337 at the time it is placed into service. If the Company acquires new significant  
338 energy resources as part of a continuation of its 2008 Request for Proposals or its  
339 2009 Request for Proposals and any of those resources come on line during the  
340 Test Period, the Company will also file an application under section 54-7-13.4 to  
341 recover the cost of those resources effective when they are placed in service.

342 **Q. Given these capital investments, what would be the impact of choosing a test**  
343 **period that ends earlier than the Test Period proposed by the Company in**  
344 **this case?**

345 A. Using a test period that ends significantly earlier than December 2010 would  
346 assure that customers will not pay and that the Company will not recover its  
347 actual costs of providing service during the rate-effective period. As I have  
348 previously testified, the driver for this rate case is the capital investments the  
349 Company has made and will be making through December 2010 in the facilities  
350 needed to serve its customers in Utah. These projects are in process.

351 For example, the Company has received a certificate of public  
352 convenience and necessity from the Commission for the largest of these projects,  
353 the Populus to Terminal transmission project. That project is now underway. The  
354 Ben Lomond to Terminal segment of the project that will cost approximately  
355 \$230 million is scheduled for completion in June 2010. It is essential to provide  
356 service to Utah customers. Customers should pay and the Company should start  
357 recovering the costs associated with this project when it is placed into service. If  
358 an earlier test period such as July 2009 through June 2010 is used, only one-

359 thirteenth of the cost will be included in rate base. Yet, the first phase of the  
360 project will be in service for eight months of the first year of the rate-effective  
361 period. Thus, if the Commission were to choose a July 2009 through June 2010  
362 test period, customers would underpay and the Company would be improperly  
363 denied recovery of over \$7 million in revenue during the first year of the rate-  
364 effective period and annually thereafter until new rates are set that include the full  
365 investment in the Ben Lomond to Terminal transmission line. Conversely, a  
366 December 2010 test period would include approximately half of the investment  
367 during eight months of the rate-effective period.

368 Likewise, the Dave Johnston Plant emissions equipment upgrades in the  
369 approximate amount of \$300 million will be completed and in-service in May of  
370 2010. These upgrades are required to comply with environmental laws and are,  
371 therefore, necessary to operating one of the Company's significant generation  
372 resources. Use of a July 2009 to June 2010 test period would improperly deny the  
373 Company recovery of nearly \$9 million during the first year of the rate-effective  
374 period and annually thereafter until new rates are set.

375 Although the sizes of the other individual capital projects are smaller, use  
376 of a nearer term test period would have the same effect with regard to recovery of  
377 legitimate costs of providing service during the rate-effective period. As shown  
378 in the table, \$600 million of investment will be made in the last half of 2010.  
379 This investment will be in service during a portion of the rate-effective period. In  
380 sum, use of a test period ending June 30, 2010 would understate the cost of  
381 serving customers.

382 **Impact of Economic Uncertainty**

383 **Q. Do you acknowledge that we are in a period of economic uncertainty?**

384 A. Yes. There can be no debate that the current situation facing the economy in  
385 Utah, in the United States and in the world is very unusual and that this is a period  
386 of economic uncertainty.

387 **Q. Does this economic uncertainty impact the Company's proposal to use a 2010**  
388 **calendar-year test period in this rate case?**

389 A. No. As I have previously testified, the driver for this rate case is the capital  
390 investments the Company has made and will be making through December 2010  
391 in the facilities needed to serve its customers in Utah. These projects are either in  
392 process or will be in process regardless of any current uncertainty in economic  
393 conditions. A prime example is the portion of the Populus to Terminal  
394 transmission project that will be included in the case. That project is now  
395 underway. It is essential to provide service to Utah customers even if load does  
396 not grow during the next year or so.

397 The Company's major capital projects have long lead times. For example,  
398 the Populus to Terminal transmission project was first announced as part of the  
399 Energy Gateway project in May 2007. Even assuming the current recession  
400 continues through the first part of 2010 as some economists predict, it would be  
401 imprudent and unwise to cancel or defer the project.

402 The same reasoning applies to the other capital projects that are included  
403 in the 2010 test period. The current economic uncertainty does not affect the need  
404 for these resources.

405 **Q. What about the potential uncertainty in customer loads based on current**  
406 **economic uncertainty?**

407 A. The Company believes that its forecast of loads during the test period will be  
408 reasonable. The Company is carefully considering the current economic  
409 uncertainty in making its projection of loads during the Test Period. It is  
410 currently anticipated that those loads will be essentially flat. This will be  
411 explained more fully in the testimony that will be filed with the other material in  
412 the rate case.

413           Regardless, the impacts of potential incorrect forecasts with regard to load  
414 growth are relatively insignificant. When loads differ from those forecasted both  
415 revenue and costs change. In the case of a reduction in loads, lower electric sales  
416 would result in lower revenues collected which, when holding all other  
417 components constant, would increase the Company's revenue requirement.  
418 However, this is offset by the reduction in net power costs incurred by the  
419 Company. If the Company sells less electricity, its net power costs will go down  
420 as it does not have to produce or acquire the incremental electricity.

421 **Q. Some parties have suggested in the past that the Company has complete**  
422 **discretion to make capital investments, implying that given the current**  
423 **economic downturn and the corresponding declining costs and load growth,**  
424 **the Company could choose to cut back. Would you like to comment?**

425 A. The Company is making substantial capital investments for the future. In  
426 addition, the decision to acquire the current capital projects was made long ago,  
427 before anyone knew that we would be in this type of economic downturn. But

428 had the Company had a crystal ball, it would have continued planning for growth.  
429 We all know that just like there are economic recessions, there are long periods of  
430 economic growth. This area of the country, in particular, will continue to grow  
431 and the Company must be prepared for that growth. Granted that we have curbed  
432 our capital spending plan somewhat, but whenever it makes sense to continue to  
433 acquire projects, the Company will do so. It is short-sighted to allow temporary  
434 economic conditions to dictate your capital spend plan. The Company has to  
435 make responsible decisions.

436 **Q. Would use of a historic test period be better given the economic uncertainty?**

437 A. No. Use of a historic test period assumes that the conditions the Company will  
438 face during the period rates will be in effect in the future will be the same as those  
439 encountered during the historic period. Because of the major capital investments  
440 that have gone into service and will go into service by the end of 2010, we know  
441 that historic conditions do not represent the conditions that will be in effect from  
442 and after February 2010, when new rates resulting from this case go into effect.  
443 Therefore, there is no reason to assume that just because past costs can be known  
444 with certainty that they predict costs during the rate-effective period better than a  
445 forecast. Economic uncertainty does not impact this conclusion.

446 **Q. Would use of a forecast test period extending only 12 months be more**  
447 **accurate than one extending 18 months during a period of economic**  
448 **uncertainty?**

449 A. No. Just as we know a historic test period will not accurately reflect the rate-  
450 effective period because it does not include capital investments that will be in

451 service during the rate-effective period, a June 30, 2010 forecast test period will  
452 not include capital investments that will be in service during the rate-effective  
453 period. These investments will not be affected by economic uncertainty.

454 **Conclusion**

455 **Q. What do you conclude?**

456 A. The Company's proposed twelve months ending December 31, 2010 test period is  
457 the Test Period that is most likely to represent conditions during the period the  
458 rates set in this case will be in effect. The major driver of the Company's need for  
459 a rate increase is the capital investments the Company has made and will make  
460 through December 2010 to serve customers. These capital investments must be  
461 included in rates if the Company is to have a reasonable opportunity to recover its  
462 costs of providing service to customers including a reasonable return on its  
463 investments.

464 **Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

465 A. Yes.