

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

3 A. My name is William R. Griffith. My business address is 825 NE Multnomah Street,  
4 Suite 2000, Portland, Oregon, 97232. My present position is Director, Pricing, Cost of  
5 Service, and Regulatory Operations in the Regulation Department.

6 **Qualifications**

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

8 A. I have a B.A. degree with High Honors and distinction in Political Science and  
9 Economics from San Diego State University and an M.A. in Political Science from  
10 that same institution; I was subsequently employed on the faculty. I attended the  
11 University of Oregon and completed all course work towards a Ph.D. in Political  
12 Science. I joined the Company in the Rates & Regulation Department in December  
13 1983. In June 1989, I became Manager, Pricing in the Regulation Department. In  
14 February 2001, I assumed my present responsibilities.

15 **Q. What are your responsibilities?**

16 A. I am responsible for regulated retail rates, cost of service analysis, and regulatory  
17 filings and documentation in the Company’s six state service territory.

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

19 A. Yes. I have testified for the Company in regulatory proceedings in Utah, Wyoming,  
20 Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and California.

21 **Purpose of Testimony**

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

23 A. The purpose of my testimony is to address the Company’s proposed rate spread in

24 this case and to propose rate changes for the affected rate schedules.

25 **Q. Please describe Rocky Mountain Power's pricing objectives in this case.**

26 A. The Company's pricing objectives in this case are to implement the proposed rate  
27 increase while reflecting cost of service, appropriately reflecting the fixed costs of  
28 serving customers, and minimizing customer impacts.

29 **Q. How does the Company propose to allocate the increase across customer classes?**

30 A. The Company proposes to rely on the results of Mr. C. Craig Paice's cost of service  
31 study at the target return on rate base (Exhibit RMP\_\_\_\_(CCP-1, Page 2 of 2) to  
32 guide the allocation of the rate increase to tariff customers.

33 **Q. Please describe Exhibit RMP\_\_\_\_(WRG-1).**

34 A. Exhibit RMP\_\_\_\_(WRG-1) details the Company's proposed changes to class revenues  
35 to be implemented in this case. On an overall basis, based on the forecast 12 month  
36 test period ending May 2013, this proposal would result in an overall increase of 10.0  
37 percent to tariff customers in Utah.

38 **Q. Please describe the Company's proposal for the allocation of the revenue**  
39 **requirement.**

40 A. The Company proposes the following allocation of the rate increase for the major  
41 customer classes.

<u>Customer Class</u>	<u>Proposed Rate Change</u>
Residential	10.5%
General Service	
Schedule 23	8.5%
Schedule 6	8.5%
Schedule 8	9.5%
Schedule 9	12.5%
Irrigation	13.5%

50 **Q. Please explain the proposed rate spread.**

51 A. The proposed rate spread is designed to reflect cost of service results while balancing  
52 the impact of the rate change across customer classes. The proposed increases are  
53 grouped as follows.

54 Schedule 6 and Schedule 23 – 8.5%

55 Schedule 8 – 9.5%

56 Residential – 10.5%

57 Schedule 9 – 12.5%

58 Irrigation – 13.5%

59 In order to achieve the revenue requirement target, the proposed rate spread midpoint  
60 was set at 10.5 percent.

61 The Company proposes the rate spread midpoint amount for residential  
62 customers based on their cost of service results which are less than two percentage  
63 points from the rate spread midpoint.

64 For Schedule 6 and Schedule 23, the cost of service results indicate that they  
65 should receive an increase about four to five percentage points, respectively, less than  
66 the rate spread midpoint. Based on these results, the Company proposes an increase  
67 two percentage points less than the rate spread midpoint, roughly one-half of their  
68 cost of service percentage difference from the rate spread midpoint.

69 For Schedule 8, the cost of service results indicate that they should receive an  
70 increase about two percentage points less than the rate spread midpoint. Based on  
71 these results, the Company proposes an increase one percentage point less than the  
72 rate spread midpoint, or roughly one-half the cost of service percentage difference

73 from the rate spread midpoint.

74 For Schedule 9, the cost of service results indicate that they should receive an  
75 increase nearly four percentage points more than the rate spread midpoint. Based on  
76 these results, the Company proposes an increase two percentage points higher than  
77 the rate spread midpoint, or roughly one-half the cost of service percentage difference  
78 from the rate spread midpoint.

79 For irrigation, the cost of service results indicate that Schedule 10 customers  
80 should receive an increase about six percentage points more than the average. Based  
81 on these results, the Company proposes an increase three percentage points higher  
82 than the rate spread midpoint, or also one-half the cost of service percentage  
83 difference from the rate spread midpoint.

84 Overall, the Company believes that the proposed rate spread sends the proper  
85 signals to customers about increasing costs while mitigating customer impacts.

86 **Special Contract Customers**

87 **Q. How has the Company treated special contract customer price changes in this**  
88 **case?**

89 A. One special contract customer (Contract 3) whose rates are set at Schedule  
90 31/Schedule 9 equivalent rates has been reflected in the proposed rate change for this  
91 case. The dollar and percentage rate changes indicated in this case for this customer  
92 reflect their usage at the proposed applicable tariff rates.

93 For the other two special contract customers, their 2012 prices have been  
94 calculated and assumed in the present revenues in this case.

95 **Residential Rate Design**

96 **Q. Please describe the Company's proposed residential rate design proposal.**

97 A. In this case the Company proposes to increase the current Customer Charge by \$6.00  
98 per month to \$10.00 per month and to implement the balance of the increase to the  
99 residential energy charges. The Company proposes to collect the balance of the  
100 residential price change through the energy charges, but it proposes no substantive  
101 changes to the residential energy charge structure. The Company also proposes to  
102 eliminate the minimum bill for residential customers.

103 **Q. Please discuss the Company's proposed residential customer charge.**

104 A. The present Utah residential customer charge is the lowest residential customer  
105 charge in the Company's six state system. It fails to recover the related fixed costs of  
106 serving residential customers, including the cost of meters, service drops, poles and  
107 conductors, transformers, and retail service. The discussion below presents three  
108 customer charge methodologies utilizing different costing approaches for assessing a  
109 residential customer charge. This discussion was first presented at the Commission's  
110 Technical Conference on the residential customer charge on January 30, 2012.  
111 Exhibit RMP\_\_\_(WRG-2) summarizes these three approaches.

112 **Method 1. Fixed Costs Methodology**

113 **Q. Please describe the first method.**

114 A. Method 1, the Fixed Costs methodology, recognizes three fixed cost components of  
115 functionalized revenues from the embedded cost of service study appropriate for use  
116 in the calculation of the residential customer charge--the distribution function, the  
117 retail function, and the miscellaneous services function. These costs do not vary with

118 usage, and are therefore appropriate costs to include in determining the level of the  
119 residential monthly customer charge.

120 The distribution function includes the radial system that connects the customer  
121 to the transmission system. This includes distribution substations, poles and wires,  
122 line transformers, service drops and meters.

123 The retail function includes the retail activities associated with customer  
124 service, including meter reading, customer accounting, and customer service  
125 activities.

126 The miscellaneous function includes expenses that are associated with  
127 regulatory activities, including franchise requirements and regulatory commission  
128 expenses.

129 The Fixed Costs methodology supports a monthly customer charge of \$28.63.

130 **Method 2. 1985 Methodology**

131 **Q. Please describe the second method.**

132 A. The second method is the Commission's 1985 Methodology. The 1985 Methodology  
133 for determining a residential customer charge was put forth in Docket No. 84-035-01  
134 where the Commission found that a customer charge, as opposed to a minimum bill,  
135 allows customer costs to be recovered reasonably and properly. A \$1.00 residential  
136 customer charge was approved in 1985 to recover some of the customer based costs  
137 to the Company such as meters, service drops, meter reading, collections and billing.  
138 While changes to the customer charge, both increases and decreases, occurred over  
139 the years, the methodology for including customer-related costs in the Utah  
140 residential customer charge has been largely unchanged for over 25 years.

141           The 1985 Methodology produces a monthly customer charge of \$3.85 which  
142 fails to collect many of the costs for which residential customers are each solely  
143 responsible. From the inception of the 1985 Methodology, the Commission has been  
144 consistent with its finding from a Mountain Fuel Supply Case (82-057-15) that a  
145 customer charge should result in payment by each customer of those costs it imposes  
146 upon the system, which are independent of actual energy consumption.

147           The customer charge has been contested in a number of general rate cases.  
148 The Utah 2005 Cost of Service Work Group, with support from the Division of  
149 Public Utilities (“DPU”), argued that the while the Commission’s 1985 Methodology  
150 correctly demarcated the cost of service components to include in the residential  
151 customer charge—defined as that portion of costs that each customer is solely  
152 responsible for, including the service drop, the meter, meter reading, and billing—  
153 these costs had failed to be recovered in practice, and therefore the DPU supported an  
154 increase in the residential customer charge.

### 155 **Method 3. 2012 Methodology**

156 **Q.     Please describe the third method.**

157 A.     The third method is the 2012 Methodology. This analysis begins with the 1985  
158 Methodology, but re-examines those costs each customer imposes upon the system,  
159 adds customer-related fixed cost components, modifies the way retail cost of service  
160 is included, and examines the customer-related cost component of distribution line  
161 transformers.

162           The first part of this analysis includes maintenance related costs for service  
163 drops and meters. While the 1985 Methodology includes some costs directly

164 associated with meters, service drops, meter reading, billing, and collections, it fails  
165 to recover maintenance costs associated with meters or service drops. These  
166 maintenance costs are independent of actual energy consumption and are imposed on  
167 the system solely by the customer whose meter and service is being maintained. The  
168 Company believes that many of these maintenance costs should be included in the  
169 calculation of a Utah residential customer charge.

170 The second part of this analysis includes residential allocated retail costs.  
171 Regardless of the amount of energy a residential customer uses, retail costs are fixed  
172 and should be reflected in the monthly customer charge. Retail function costs include  
173 the cost of reading meters, answering customer service phone calls, sending customer  
174 statements, processing customer payments, and providing online access to customers'  
175 accounts. In the 1985 Methodology, billing and meter reading costs were included by  
176 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") sub-account, but not all associated  
177 costs were included in the cost-based customer charge.

178 At the time the 1985 Methodology for determining the customer charge was  
179 created, the cost of service study had not yet been functionalized. Retail costs were  
180 only available by FERC account and sub-account, and not collected and summarized  
181 anywhere in the cost of service study. The current Utah embedded cost of service  
182 study breaks out the five utility functions, including retail. This 2012 Methodology  
183 recognizes that the Utah embedded cost of service study has changed significantly  
184 since the 1985 Methodology was developed and that the embedded cost of service  
185 study is functionalized and includes retail costs. By including the full retail function  
186 in the cost-based customer charge calculation, the functionalized cost of service study



187 is better reflected, and the results are more transparent with costs more clearly  
188 assigned.

189 The third portion of this analysis includes the customer related component of  
190 distribution line transformers. Like a meter or service drop, distribution line  
191 transformer costs are fixed and do not vary with the amount of energy a residential  
192 customer uses. While historically, the Company has classified the costs of distribution  
193 line transformers as demand related, closer examination shows that while distribution  
194 engineers use estimated demand to *size* transformers, much of the installed cost of the  
195 transformer is fixed and does not vary with size. This is particularly true for the  
196 distribution line transformers that are installed to serve residential customers. For  
197 example, a 25 KVA pad-mount transformer and a 50 KVA pad-mount transformer  
198 are commonly installed in residential subdivisions, and they have average installed  
199 costs of \$5,152 and \$5,432, respectively. Although, the 50 KVA transformer provides  
200 double the demand capacity of the 25 KVA transformer, it only costs about 5 percent  
201 more. Clearly, a large proportion of the cost of these transformers in this example do  
202 not vary with load and are fixed costs necessary to serve customers.

203 The 2012 Methodology indicates an appropriate monthly customer charge of  
204 \$11.60.

205 **Q. Please summarize your recommendation.**

206 A. Based on the Company's analysis of these different customer charge methods, the  
207 Company believes that the Fixed Costs Methodology is the most appropriate analysis  
208 for determining the level of the monthly residential customer charge; however, we  
209 also recognize that this issue is contentious, and that it is also a departure from the

210 1985 Methodology.

211 As a compromise approach, the Company believes that the 2012 Methodology  
212 is a reasonable bridge to achieving a cost compensatory customer charge. While the  
213 2012 Methodology produces a monthly customer charge of \$11.60 which exceeds the  
214 Company's recommendation, we believe that the Company's proposed \$10.00  
215 monthly customer charge is reasonable and a balanced step. It is supported by cost  
216 and makes good progress toward realizing an appropriate customer charge.

217 **Q. Why does the Company propose to eliminate the minimum bill for residential**  
218 **customers in this case?**

219 A. The Company believes that the appropriate minimum monthly bill is the fixed  
220 monthly customer charge; therefore, a separate minimum bill is not necessary. In the  
221 calculation of a minimum bill, volumetric usage is included, or commingled, in its  
222 calculation which creates complexity and provides a poor price signal to customers  
223 concerning fixed costs. The minimum bill is only applied to customers whose  
224 monthly usage is at or below approximately 35 kWh for single phase service, and  
225 most customers never pay a minimum bill.

226 For the most recent historic period available (12 month period ended June 30,  
227 2011), less than two percent of all residential customer bills were minimum bills. This  
228 means that for the other 98 percent, the minimum bill rate was never assessed nor  
229 known. On the other hand, the customer charge is a fixed price component paid by all  
230 customers and is a clear price signal reflecting costs that do not vary with usage. The  
231 minimum bill is largely unknown to the vast majority of customers. It is not a clear,  
232 persistent, nor useful tool in reflecting the cost of electric service to customers.

233 **Q. Does the Company charge a minimum bill for residential customers that differs**  
234 **from the customer charge in any of the other five states that it serves?**

235 A. No. In each of the other five states that the Company serves, the monthly customer  
236 charge is the minimum bill.

#### 237 **Residential Time of Use Experiment**

238 **Q. Does the Company propose any changes to the current optional, experimental**  
239 **residential time of day tariff rider (Schedule 2)?**

240 A. Yes. The Company proposes to increase both the on-peak charge and the off-peak  
241 credit for the optional, experimental time of day tariff rider for residential customers.

242 This is consistent with the energy charge revisions proposed for standard residential  
243 service Schedule 1.

#### 244 **General Service & Irrigation Rates**

245 **Q. Please describe the Company's proposed rate design changes for commercial,**  
246 **industrial and irrigation customers.**

247 A. Consistent with the Company's proposal in recent general rate cases, the Company  
248 does not propose any structural changes to its general service rates. In recent cases,  
249 the Company proposed a number of rate design changes that were in line with the  
250 recommendations presented in the Company's Rate Design Taskforce (Taskforce)  
251 report filed with the Commission in July 2004. Those changes included time of day  
252 pricing for Schedule 9 and a new tariff Schedule, Schedule 8, that implemented time  
253 of day pricing for all customers over 1 MW. The Company proposes to continue these  
254 pricing structures.

255 **Schedule 8 and Schedule 9**

256 **Q. What does the Company propose for Schedule 8 and Schedule 9?**

257 A. The Company proposes to increase uniformly the facility, demand and energy charges  
258 to reflect the proposed revenue requirement change. We also propose to increase the  
259 monthly Customer Service Charge for Schedule 8 and Schedule 9.

260 **Q. What does the Company propose for the optional time of use Schedule 9A**  
261 **currently in effect?**

262 A. Schedule 9A is closed to new service. These customers have the ability to shift to  
263 Schedule 9 if they desire. The Company proposes to increase Schedule 9A charges  
264 consistent with the proposed changes to Schedule 9.

265 **Schedule 6**

266 **Q. What changes does the Company propose for customers below 1 MW on**  
267 **Schedule 6?**

268 A. The Company proposes to apply the proposed revenue requirement change by  
269 applying a uniform percentage to demand charges and energy charges. We also  
270 propose to increase the Customer Service Charge.

271 **General Service Schedule 23**

272 **Q. How does the Company propose to implement the rate change for Schedule 23?**

273 A. The Company proposes to implement the rate change for Schedule 23 uniformly to  
274 demand and energy charges, and to increase the Customer Charge.

275 **Irrigation Schedule 10**

276 **Q. How does the Company propose to implement the rate change for Schedule 10?**

277 A. The Company proposes to implement the rate change for Schedule 10 uniformly to

278 demand and energy charges and to increase the Customer Service charges.

279 **Lighting**

280 **Q. How does the Company propose to implement the rate change for lighting**  
281 **customers?**

282 A. Based on the cost of service results, the Company does not propose an increase for  
283 most lighting customers; however, it does propose an increase for traffic signals. For  
284 those customers, the Company designed the rate change by applying a percentage  
285 increase to the current rate to achieve the proposed overall revenue change.

286 **Billing Determinants**

287 **Q. Please explain Exhibit RMP\_\_\_(WRG-3).**

288 A. Exhibit RMP\_\_\_(WRG-3) contains a summary of present and proposed prices along  
289 with the billing determinants used in preparing the pricing proposals in this case. In  
290 accordance with R746-700-21.D.1, Exhibit RMP\_\_\_(WRG-3) provides in a readily  
291 identifiable form the Company's proposed price changes for all rate schedules.

292 **Monthly Billing Comparisons**

293 **Q. Please explain Exhibit RMP\_\_\_(WRG-4).**

294 A. Exhibit RMP\_\_\_(WRG-4) details the customer impacts of the Company's proposed  
295 pricing changes. For each rate schedule, it shows the change in monthly bills for  
296 various load and usage levels.

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

298 A. Yes, it does.