

1 **I. Introduction**

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

4 A. My name is A. Richard Walje. My business address is 201 South Main, Suite
5 2300, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111. I am the President of Rocky Mountain Power.

6 **Qualifications**

7 **Q. Please describe your educational and professional background.**

8 A. I have worked in the electric utility industry since 1972 as a journeyman lineman,
9 field service engineer with General Electric and as a substation design engineer
10 for Rocky Mountain Power. At Rocky Mountain Power I have held numerous
11 management and executive positions with increasing levels of responsibility in the
12 areas of engineering, construction, transmission and distribution operations,
13 customer service, procurement, information technology and community affairs. I
14 have served on PacifiCorp’s Board of the Directors since 2000 and I am also
15 currently the Chairman of the Board of the PacifiCorp Foundation. I have a
16 Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering degree (1984) and a Master of
17 Business Administration degree (1991), both from the University of Utah. I have
18 received additional executive level instruction from the University of Michigan
19 and electrical engineering theory from General Electric’s Crotonville education
20 center.

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

22 A. The purpose of my testimony is to introduce for the Commission the Company’s
23 request for a revenue increase. I will give an overview of the major components

24 of the request, the Company's obligation to serve its existing and future
25 customers, the efforts that are being made to manage the challenges the Company
26 is facing, and describe the Company's earnings experience since 2006. Finally I
27 introduce the witnesses that support the Company's application and the subject of
28 their testimony.

29 **Q. Please explain the rate increase that the Company is requesting and how it**
30 **will be apportioned to the Company's customers.**

31 A. The requested additional revenue represents a 9.7 percent increase, or \$172.3
32 million increase, over current rates, as explained in the testimony and exhibits of
33 Company witness Mr. Steven R. McDougal. However, as described in the
34 testimony of Company witnesses Mr. C. Craig Paice and Mr. William R. Griffith,
35 different customer classes will experience different percentage increases based on
36 their contribution to the Company's costs of providing electric service to them.

37 **Q. What are the main drivers of the rate increase?**

38 A. The main drivers of the rate increase request are:

- 39 (1) capital investments that the Company has been required to make to meet
40 regulatory mandates and to meet the Company's obligation to serve its
41 customers;
- 42 (2) increases in the Company's operating and maintenance costs;
- 43 (3) modest increases to net power costs;
- 44 (4) a reduction in renewable energy credit ("REC") revenues, meaning
45 customers are having to pay more of the actual power costs as the offset
46 from RECs enjoyed by our customers in recent history has declined; and

47 (5) slower than anticipated load growth, meaning that the increased costs of
48 providing power will be spread over fewer kWh of consumed power than
49 was forecast in the last general rate case.

50 **II. Discussion of Individual Drivers**

51 **Q. Please generally describe the capital investments that contribute to this**
52 **request for a rate increase.**

53 A. Approximately \$37 million¹ of the increase is to support the investments the
54 Company made to meet its obligation to serve. Much of the capital was invested
55 to comply with regulatory mandates related to power plant emissions,
56 transmission reliability, highway relocations and projects such as the mobile radio
57 replacement project required by the FCC. These capital investments are more
58 thoroughly set out in the testimony of Company witnesses Mr. Mark R. Tallman,
59 Mr. Darrell T. Gerrard and Mr. Douglas N. Bennion.

60 **Q. Please generally explain how increased operating and maintenance (“O&M”)**
61 **costs contribute to this request for a rate increase.**

62 A. Approximately \$30 million is needed to cover increasing costs to the Company’s
63 O&M budget. Though the Company has done an admirable job in managing its
64 controllable costs, its O&M costs have nevertheless increased. For instance, the
65 Company has incurred these costs acquiring reagent chemicals needed to operate
66 recently installed emissions control equipment and to maintain wind turbine
67 facilities as warranty maintenance contracts have expired. Company witnesses

¹ In the Settlement Stipulation (“Stipulation”) in the 2011 General Rate Case, Docket No. 10-035-124, not all components of the revenue requirement were specifically agreed upon or identified, as set forth in paragraph 42 of the Stipulation. Therefore, the amount associated with each driver of the rate increase referenced in my testimony is based upon the Company’s calculations.

68 Mr. Dana M. Ralston and Mr. Tallman describe in more detail why these costs are
69 unavoidably higher than last year.

70 **Q. Please generally explain how net power costs contribute to this request for a**
71 **rate increase.**

72 A. Approximately \$16 million of the increase is related to increased net power costs
73 (“NPC”). The cost of providing electric energy to our customers, though
74 moderating, are still increasing. An increase of approximately \$16 million is
75 needed to compensate the Company for these costs, which are necessary to
76 provide electric service to customers. This increase represents a mere 1.7 percent
77 net increase to NPC over last year, as more fully described in the testimony of
78 Company witness Mr. Gregory N. Duvall.

79 **Q. Please generally describe how renewable energy credit (“REC”) revenue has**
80 **declined and how this contributes to the current request for a rate increase.**

81 A. Approximately \$26 million of the requested increase is a result of declining REC
82 revenues. REC revenues provide an offset to the cost our retail customers pay for
83 electricity and the level included in current rates reflects REC sales at very
84 favorable prices. As described in the testimony of Company witness Stefan Bird,
85 the market for REC revenues has seen a significant weakening, both in price and
86 quantity. The declining REC revenue results in a lower revenue offset and,
87 therefore, an increase in rate revenue requirement. Prospectively the Company has
88 a REC balancing account in Utah and any variance in REC revenues will be
89 trued-up with customers, ensuring that our customers will receive 100 percent of
90 Utah’s share of all REC revenue.

91 **Q. Please generally explain how the slowing of load growth contributes to this**
92 **request for a rate increase.**

93 A. The Company's load projections used in the last rate case anticipated a higher
94 load than the Company has actually experienced and higher than is projected
95 during the test period in this case. Though Utah's economy is stronger than most
96 states' and is showing signs of recovering, loads will not meet the forecasted level
97 from the last rate case. Accordingly, because retail electricity consumption is
98 lower than was previously anticipated, our fixed costs are being spread over fewer
99 kWh of electricity purchased by our customers. In previous cases, a portion of the
100 Company's cost increases were offset by increased revenues from load growth
101 between cases. In this case, however, approximately \$47 million of the requested
102 revenue increase is related to the lower load projection. The reasons for the slower
103 load growth are fully described in the testimony of Company witness Dr. Peter C.
104 Eelkema.

105 **Q. Is the requested rate increase influenced by the Company's requested return**
106 **on equity ("ROE")?**

107 A. \$9.7 million of the requested increase is to allow the Company to change its
108 authorized ROE from 10.0 percent to 10.2 percent, which the Company believes
109 is more reflective of the current utility returns required by the market and risk
110 profile for the business. The capital structure the Company is proposing in the
111 case more closely matches the actual structure anticipated during the effective
112 date of the rates proposed in the case. Although merely 2/10th's of one percent in
113 increase, the Company believes that this increase more accurately reflects the

114 appropriate return necessary to attract capital from the market. This requested
115 increase is supported by the testimony of Company witnesses Dr. Samuel C.
116 Hadaway and Mr. Bruce N. Williams.

117 **III. General Need and Impact of the Requested Increase**

118 **Q. Please generally explain why this increase is necessary in light of the**
119 **Company's recent rate increases.**

120 A. Because of the recent rate increases the Company has been granted, we are very
121 sensitive to asking for increases on a regular basis. A significant aspect of those
122 past increases was related to the fact that the cost of the electricity required to
123 supply adequate and reliable power has gone up substantially in the five past
124 years. The other major contributor to past increases was the need to invest in
125 assets that allow the Company to meet its obligation to serve.

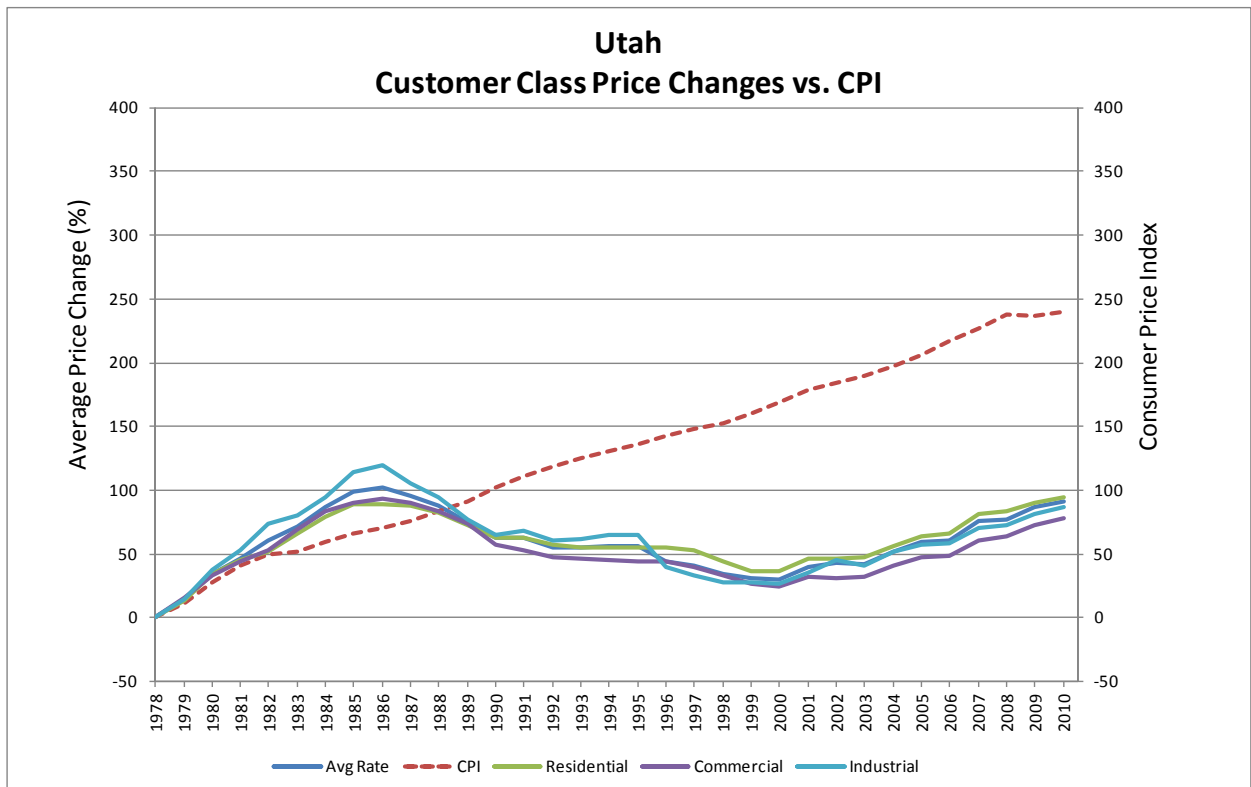
126 In spite of these recent price increases, the Company has been unable to
127 meet its authorized return on equity. The increase in rates proposed in this case
128 will allow the Company to have a reasonable chance to make its authorized
129 return.

130 **Q. Does the Company understand the impact that rising electricity prices have**
131 **on Utah businesses, governmental entities, schools and residential**
132 **customers?**

133 A. The Company understands the vital role electric service has in our economy and
134 society. It does not ask for price increases cavalierly or without assuring itself that
135 the items included in the request are in the best near- and long-term interests of its
136 customers. Even though the Utah economy is doing better than in most states, and

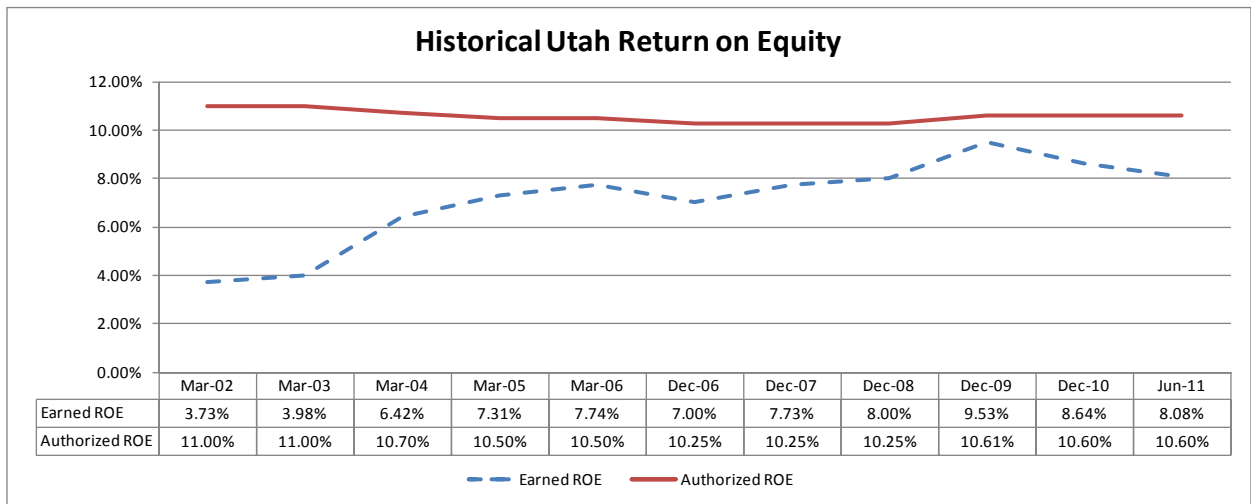
137 is forecast to continue to improve, we recognize the impact that electric price
138 increases have on businesses, individuals on fixed incomes, and the economy at
139 large.

140 The following chart demonstrates the admirable job the Company has
141 done in keeping electricity price increases below the general consumer price
142 index (“CPI”). Because of the increased cost of electricity and the investments
143 made to support increased capacity and reliability in recent years, the cost of
144 electricity has gone up faster than the CPI. Our expectation is that once we get
145 through this period, which will last another few years, our customers will yet
146 again benefit from the prudent longer-term investments the Company is now
147 making.



148 **Q. Generally describe the Company’s earning experience since 2002.**

149 A. It has been a challenge for the Company to earn its authorized returns, particularly
150 during a period of rising costs and when the Company makes significant
151 investments in infrastructure to satisfy load growth and mandatory regulatory
152 requirements. The following chart shows the Company’s returns against its
153 authorized returns over the approximate past decade.



154 **Q. Would the requested rate increase guarantee that the Company receive its**
155 **authorized ROE?**

156 A. No. It is important to note that the Company’s returns are in no way guaranteed,
157 and even with price increases, extraneous factors beyond the Company’s
158 complete control can suppress earnings. Indeed, the Company’s earnings have
159 been declining since 2009.

160 **Q. What has the Company done to mitigate its costs?**

161 A. Among the actions we have undertaken to manage our costs and investments are
162 the following:

163 The Company has maintained a strong focus on managing administrative
164 and general costs (“A&G costs”). This has been a priority for the Company, as
165 evidenced by the fact that these A&G costs are actually lower than they were in
166 2005.

167 In addition, Company employees make a larger contribution to their health
168 care costs, and their retirement plans have been evolved to a fixed contribution,
169 which removes market risk and reduces retirement obligation risk from the
170 Company’s customers.

171 Further, the Company entered into reasonable five-year contracts with its
172 unions and has judiciously managed pay increases and incentive programs for its
173 non-represented employees in order to protect ratepayers from inflation to labor
174 costs. In fact, the Company’s average merit increase in 2011 for non-represented
175 employees was only 1.93 percent, as compared to the CPI increase of 3.6
176 percent.²

177 **Q. Has the Company undertaken any cost containment activities?**

178 A. Yes. The Company has undertaken several cost containment measures in the areas
179 of customer service and transmission and distribution (“T&D”) operations.
180 Examples of cost containment activities that we have undertaken in the customer
181 service department are:

182 (1) The Company finished a roll-out of automated meter reading in Utah and
183 Wyoming. All customers are now using automated meters. This project
184 was completed in 2011 when 100 percent bonus depreciation was applied
185 for taxes.

² U.S. Social Security Administration, Cost of Living Adjustment.

- 186 (2) The Company began processing customer electronic payments in-house in
187 January 2012. This results in better customer service and saves the
188 Company \$600,000 annually in vendor fees.
- 189 (3) The Company has encouraged customers to switch to paperless billing,
190 which reduces costs and is good for the environment.
- 191 (4) The Company has actively assisted customers with bills in arrears, which
192 has resulted in savings. Every \$1 spent on at-risk customer balances and
193 past due collection activities saves the Company \$5 in bad debt expense.
- 194 (5) The Company has reduced its memberships in community organizations.
195 In the area of Transmission and Distribution Operations, the Company has
196 engaged in numerous cost containment activities. Notable examples are:
- 197 (1) The Company reviewed its leased service centers, which resulted
198 in the decision that it would be most cost effective to buy two
199 service centers in Wyoming.
- 200 (2) The Company reviewed its safety programs and eliminated
201 employee safety recognition gifts for T&D employees, which
202 results in a cost savings of approximately \$100,000 annually.
- 203 (3) The Company converted the annual estimator seminar to an online
204 forum resulting in \$50,000 savings in travelling expenses.
- 205 (4) Finally, the Company achieved significant cost savings through a
206 streamlined Line Services Agreement bidding process.

207 **Q. Has the Company adjusted its investment plans based on load projections**
208 **and in response to overall economic conditions?**

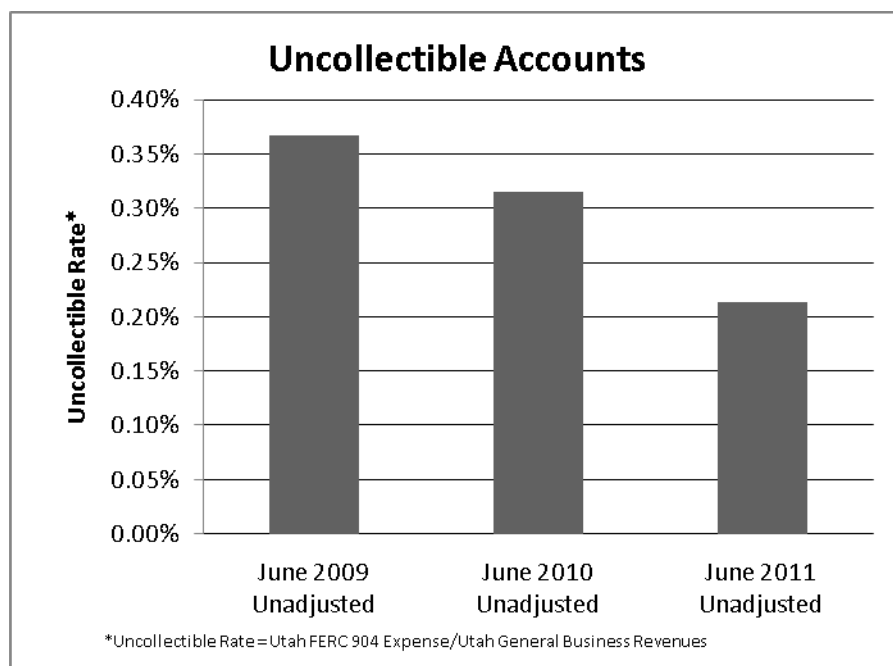
209 A. Yes. The Company completes a comprehensive review of its generation and
210 transmission investment needs on a biannual basis through its integrated resource
211 plan (“IRP”). The Utah Commission acknowledged the 2009 IRP and
212 acknowledgement of the 2011 IRP is pending. This plan starts with projected load
213 increases (or decreases) over the next 10 years, looks at the resources available to
214 meet that load, includes an examination of external conditions that are likely to
215 occur (such as environmental regulations) and generates multiple scenarios to
216 help guide the Company’s decision making. This is a rigorous public process.

217 At the local distribution level projects are directly aligned with needs
218 many times during the course of the year. As an example, even though the
219 recession might suppress overall load increases, there can be local pockets of
220 growth or areas of inadequate reliability that still must be addressed by
221 distribution system investments.

222 **Q. What actions has the Company taken to assist those customers most**
223 **impacted by the current economy?**

224 A. We are very cognizant of the impact electric prices have on our customers and
225 strive to find ways to minimize the impacts. We strive to make our customers
226 aware of options to get help through LIHEAP and the Company’s low income
227 contribution, payment plans that relieve near term obligations, focus on net write-
228 offs and bad debt expense, and the broad array of effective energy efficiency
229 programs the Company offers.

230 The following chart shows the Company's net write-offs as a percentage
231 of revenue. During a period of economic recession, one would expect to see an
232 increase in net write-offs; however, that is not the case for our Utah customers.
233 This has been accomplished by assisting customers and requesting deposits from
234 those customers who appear to be headed for difficulty. Though it is challenging
235 to ask a company that appears to be having financial difficulty for a deposit, we
236 do it when appropriate to protect all of our customers.



237 **Q. Please discuss briefly the Company's commitment to energy efficiency**
238 **programs.**

239 A. Interestingly, the Company continues to provide an award-winning portfolio of
240 energy efficiency programs, even though there are rate structure disincentives for
241 it to do so. Utah actually has the lowest monthly customer charge of all
242 surrounding states. The Company depends on energy use by its customers to pay
243 for its fixed and variable costs. Because the monthly charge is so low, the

244 Company needs customers to use more energy than it otherwise would in order to
245 compensate the Company for costs it has already incurred or must incur to
246 provide electricity and service.

247 Another example of the Company's commitment to energy savings is that,
248 notwithstanding the steeply inverted residential tariff structure, the Company
249 continues to support energy efficiency programs. When a disproportionate amount
250 of the Company's costs must be recovered through high electricity usage in the
251 residential tail block, it is noteworthy that the Company supports programs that
252 suppress consumption. In essence the structure of the tail block and the demand
253 site management ("DSM") programs make it more difficult for the Company to
254 achieve its authorized ROE, because the tariff does not fairly compensate the
255 Company if it actively reduces the amount of use in the tail block.

256 In spite of these two structural impediments to the Company's opportunity
257 to earn its authorized return, the Company still actively works to reduce electricity
258 consumption because of the value to the participating customers and the overall
259 cost reduction it provides to all customers.

260 **Q. Is the Company sensitive to its role as a publicly regulated monopoly?**

261 A. One of the most difficult decisions any company makes is the one to increase
262 prices. We are particularly sensitive to our role in the economy and to the fact that
263 we have a monopoly position with our customers. I stress to our employees a
264 message they readily embrace, that our monopoly position actually places a
265 higher standard of care in asking for a price increase because our customers can't
266 "vote with their feet or pocket book" to do business with another electricity

267 provider. We clearly understand that we are regulated by a *public service*
268 commission and endeavor always to remember that in all we do.

269 **Q. Would you please summarize your testimony?**

270 A. In summary, our request for this price increase is driven by lower projected
271 electricity consumption, lower REC revenues, mandatory investments required by
272 federal regulators, investments required by the Company's obligation to serve,
273 and some inflationary operating costs pressures in the business. Our ability to
274 mitigate the cost impacts of these requirements is limited. Though we have done
275 much to mitigate our costs, it is not much comfort for customers when prices have
276 gone up and are forecasted to go up more in the future. Nevertheless, even with
277 this request, our customers will retain their relatively low priced electricity
278 compared to customers in other states, whose already higher prices are increasing
279 too. Our electricity is and will remain a great value, as demonstrated by the
280 preceding graphs and examples.

281 But, because of the impact electricity prices have on the economy and our
282 customers, we are committed to continue to make prudent near- and long-term
283 decisions that are in the best interests of our customers' needs and desires.

284 **Introduction of Witnesses**

285 **Q. Please identify the witnesses that support the Company's application and the**
286 **subject of their testimony.**

287 A. The Company witnesses that have filed direct testimony in support of the
288 application and the subjects of their testimony are as follows:

289 **Steven R. McDougal**, Director, Revenue Requirement, will present the
290 Company's overall revenue requirement based on the forecasted results of
291 operations for the test period. He will describe the sources of the forecast data and
292 present certain normalizing adjustments related to revenue, operations and
293 maintenance expense, depreciation and amortization, taxes, and rate base.

294 **Bruce N. Williams**, Vice President and Treasurer, will testify concerning the
295 Company's cost of debt, preferred stock and capital structure including the
296 Company's overall return on rate base of 7.91 percent requested in this case.

297 **Samuel C. Hadaway**, FINANCO, Inc. will testify concerning the Company's
298 return on equity.

299 **Peter C. Eelkema**, Senior Consultant, Load and Revenue Forecasting, will testify
300 on the forecast test period loads and sales in Utah. He will explain how he
301 computed Utah sales during the test period in this case and how this forecast
302 compares to historical results and the time period used in the 2011 general rate
303 case upon which existing rates are based.

304 **Gregory N. Duvall**, Director, Long Range Planning and Net Power Costs, will
305 describe the Company's total net power costs and the influences that are driving
306 up total net power costs beyond the level recently approved in the 2011 general
307 rate case.

308 **Cindy A. Crane**, Vice President of Inter-West Mining, will specifically address
309 the issue of rising coal costs and the cost drivers associated with this fuel.

310 **Stefan A. Bird**, Senior Vice President, Commercial and Trading, PacifiCorp
311 Energy, will provide testimony describing the reduction in renewable energy
312 credit revenues.

313 **Dana M. Ralston**, Vice President of Thermal Generation, will testify on the
314 operations and maintenance expenses related to the thermal generation fleet.

315 **Mark R. Tallman**, Vice President of Renewable Resources, will testify on the
316 operations and maintenance expenses related to hydroelectric and wind generation
317 facilities and two additions to hydro generation plant.

318 **Darrell T. Gerrard**, Vice President Transmission Planning, will testify on capital
319 investments in the Company's main grid transmission system.

320 **Douglas N. Bennion**, Vice President, Engineering Services and Capital
321 Investment, will explain the Company's capital investments in transmission and
322 distribution facilities to serve customer loads and deliver reliable power in Utah.

323 **Andrea L. Kelly**, Vice President, Regulation, will testify on the relicensing of the
324 Klamath hydro project and the Klamath Hydro Settlement Agreement.

325 **Erich D. Wilson**, Director, Human Resources, will describe the Company's
326 compensation and benefit plans, and explain why the Company's incentive and
327 base compensation, retirement and healthcare costs should be included in rates.

328 **Scott D. Thornton**, Manager, Metered Data Management, will provide an
329 overview of load research and the processes surrounding the development of load
330 estimates used in this filing.

331 **C. Craig Paice**, Regulatory Consultant, Cost of Service, will present the
332 Company's class cost of service study.

333 **William R. Griffith**, Director, Pricing, Cost of Service, & Regulatory Operations,
334 will present the Company's rate spread and rate design proposals.

335 **Jeffrey M. Kent**, Director Distribution, will present a proposed reduction to the
336 Company's pole attachment rate.

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

338 **A. Yes.**