

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

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IN THE MATTER OF THE )  
APPLICATION OF ROCKY )  
MOUNTAIN POWER FOR ) DOCKET NO. 10-035-38  
AN ACCOUNTING ORDER )  
REGARDING POST- )  
RETIREMENT PRESCRIPTION )  
DRUG COVERAGE TAX )  
BENEFITS )  
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TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING PROCEEDINGS

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HELD AT: Public Service Commission  
160 East 300 South, Room 403  
Salt Lake City, Utah

DATE: September 1, 2010

TIME: 9:16 a.m.

REPORTED BY: RENEE L. STACY, CSR, RPR

A P P E A R A N C E S

**COMMISSIONERS :**

TED BOYER (Chairman)  
RIC CAMPBELL  
RON ALLEN

**FOR ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER:**

**DANIEL E. SOLANDER**  
Attorney at Law  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER  
201 South Main Street  
Suite 2300  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

**FOR THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER SERVICES:**

**PAUL H. PROCTOR**  
Assistant Attorney General  
OFFICES OF THE UTAH ATTORNEY GENERAL  
160 East 300 South  
Fifth Floor  
Post Office Box 140857  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-0857

**FOR THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES:**

**MICHAEL GINSBERG**  
Assistant Attorney General  
OFFICES OF THE UTAH ATTORNEY GENERAL  
160 East 300 South  
Fifth Floor  
Post Office Box 140857  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-0857

E X H I B I T S

| <u>Exhibit No.</u> | <u>Received</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| OSC-1              | 7               |
| DPU-1              | 7               |
| DPU-2              | 7               |
| RMP-1              | 7               |
| RMP-2              | 7               |

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September 1, 2010  
9:16 a.m.

P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRMAN BOYER: This is the time and place duly noticed for the hearing of the application of Rocky Mountain Power for an accounting order regarding post-retirement prescription drug coverage tax benefits in Docket 10-035-38.

And we have discussed before going on the record that we will proceed today in panel fashion. We'll hear -- the commissioners will be able to ask questions of witnesses for the company, for the Office, and for the Division of Public Utilities.

So let's, first of all, take appearances of counsel first. Let's begin with the Company, the moving party.

MR. SOLANDER: Thank you, Chairman Boyer, commissioners. My name is Daniel Solander on behalf of Rocky Mountain Power. I have with me at the counsel table and who will be appearing as witnesses, Ryan Fuller, assistant tax director for PacifiCorp, and David Taylor, ratepayers manager for the state of Utah.

CHAIRMAN BOYER: Thank you. Mr. Ginsberg?

1 MR. GINSBERG: Michael Ginsberg for the  
2 Division of Public Utilities, and Matt Croft prepared  
3 the Division's memorandum and will appear as the  
4 witness.

5 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Now, will this be your  
6 swan song, Counselor?

7 MR. GINSBERG: It will. Well, unless  
8 there's something else that happens.

9 CHAIRMAN BOYER: We'll have to conjure  
10 something up between now and your retirement date.  
11 Mr. Proctor?

12 MR. PROCTOR: Thank you, Commissioner  
13 Boyer. I'm Paul Proctor for the Utah Office of  
14 Consumer Services, and I'm accompanied by Donna  
15 Ramas, who will be providing the information to the  
16 Commission today. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Great. Thank you,  
18 Mr. Proctor.

19 Why don't we swear the four witnesses just  
20 en masse right now, so will all of you gentlemen and  
21 lady stand and raise your right hands?

22 **RYAN FULLER, DAVID TAYLOR**

23 **MATT CROFT, DONNA RAMAS**

24 called as witnesses and sworn, were examined and  
25 testified as follows:

1 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Thank you. Please be  
2 seated.

3 We have read all of the documents filed in  
4 this case and so I guess we'll turn now to  
5 Commissioner Allen to see if he has questions of the  
6 witnesses.

7 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Well, yes, I do.  
8 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thanks to the parties  
9 for the informative memo filings here. Informative,  
10 but not enjoyable.

11 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Well, you know, before we  
12 start with your questions, Commissioner, maybe we  
13 should admit these memoranda into evidence. Would  
14 that be a good approach to do that?

15 MR. PROCTOR: Yes.

16 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Shall we do that en masse  
17 as well? Are there any objections to the admission  
18 of the memoranda filed by the Company, the Office,  
19 and the Division of Public Utilities?

20 MR. SOLANDER: And the application?

21 CHAIRMAN BOYER: And the original  
22 application as well.

23 MR. PROCTOR: I have no objection to it.  
24 We had marked ours as OCS-1. I don't -- I'm hoping  
25 that that's acceptable to you, but that way the

1 record could reflect the identity of the exhibit that  
2 we've entered.

3 CHAIRMAN BOYER: It is.

4 MR. GINSBERG: And we marked our July 29th  
5 memorandum as DPU-1. That was the first one. And  
6 then there's a second one that we marked as DPU-2,  
7 which is dated August 19th.

8 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Okay.

9 MR. SOLANDER: And for the Company the  
10 application is Exhibit 1, and the reply comments are  
11 Exhibit 2.

12 CHAIRMAN BOYER: We'll call that RMP-2 and  
13 RMP-1?

14 MR. SOLANDER: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Okay. Did you get that,  
16 Reporter?

17 THE REPORTER: Yes, I did. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN BOYER: All right, then. And  
19 there are no objections to the admission of these  
20 memoranda into evidence? Very well. They are  
21 admitted.

22 (Whereupon OCS-1, DPU-1, DPU-2, RMP-1, and  
23 RMP-2 were received in evidence.)

24 CHAIRMAN BOYER: And apart from the  
25 interruption, Commissioner Allen, the floor is yours.

1                   COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Thank you, once again.  
2 This is a very interesting issue, and it's very  
3 specific. I'm curious about the Office's position.  
4 Now we have an alternative proposal, I believe, from  
5 the Division and the Company that seem to be on the  
6 same sheet of music. Does the Office have any  
7 comments about that? Are you still maintaining your  
8 existing recommended adjustment or accounting entry,  
9 or have you altered that at all?

10                   MS. RAMAS: We're still holding with the  
11 original position which was in OCS-1. I don't agree  
12 that the position that's been agreed to by the DPU  
13 and the Company reflects the impact on ratepayers in  
14 the past. I believe it's a compromised position  
15 between those two parties, but I don't agree that  
16 it's in the ratepayer interest nor fair.

17                   COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Okay. Well, that's  
18 good to have that clarity there, then. What I'm  
19 looking at, Ms. Ramas, I'm looking at your testimony,  
20 I think, on page 6. You talk about the benefit from  
21 federal subsidy did not flow to customers in the  
22 04-06 rate case, but how -- if we look at that, how  
23 does that fly in the concerns that we might have  
24 about retroactive ratemaking or the fact that those  
25 were stipulations or the fact -- or the possibility



1 that those lack of benefits also flowed to  
2 stockholders? So how does that play out? I mean, is  
3 it -- address the retroactive ratemaking question  
4 first. If we go back and look at those two years,  
5 how do we justify that now, four years, five years  
6 later?

7 MS. RAMAS: Yes. Well, what we're  
8 recommending is not retroactive ratemaking. We're  
9 not now trying to recover something that would have  
10 been set in rates in the past; however, at the same  
11 time, you need to look at how the Company had to  
12 calculate the amount that -- of deferred tax asset  
13 that it's written off on its books, and if you look  
14 at -- on page 4 of my report, it shows that the -- in  
15 determining the amount the company had to write off,  
16 they go back to March 31st, 2005, that year ended  
17 that date, so it's these historic amounts that go  
18 into determining the amount of deferred tax asset the  
19 Company had to write off on its books.

20 However, in those earlier years, the 2005  
21 year, the 2006, 2007, and well into 2008, ratepayers  
22 never got any benefit from that additional tax  
23 deduction that resulted from the 2003 Act, so to now  
24 allow them to get full recovery from customers of  
25 this deferred tax asset that they had to write off

1 for book purposes would be unfair, because ratepayers  
2 never got that -- any of those benefits until we got  
3 into the 07-035-93 docket that went into effect in  
4 rates in August of two thousand -- August 11th, 2008.

5 So I don't see what we are recommending as  
6 being in any way retroactive in nature. What we're  
7 saying is the company has calculated, for book  
8 purposes, what amount it had to write off, and they  
9 had to do that write-off in this year; however, in  
10 determining that amount, they went back as far as the  
11 tax year ended March 2005, and ratepayers did not get  
12 the benefit in that past case.

13 I acknowledge those cases were settlements,  
14 so that doesn't mean you're setting exact amounts. I  
15 believe they were even what you call black box  
16 settlements. However, no party in those cases, and I  
17 was involved in those cases, challenged the tax  
18 calculations as they came to the deferred tax in the  
19 tax normalization issues in that case, so you would  
20 assume that that means they went into effect with the  
21 way the Company filed it. And in those past filings,  
22 the Company did not in any way flow through the  
23 benefit to customers that results from the fact that  
24 the portion of those post-retirement prescription  
25 drug-related costs that are being subsidized by

1 the -- by the federal government, they could still  
2 take a deduction on their tax returns in those years  
3 as though -- even though they were subsidized. They  
4 could still deduct the full amount. And ratepayers  
5 did not in any way in those cases get any of that  
6 benefit.

7 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Did shareholders  
8 receive benefit, or are they both treated the same,  
9 shareholders and ratepayers, in this case?

10 MS. RAMAS: There would have been a benefit  
11 to shareholders because of the calculation of the  
12 income taxes and the fact that, for tax purposes, the  
13 company projected that time those would be  
14 deductible, so they would have impacted the expense  
15 that was recorded in the financial statements in  
16 those periods.

17 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: And so when the  
18 Company goes back to the -- all the way back to the  
19 '03, '04 time period, I guess, is that a requirement  
20 of accounting for retirement benefits? Is it FASB  
21 160 that controls retirement benefits in accounting?  
22 Do you know? And is this something they were  
23 required to do by accounting standards?

24 MS. RAMAS: Uh-huh. As a result of the  
25 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010,

1 the Company was required, on its books for book  
2 purposes, to write off that deferred tax asset. No  
3 party is disputing that. And I also don't dispute  
4 the way they calculated the amount they had to write  
5 off. I don't think anyone in this hearing has  
6 disputed their calculation of the amount of write-off  
7 they had to make. So I would agree they did have to  
8 write off for book purposes, and this is a write-off  
9 to acknowledge that after 2013 -- or starting with  
10 tax year 2013, they will no longer be able to deduct  
11 that portion of the results of that.

12 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: This is a complicated  
13 issue. I did a little research with the Internal  
14 Revenue Service and found out that this issue is  
15 mentioned in '86 tax bulletins and notices, so this  
16 is interesting. Did anybody want to weigh in on the  
17 questions I asked, shed any light on the questions?  
18 The Company, it looks like, does.

19 MR. FULLER: Yeah. Thank you. I  
20 appreciate that, Commissioner.

21 I just wanted to clarify that the Company,  
22 in calculating the amount of the deferred tax asset  
23 to adjust, the Company did not go back to 2005. The  
24 Company looked at the books as of March 31st, 2010,  
25 and it evaluated how much of the retiree drug subsidy

1 receivable was on the books at that time and how much  
2 of that retiree drug subsidy would be received after  
3 2012, and that's how the company adjusted the  
4 deferred tax asset. There was no valuation of events  
5 that occurred in the past.

6 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: So you pulled the  
7 number right out of your accounting system as of the  
8 specific date?

9 MR. FULLER: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Division? Let's see.  
11 I think I have a couple other questions, too. I was  
12 curious about the finality of where we're at on this.  
13 Has the Company received a request that any private  
14 letter rulings or other directives on this issue from  
15 the IRS? Do you have anything in progress? Is this  
16 a final state of affairs as far as --

17 MR. FULLER: Yes, this is a final state of  
18 affairs.

19 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Okay. Great. For the  
20 Division, you mentioned on page 5 that there's an  
21 adjustment that's implicitly accepted by the IRS but  
22 may not be -- may not be appropriate for ratepayers.  
23 How have we handled these kind of issues in the past?  
24 What do we do when we get a change in the law, a  
25 change in the tax code that's pretty much mandating

1       how the company responds? Have we rectified these  
2       differences in the past?

3               MR. CROFT: I'm not -- I mean, I think  
4       there's two issues here. One, there's the change in  
5       the tax law, and then the second thing is -- is a --  
6       perhaps an oversight of accounting for a tax issue,  
7       and so I'm not sure. Is your question, has there  
8       been a change in tax law, and then, combined with  
9       that, is there a possible misstep in something or --

10               COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Let's just go right  
11       to, what's our obligation to ratepayers when we have  
12       sort of a paradox between change in the law and  
13       practice and what the books have been -- how they've  
14       been keeping the books and the anticipated deduction  
15       that they had? If the new change in the law creates  
16       a paradox, how do we usually adjust for that, or do  
17       we just do what the Company did and just pull the  
18       number out of the books and say, "This is the number  
19       that's sitting there and we have to" -- "we have to  
20       defer this. We have to create an account"?

21               MR. CROFT: Uh-huh. I'm not really sure  
22       how -- if a situation like that has arisen in the  
23       past or how it was handled in the past. As far as  
24       I'm concerned, it's just an issue of a certain  
25       accounting treatment that, had it been done a certain

1 way or -- I think the company would have considered  
2 to do it a different way, had they known about it or  
3 realized that ratepayers would be paying something  
4 different right now because of that, so ultimately  
5 it's a question of, you know, should ratepayers bear  
6 the burden of a possible oversight from the Company?

7 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: And I guess we're just  
8 dealing with this in this specificity for the first  
9 time, is what you're saying, as far as you know?

10 MR. CROFT: As far as I know. I mean,  
11 there could be a past issue, but I'm not aware of  
12 those two combinations.

13 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: All right. That's  
14 helpful. Thank you.

15 MR. PROCTOR: Commissioner Allen, if I  
16 might.

17 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Yes.

18 MR. PROCTOR: Would you provide Ms. Ramas  
19 an opportunity to respond to the Company with respect  
20 to how they calculated that particular number?

21 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: I think that's fair.  
22 Sure.

23 MR. PROCTOR: Thank you.

24 MS. RAMAS: Yes. I just want to clarify it  
25 some. It's not a number the company just quickly

1 pulled off their books and it was right there black  
2 and white on their books. They actually obtained the  
3 assistance from their actuarial firm, Hewitt &  
4 Company, and they provided part of that information  
5 in response to OCS Data Request 1.7, and in  
6 determining the amount that they had to write off of  
7 their books, they had to look at the amount of past  
8 subsidies they had projected and the amount of  
9 subsidies they'd actually received to date, so they  
10 provided, in response to discovery, the information  
11 provided from Hewitt, and that information shows  
12 that, in determining the amount they had to write off  
13 their books, you've got to look all the way back to  
14 when the Act -- 2003 Act was first put into place,  
15 which was effective for Rocky Mountain Power  
16 beginning their fiscal year that would end March  
17 31st, 2005, and the information provided by their  
18 actuarial firm shows that these calculations, in  
19 deriving the amount that had to be written off, go  
20 back starting with the amount of subsidy they -- or  
21 projected subsidy that they had booked during 2005.  
22 And, again, that break-out that was provided by the  
23 company's actuarial firm is presented in my report,  
24 and that's that table I referred you to earlier.

25 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: All right. And I



1 appreciate your reminding us of the actuarial  
2 component. It reminds me that accounting sometimes  
3 is an exact estimate. Yeah. Thanks.

4 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Commissioner Campbell?

5 COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL: I just want to  
6 clarify a few things first. When you say ratepayers  
7 got no benefit, is it your testimony that in those  
8 two stipulated rate cases that all the parties had  
9 filed direct testimony and that in all that direct  
10 testimony no one brought up the issue? Is that how  
11 you come to that conclusion?

12 MS. RAMAS: Yes. And, again, ratepayers  
13 did still get a benefit of the subsidy itself,  
14 because that did reduce the overhead expense. What  
15 they didn't get was the benefit of the fact that, for  
16 tax purposes, the company was allowed to deduct the  
17 amount that was essentially subsidized. And,  
18 unfortunately, no. I participated in those case, and  
19 I didn't look in enough detail in the deferred tax  
20 work papers and calculations in the Company's  
21 filings, so I didn't catch that, unfortunately, so it  
22 was not raised as an issue in those past cases.

23 COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL: Now, I see a  
24 difference in the two memos that we have as it  
25 relates to this issue. The Company, in your recent

1 memo, claims that -- I'd like to explore the idea of  
2 two different tax attributes, because I think the  
3 Company's claim, as I read their memo, is that the  
4 tax attribute that they're presenting before us was  
5 in rate cases but that Ms. Ramas's is dealing with  
6 another aspect of this. Could you clarify that for  
7 us?

8 MR. FULLER: Yeah. Thank you. The --  
9 there's two different tax attributes that need to be  
10 measured here. One is, is -- well, they do not need  
11 to be measured, but they are being measured by the  
12 OCS, which is that OCS is measuring how much retiree  
13 drug subsidy was -- which is an item of income -- was  
14 received and treated as nontaxable.

15 The advocacy that we filed is looking at  
16 the amount of post-retirement benefit expense that is  
17 deductible, so what we -- it is now nondeductible,  
18 and so what we sought the regulatory asset for is a  
19 portion of post-retirement benefit expenses will now  
20 be nondeductible for income tax purposes, and that is  
21 governed under Code Section 265.

22 The Medicare subsidy or the retiree drug  
23 subsidy, which is an item of income, is governed  
24 under Code Section 139A, and that's the tax attribute  
25 that the OCS has evaluated in their calculations.

1 There would have been no permanent book tax  
2 difference for the tax attribute we're talking about  
3 in those prior rate cases, because, prior to this  
4 enactment of this law, there was no permanent book  
5 tax difference and, notwithstanding that, the retiree  
6 drug subsidy was enacted, I think, on December 8,  
7 2003.

8 The regulations for -- this was a major  
9 piece of legislation associated with Medicare, and  
10 the regulations for that weren't finalized until  
11 January of 2005. The 2004 rate case was -- I think  
12 the order was issued in February of 2005, so, in any  
13 case, that item probably would have just not made it  
14 into that case due to regulatory lag, anyway, the  
15 retiree drug subsidy, because the regulations weren't  
16 finalized until just shortly before the 2004 case  
17 was -- received its final order.

18 COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL: So you do agree --  
19 you do agree that the Company did not include in its  
20 rate case filings -- in those two rate case filings  
21 the federal subsidy income component?

22 MR. FULLER: I do agree with that,  
23 although, again, the 2004 case was filed and pretty  
24 much resolved before the regulations were finalized,  
25 even though the retiree drug subsidy.

1                   COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL: Okay. So  
2 Ms. Ramas, I guess my question for you is, is do you  
3 see the distinction? First of all, do you agree with  
4 the Company's analysis that there's these two pieces?  
5 There's the deductibility of the tax benefit on the  
6 one hand, and that has been included in all the rate  
7 cases, and then that your analysis is dealing just  
8 with whether the Company included the income  
9 component of the subsidy?

10                   MS. RAMAS: No, I don't agree with that  
11 analysis at all. Us and the Company both agree that  
12 the income associated with the subsidy was not  
13 taxable after the 2003 Act and still is not taxable  
14 under the 2010 Act. That subsidy that's going to be  
15 received from the federal government under the old  
16 Act and the new Act still is not taxed. It's not  
17 taxed as taxable income.

18                   The issue is, though, as a result of the  
19 2003 Act, the Company was allowed to deduct the  
20 expense as though they didn't receive that subsidy.  
21 They could deduct the amount based on the amount of  
22 payments they're actually making, despite the fact  
23 that part of that is subsidized. Starting with the  
24 2010 Act, that's no longer the case.

25                   So that what's being written off as the

1 deferred tax asset, is the amount they, in the past,  
2 had projected that they would receive as a tax  
3 benefit by being able to deduct that full amount,  
4 including the amount that's being subsidized and that  
5 they have now lost, starting with tax years beginning  
6 January 1st, 2013, so I don't agree with how the  
7 Company has indicated that.

8 Our adjustment doesn't pertain to the  
9 amount of tax exempt income that was generated  
10 because it wasn't taxable, and it still is not  
11 taxable. It's the fact that the company received  
12 that additional deduction or would have received that  
13 additional deduction associated with the amount  
14 that's subsidized, and that's what, in calculating my  
15 recommended adjustment, I used, is the fact that that  
16 additional deduction they would have gotten wasn't  
17 reflected in those two prior rate cases.

18 COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL: Would you please  
19 respond?

20 MR. FULLER: Yeah. I mean, I think it's  
21 clear in the OCS work papers that, even on Exhibit 4,  
22 they're measuring the retiree drug subsidy, which is  
23 the income, and their discovery was issued on the  
24 exhibit to their memorandum which was Exhibit 1,  
25 Ramas, is measuring the permanent book tax difference

1 associated with the retiree drug subsidy income, and  
2 so what they've done is they have -- on page 4 they  
3 have evaluated the retiree drug subsidy income, and  
4 again on that exhibit they said, "This is the  
5 permanent book tax differences that have been  
6 included in the rate case." The permanent book tax  
7 difference would take the book income and treat that  
8 as nontaxable income, and so they clearly measured,  
9 in their evaluation, the retiree drug subsidy, but  
10 nothing has changed with the retiree drug subsidy,  
11 which Mrs. Ramas properly pointed out. There was  
12 absolutely no change as a result of the new tax law  
13 to the retiree drug subsidy. The new tax law only is  
14 going to impact the future.

15 COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL: Okay. I saw this  
16 difference of viewpoint in the two memos, and I don't  
17 see any reconciliation of that, if in this hearing  
18 we're giving a reconciliation of what numbers we're  
19 actually looking at.

20 Let me ask a couple other questions. Let  
21 me go with the Company's memo on page 4 of your memo.  
22 This is just a clarification. I think I understand  
23 the answer, but on the last sentence, because the  
24 Company is agreeing to start the amortization of the  
25 regulatory asset on January 1, 2011, I thought that

1 you, on the very next page, are not on the first  
2 attachment, I think there was agreement on October  
3 1st, 2010.

4 MR. FULLER: Yeah. In the Company's  
5 original application they saw amortization beginning  
6 January 2011, but the compromised position would have  
7 that starting three months earlier.

8 COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL: Okay. And let me  
9 ask this to both the Company and the Division: Why  
10 is the company accepting less than the full amount,  
11 and why would the Division want the Company to  
12 recover something less than the full amount, if it's  
13 due the Company?

14 MR. TAYLOR: Well, let me respond for the  
15 Company. I mean, we believe that the position we  
16 filed in this case is appropriate and correct and  
17 that forward recovery of that amount would be fair;  
18 however, working with the Division, obviously the  
19 parties have different points of view, and we reached  
20 a compromise that both the Company and the Division  
21 would be a reasonable and a fair resolution of this  
22 issue. Granted, it is a compromise, but we still  
23 think our original request is appropriate, but we're  
24 willing to settle it in the terms of compromise to  
25 get this issue resolved and then put to bed to the

1 position and the alternative proposal that we have  
2 come to with the Division.

3 COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL: So I guess the  
4 question of the Division is, why less than the full  
5 amount?

6 MR. CROFT: I think one of the things that  
7 we looked at is we looked at the recover- -- the  
8 total recoverability of this expense over time, and,  
9 you know, although we still believe there should be  
10 an adjustment there for the capitalization issue,  
11 even when we do that, it results in a very similar  
12 number to what the Company has in the alternative  
13 proposal, so both sides get to it from a different --  
14 from a different way, but ultimately the total  
15 recoverable amount over time dealing with the timing  
16 of rate cases and test years and things of that  
17 nature and rate effective periods, the recoverable  
18 amount over time is nearly the same between the two.

19 COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL: So you still base  
20 your position on your original position, even though  
21 there's double dipping in taxes with your  
22 capitalization proposal?

23 MR. CROFT: Are you asking if there was  
24 double dipping or --

25 COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL: Well, yeah. I



1 guess the Company -- the Company explains that if you  
2 were to capitalize that, then you don't get the tax  
3 benefit of expensing it.

4 MR. CROFT: And I think, as far as the  
5 double dipping is concerned, if you could show that  
6 the GAAP numbers directly transferred over into  
7 rates, then you could show that there was a double  
8 dipping there, but, as has been discussed in the '04  
9 case and the '06 case, those records aren't there. I  
10 mean, you know, we don't have record of those  
11 specific, you know, Schedule M items or things like  
12 that that get into the post-retirement benefit  
13 expense.

14 In the '07 case, the base year for that  
15 case overlapped a GAAP period which did start to  
16 capitalize them and a GAAP period that did not, so it  
17 would be unclear as to whether that benefit was  
18 flowed through to ratepayers then. And then the '08  
19 case and '09 case don't really matter, because, by  
20 that time, the Company had started to capitalize.

21 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Okay. Well, most of my  
22 questions have been asked and answered, but I have, I  
23 guess, a couple. One for the Division, for example.  
24 And I recognize that in your later filing, in your  
25 later memorandum, you espoused an alternative

1 approach, but in the original memo, the July 28 memo,  
2 on page 5 you make this statement -- the Division  
3 makes this statement: "In short, the Division does  
4 not believe that an accounting treatment implicitly  
5 accepted by the IRS but incorrect from a principle  
6 standpoint should be borne by ratepayers." Do you  
7 still stand by that, or do you think that, by  
8 reaching this same number with a few different  
9 approaches, you've mooted that issue?

10 MR. CROFT: I think we still stand by that,  
11 and by standing by that, the ultimate recoverable  
12 amount that we come up with is very similar to the  
13 alternative proposal.

14 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Okay. Thank you. And for  
15 the Company -- and you may have already answered this  
16 question and it just went over my nonaccounting head,  
17 but how do you respond to Ms. Ramas' assertion that  
18 these benefits did not flow through to ratepayers for  
19 the early years?

20 MR. FULLER: With respect to the 2004 case,  
21 as I mentioned, the regulations on -- first of all,  
22 we're talking about the retiree drug subsidy as the  
23 benefits that Mrs. Ramas has identified in her  
24 memorandum, and with respect to that item, the  
25 permanent book tax difference would not have been

1 included in the 2004 case just as a result of  
2 regulatory lag. The regulations weren't finalized  
3 until January of 2005, and so I think that would just  
4 be the ordinary course of ratemaking with respect to  
5 that item.

6 In the 2006 case, it looks like the Company  
7 did make a misstep. I'll just say that on the  
8 Company's internal books and records we also did not  
9 reflect a permanent book tax difference with respect  
10 to retiree drug subsidy during that base period, so  
11 it wasn't as if the Company had an internal deduction  
12 for that and then presented a rate case with  
13 something different. It just chalked that up to an  
14 honest mistake, and it wasn't until later that we  
15 started to record a retiree drug subsidy as a  
16 permanent book tax difference.

17 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Okay. So will ratepayers  
18 then be paying back something they didn't receive?

19 MR. FULLER: Well, I don't look at it that  
20 way. I mean, in terms of the tax attribute that we  
21 are looking at, the post-retirement benefit expense,  
22 that was always treated as tax deductible, and that's  
23 evidenced by the inclusion of the post-retirement  
24 benefit expense in the pretax book income and no  
25 permanent book tax difference, which would reduce

1 that level of expense. And so I think that, with  
2 respect to the specific tax attribute that we  
3 requested in the regulatory asset for in our  
4 application, the customers have got that benefit.

5 And I think it's with respect to these  
6 other items that is a different tax attribute. Now,  
7 the Company doesn't get recovery for things like IRS  
8 adjustments, you know, tax and interest on IRS  
9 adjustments, and, again, these were, you know,  
10 settled cases in the nature of a black box  
11 compromise.

12 I think the 2008 case included a stay-out  
13 period, so I think the Company's position would be,  
14 then, that if you did go back and look with respect  
15 to the specific tax attribute that we're looking at,  
16 that customers did receive that benefit.

17 CHAIRMAN BOYER: We'll let Ms. Ramas have  
18 one last word on this issue, if she wishes.

19 MS. RAMAS: Yes, I do. I don't see how  
20 it's at all possible that ratepayers got the benefit  
21 that ties to this deferred tax asset they're having  
22 to write off. Again, in calculating the amount of  
23 the deferred tax asset that they had to write off  
24 that they're seeking recovery of now from customers,  
25 that calculation goes back to the tax -- or to their

1 fiscal year-end in March 2005. So you can't separate  
2 the two, in my opinion.

3 I mean, those -- what occurred in those  
4 past years goes into calculating the amount of  
5 deferred tax asset they're writing off and they're  
6 now seeking recovery of from customers. During those  
7 early years, the customers did not get that  
8 additional tax benefit that they're now having to  
9 write off, so I guess I have to respectfully disagree  
10 with Mr. Fuller on that point.

11 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Okay. Very well. I have  
12 no further questions.

13 All right. Well, that will conclude the  
14 hearing, then. In due course we'll issue an order  
15 after we've had a chance to ruminate about this.

16 Thank you very much for participating.

17 Mr. Solander?

18 MR. SOLANDER: Yes, sir. I don't want to  
19 impose on the Commission, but if the order could be  
20 issued before the end of this month, that would allow  
21 the Company to record this in the third quarter of  
22 this year. I don't know if that's possible based on  
23 the Commission's time frame, but we would request  
24 that it be issued by then, if possible.

25 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Okay. Thank you for that.

1 All right. Very well. That will conclude this  
2 hearing.

3 (Whereupon the taking of the hearing was  
4 concluded at 9:34 a.m.)

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STATE OF UTAH                    )  
                                      )     ss.  
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE        )

I, RENEE L. STACY, Certified Shorthand Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public for the State of Utah, certify:

That the foregoing transcript, consisting of Pages 1 to 30, was stenographically reported by me at the time and place hereinbefore set forth; that the same was thereafter reduced to typewritten form, and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of those proceedings.

I further certify that I am neither counsel for nor related to any party to said action nor in anywise interested in the outcome thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my name and affixed my seal this 8th day of September, 2010.

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RENEE L. STACY, CSR, RPR  
Notary Public in and for the  
County of Salt Lake, State of Utah

My Commission Expires:

November 9, 2011