

1 **Q. Are you the same Mark R. Tallman that submitted Direct Testimony in this**  
2 **proceeding?**

3 A. Yes.

4 **Purpose and Summary of Testimony**

5 **Q. What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony?**

6 A. The purpose of my testimony is to rebut the testimony of Ms. Donna Ramas on  
7 behalf of the Office of Consumer Services (“OCS”) related to wind turbine oil  
8 changes, wind-powered generation materials and Federal Energy Regulatory  
9 Commission (“FERC”) hydro land use fees. My recommendation to the  
10 Commission associated with wind turbine oil changes is consistent with the  
11 recommendation made by Mr. Kevin C. Higgins on behalf of the Utah Association  
12 of Energy Users Intervention Group (“UAE”). In contrast, the Company does not  
13 agree with UAE’s recommendations related to non-labor operations and  
14 maintenance (“O&M”) escalation and project-specific contingency adjustments.  
15 My testimony rebuts UAE on these two issues as it relates to wind and hydro-  
16 powered resources. My testimony also rebuts the recommendation of Mr. Richard  
17 S. Hahn on behalf of the Division of Public Utilities (“DPU”) related to wind  
18 turbine generator replacements during the test period.

19 **Q. Please summarize your testimony.**

20 A. The Company proposes to normalize O&M expense associated with wind turbine  
21 oil changes over a three-year period. The Company does not agree with how OCS  
22 calculates normalized wind turbine oil change expense for inclusion in rates. The  
23 Company’s proposal is consistent with the normalized expense proposed by UAE.

24 The Company also does not agree with OCS's proposal associated with wind-  
25 powered generation materials or OCS's proposal associated with FERC hydro land  
26 use fees. My testimony demonstrates the Commission should reject OCS's  
27 recommendation to reduce wind-powered generation materials cost because the  
28 OCS relied on an inappropriate averaging methodology and that the OCS's  
29 recommendation with respect to FERC land use fees should also be rejected  
30 because OCS reached an incorrect conclusion regarding a single FERC invoice the  
31 Company received prior to the test period. The rebuttal testimony of Mr. Steven R.  
32 McDougal recommends that the Commission reject UAE's recommendations  
33 regarding non-labor O&M escalation and contingency. My testimony supports Mr.  
34 McDougal's testimony by further describing how UAE's proposals for these two  
35 issues inappropriately impacts contingency related to five hydro projects and results  
36 in an inappropriate disallowance of valid and prudent incremental O&M costs.  
37 Finally, the Company does not agree with the DPU's recommendation to remove  
38 wind turbine generator replacements during the test period. My testimony  
39 documents the need for these generator replacement costs.

40 **Wind Turbine Oil Changes**

41 **Q. Please summarize OCS's position regarding wind turbine oil changes.**

42 A. Ms. Ramas proposes a reduction of \$2,029,333 (\$875,759 Utah) that would remove  
43 two thirds of the wind turbine oil change costs the Company included for recovery  
44 in this case. Ms. Ramas based her proposed adjustment on the manufacturers'  
45 recommendation to change wind turbine oil every three years. Ms. Ramas claims  
46 that her approach would result in a normal level of oil change costs occurring during

47 the test period. She proposes that \$1.0 million (\$437,876 Utah) be placed in rates  
48 associated with wind turbine oil changes.

49 **Q. What is the Company's position regarding normalization of wind turbine oil**  
50 **change costs?**

51 A. The Company agrees that normalization is one reasonable way to include these  
52 costs in rates, provided that all appropriate costs are reflected in the three year  
53 average calculation. Generation overhaul expenses are currently reflected in Utah  
54 rates on a normalized multi-year basis.

55 **Q. Has OCS reflected all appropriate costs in the normalized wind turbine oil**  
56 **change expense it proposes?**

57 A. No. OCS's calculation does not reflect all appropriate costs because the OCS  
58 calculation does not take into consideration the 74 wind turbines at the Dunlap I  
59 wind project. The Dunlap I wind turbines are due for an oil change during 2013.  
60 The Dunlap I oil change will likely begin during the test period and finish just after  
61 the end of the test period (May 2013) utilized in this case. In addition, the most  
62 recent estimate of oil change costs should be used for normalization purposes.

63 **Q. Are there other instances in which costs extending beyond a test period are**  
64 **reflected in Utah rates?**

65 A. Yes. As addressed in Company witness Mr. McDougal's rebuttal testimony,  
66 projected costs for generation plant overhauls extending beyond a rate case test  
67 period have been accepted by the Commission in previous rate case dockets.

68 **Q. What is the Company's most recent estimate of normalized wind turbine oil**

69 **change costs?**

70 A. As shown in Confidential Exhibit RMP\_\_\_(MRT-1R), the Company currently  
71 estimates the three-year average oil change expense for wind turbine oil change  
72 costs to be \$1.7 million per year (\$715,756 Utah), inclusive of oil change costs for  
73 the 74 turbines located at the Dunlap I wind project. The Company bases this  
74 estimate, in part, on the results of a recent competitive procurement process for  
75 changing the oil in Wyoming located turbines. The Company's proposal would  
76 result in a reduction of \$1,385,417 (\$597,872 Utah). This reduction is reflected in  
77 the rebuttal testimony of Mr. McDougal.

78 **Q. Is the Company's normalized wind turbine oil change cost recommendation**  
79 **consistent with that proposed by UAE?**

80 A. Yes. UAE recommends adjusting wind O&M expense to reflect the normalized  
81 annual expense over the oil change cycle. UAE recommends that the Company's  
82 wind turbine oil change proposal in Wyoming Docket No. 20000-405-ER-11 be  
83 adopted in Utah. In the referenced Wyoming docket, the Company recommended  
84 a normalized three-year average oil change expense of \$1.7 million per year,  
85 inclusive of oil change costs for the 74 turbines located at the Dunlap I wind project.

86 **Q. What do you recommend to the Commission?**

87 A. I recommend the Commission reject the proposed adjustment by OCS for wind  
88 turbine oil changes. Instead, I recommend the Commission accept the proposal by  
89 the Company which is consistent with and would result in the same adjustment  
90 proposed by UAE<sup>1</sup>. The Company and UAE propose to normalize oil change costs

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<sup>1</sup> Except for small rounding differences.

91 over a three year period using all appropriate costs. As Confidential Exhibit  
92 RMP\_\_\_(MRT-1R) shows, the Company's current estimate of the three-year  
93 average oil change expense for wind turbine oil change costs is \$1.7 million per  
94 year (\$715,756 Utah), inclusive of oil change costs for the 74 turbines located at  
95 the Dunlap I wind project. The Company's proposal would result in a reduction of  
96 \$1,385,417 (\$597,872 Utah) from the Company's filing. The OCS has failed to  
97 reflect all appropriate costs in the normalized wind turbine oil change expense they  
98 propose.

99 **Wind-Powered Generation Materials**

100 **Q. Please summarize OCS's position regarding wind-powered generation**  
101 **materials.**

102 A. Ms. Ramas proposes an 8.89 percent reduction in the cost the Company expects to  
103 incur for wind-powered generation materials during the test period. Ms. Ramas  
104 proposes to reduce test period expenses by \$568,024 (\$245,131 Utah). Ms. Ramas  
105 bases her proposal on the average of actual costs incurred by the Company during  
106 2010 and 2011 for materials on a dollar per megawatt basis. As a result, the OCS  
107 is recommending that \$5.8 million (\$2,512,227 Utah) be placed in rates for wind-  
108 powered generation materials. The Company's filing included an expense of  
109 \$6,389,472 (\$2,757,356 Utah) for wind-powered generation materials.

110 **Q. Is the OCS's approach to averaging appropriate?**

111 A. No. Ms. Ramas inappropriately averages 2010 turbine material cost data for a single  
112 type of wind turbine (General Electric) with 2011 cost data for turbines produced  
113 by different manufacturers. In addition, Ms. Ramas inappropriately applies the

114 result of her analysis to the Company's entire wind-powered generation material  
115 expense, which includes material costs that are not wind turbine related.

116 **Q. Does the OCS or any other party object to wind-powered generation material**  
117 **expense not related to wind turbines?**

118 A. No.

119 **Q. Why did the Company use 2010 data to estimate materials expense?**

120 A. The Company utilized 2010 turbine material cost data when determining its  
121 expected costs because 2011 cost data had not yet been calculated. The 2010 data  
122 only consisted of data on General Electric turbines. If a 2010 and 2011 averaging  
123 approach is utilized, the correct approach is to use the General Electric data for  
124 General Electric turbines and the non-General Electric data from 2011 for the other  
125 turbine types. As time passes, the Company will grow its historical data set for each  
126 type of turbine.

127 **Q. Have you updated these material costs using the correct approach?**

128 A. Yes. As shown in Confidential Exhibit RMP\_\_\_(MRT-2R), the Company estimates  
129 wind-powered generation materials cost using the correct approach to be \$6.4  
130 million (total Company). On a rounded basis, the updated amount is equal to the  
131 \$6.4 million (total Company) amount the Company included in its filing.

132 **Q. What do you recommend to the Commission?**

133 A. I recommend the Commission reject the proposed adjustment by OCS for wind-  
134 powered generation materials. The Commission should either accept the  
135 Company's original estimate using 2010 costs (\$6.4 million total Company,  
136 \$2,757,356 Utah) or accept the Company's current estimate using the correct

137 approach to averaging 2011 and 2010 costs (\$6.4 million total Company,  
138 \$2,739,187 Utah). The Company's recommendation results in little or no  
139 adjustment. The OCS recommendation relies on an inappropriate averaging  
140 methodology that is also inappropriately applied to non-turbine related materials  
141 costs.

142 **FERC Hydro Land Use Fees**

143 **Q. Please summarize OCS's position regarding FERC hydro land use fees.**

144 A. Ms. Ramas proposes an adjustment of \$535,204 (\$230,967 Utah) on the basis that  
145 the Company received a FERC invoice for land use fees in March 2012, with  
146 payment due in April 2012, of \$182,115 (total Company). Ms. Ramas calculates  
147 her proposed adjustment by taking the difference between \$182,115 and the amount  
148 the Company included in its filing for expected test period expenses (\$717,319 total  
149 Company). Ms. Ramas proposes that \$182,115 (\$78,591 Utah) be included in rates.

150 **Q. Did Ms. Ramas draw an incorrect conclusion regarding the March 2012**  
151 **invoice?**

152 A. Yes. Ms. Ramas incorrectly concluded that the March 2012 invoice of \$182,115 is  
153 equal to the FERC land use fee expense the Company will incur during the test  
154 period (June 2012 through May 2013).

155 **Q. Please explain.**

156 A. As Ms. Ramas noted, the FERC land use fee invoice was due in April 2012.  
157 Accordingly, the Company paid the invoice and expensed the amount prior to the  
158 test period. I explained in my direct testimony that the Company would make any  
159 necessary adjustments to its projected test period costs once the FERC land use

160 invoice was received during the spring of 2012. At the time, the Company did not  
161 know if the invoice would be paid during the test period or prior to the test period.

162 As Ms. Ramas notes, the invoice was paid prior to the test period.

163 **Q. Is the Company still projecting a FERC land use fee expense of \$717,319**  
164 **(\$309,557 Utah) during the test period?**

165 A. Yes. The Company still expects to incur \$717,319 (\$309,557 Utah) of FERC land  
166 use fee expenses during the test period. Therefore, the appropriate cost estimate to  
167 use for setting rates is the *next* FERC invoice. Not the March 2012 invoice as the  
168 OCS suggests.

169 **Q. When will FERC invoice for land use fees during the test period?**

170 A. FERC does not invoice on the exact same date every year. Thus the uncertainty  
171 described above. The Company expects to receive and pay the next FERC invoice  
172 as early as December 2012, during the test period.

173 **Q. Why is the next invoice the Company expects to receive most indicative of the**  
174 **costs the Company will incur during the test period?**

175 A. As explained in my direct testimony and in response to data request OCS 8.16(b),  
176 the cost of the expected FERC land use fees during the test period is based on the  
177 methodology FERC intends to implement after a notice of proposed rulemaking  
178 (“NOPR”) process is complete. The Company has included \$717,319 (total  
179 Company) in its filing based on the NOPR’s methodology. The \$182,115 (total  
180 Company) invoice received in March 2012, and expensed prior to the test period,  
181 has no impact upon the costs the Company will incur during the test period because  
182 the March 2012 invoice uses the prior methodology. FERC based its March 2012



183 invoice on the prior methodology because the NOPR was still active at the time  
184 FERC elected to issue the March 2012 invoice.

185 **Q. What do you recommend to the Commission?**

186 A. I recommend the Commission reject the proposed adjustment by OCS and accept  
187 the Company's originally filed estimate of \$717,319 (\$309,557 Utah) for FERC  
188 land use fees during the test period because it is most indicative of the costs the  
189 Company will incur during the test period. The Company's recommendation results  
190 in no adjustment. As described above, the OCS's proposed adjustment is based on  
191 an incorrect conclusion regarding the FERC invoice the Company received prior to  
192 the test period.

193 **Non-Labor O&M Escalation**

194 **Q. Please describe UAE's proposed adjustment to RMP's cost escalation**  
195 **component for projected inflation.**

196 A. Mr. Higgins recommends the Commission reject the Company's O&M escalation  
197 adjustment that was included in Mr. McDougal's Exhibit RMP\_\_(SRM-3). The  
198 O&M escalation adjustment provides the Company the opportunity to plan for  
199 inflation and other industry-specific cost increases that are expected during the test  
200 period. Details on how the adjustment is calculated and arguments rebutting UAE's  
201 position are provided in the rebuttal testimony of Mr. McDougal.

202 **Q. Does UAE's proposal result in an inappropriate O&M adjustment?**

203 A. Yes. My testimony provides further discussion about why UAE's proposed  
204 adjustment harms the Company's wind-powered and hydro-powered generation

205 operations. The adjustment proposed by UAE inappropriately reduces the  
206 Company's incremental O&M adjustment.

207 **Q. Please describe how the proposal by UAE to remove the Company's O&M**  
208 **escalation adjustment relates to the Company's O&M expense for wind-**  
209 **powered and hydro-powered resources.**

210 A. As generally described in the rebuttal testimony of Mr. McDougal, in addition to  
211 removing general O&M escalation, Mr. Higgins' adjustment has the further effect  
212 of inappropriately removing part of the incremental O&M adjustment related to  
213 wind and hydro addressed in my direct testimony. Mr. Higgins expected that  
214 removing non-labor escalation would also reduce incremental O&M costs on the  
215 basis that it was not clear to him that the standalone forecast excludes inflation.  
216 While Mr. McDougal's testimony argues against Mr. Higgins' entire \$24.3 million  
217 (total Company) exclusion of cost escalation, my rebuttal testimony provides  
218 additional evidence showing why that portion Mr. Higgins' proposed adjustment  
219 (\$2.1 million total Company) related to the incremental O&M costs for the  
220 Company's wind and hydro-powered resources inappropriately deprives the  
221 Company of recovering prudent costs necessary for the Company to maintain its  
222 operations.

223 **Q. Please describe why these costs are prudent and necessary for the Company**  
224 **to maintain its operations.**

225 A. The \$2.1 million (total Company) decrease proposed by UAE would not simply  
226 decrease inflation-related costs. As my direct testimony describes, the Company

227 has incremental costs representing \$8.7<sup>2</sup> million in legitimate incremental costs  
228 necessary to maintain and operate the Company's wind and hydro-powered  
229 resources. These are costs specific to the Company's wind and hydro-powered  
230 resources and reflect the cost of goods, services and regulatory requirements the  
231 Company will experience during the test period.

232 **Q. Please provide examples of these resource-specific and necessary costs.**

233 A. Specific examples of the Company's wind-powered generation costs include  
234 increasing material costs (due to expiring warranties), decreasing third party  
235 contract costs (due to expiring contracts) and necessary costs associated with  
236 changing wind turbine generator oil. Specific examples associated with the  
237 Company's hydro-powered generation resources include increased FERC fees, the  
238 costs to implement FERC issued licenses (on the Lewis and Umpqua Rivers) and  
239 costs associated with the Klamath River Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement. The  
240 Company will incur these specific costs during the test period and, as a result, they  
241 should be included in the revenue requirement as prudent and necessary costs of  
242 providing service. Accepting and applying UAE's proposed non-labor O&M  
243 adjustment to the incremental wind and hydro-powered costs addressed in my  
244 testimony would inappropriately implement a \$2.1 million (total Company)  
245 disallowance for these categories.

246 **Q. What do you recommend to the Commission?**

247 A. Consistent with the testimony of Mr. McDougal, I recommend the Commission  
248 reject UAE's proposed O&M escalation adjustment because it would result in an

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<sup>2</sup> See direct testimony of Mr. Mark R. Tallman. Includes \$3.0 million in oil change costs subject to normalization.

249 inappropriate disallowance being applied to valid wind and hydro-powered O&M  
250 costs.

251 **Contingency**

252 **Q. Please describe UAE's recommendation to the Commission with respect to**  
253 **project contingency.**

254 A. Mr. Higgins recommends that approximately two thirds (67 percent) of  
255 contingency costs be removed from 13 specific projects.

256 **Q. Do you agree with UAE's proposed adjustment?**

257 A. No. While Mr. McDougal rebuts UAE's proposed contingency adjustment in  
258 general, I earnestly disagree with UAE's proposed contingency adjustment as it  
259 relates to five hydro-resource generation projects. Each of the five hydro projects  
260 that UAE proposes a contingency reduction to is required by FERC and is a project  
261 not yet complete. The Company anticipates that the full amount (100 percent) of  
262 planned contingency for these hydro projects will be required. As Mr. McDougal's  
263 testimony highlights, UAE's proposal to arbitrarily reduce planned contingency is  
264 inappropriate for rate setting purposes.

265 **Q. Why does the Company anticipate that 100 percent of the planned contingency**  
266 **for the hydro projects you reference will be required?**

267 A. The contingency for the identified hydro construction projects is forecasted to be  
268 used because of the settlement of claims due to adverse subsurface conditions, the  
269 potential for further adverse subsurface conditions or other adverse project  
270 conditions to be discovered, commissioning control systems to comply with  
271 complex operational and compliance requirements, and the costs of integrating

272 these new facilities into the Company's day to day operations.

273 **Q. What do you recommend to the Commission?**

274 A. Consistent with Mr. McDougal's recommendation, I recommend the Commission  
275 reject the proposal by Mr. Higgins to reduce the Company's contingency associated  
276 with hydro-resource generation projects.

277 **Wind-Turbine Generator Replacements**

278 **Q. Please summarize the DPU's position regarding wind-powered generator**  
279 **replacements.**

280 A. Mr. Hahn recommends that \$318,953 (total Company) for three wind turbine  
281 generator plant replacements be removed. Mr. Hahn makes his recommendation on  
282 the basis that the Company has not adequately documented the need for such  
283 replacements.

284 **Q. Does the Company expect that it will be necessary to replace at least three**  
285 **wind turbine generators during the test period?**

286 A. Yes. The Company has experienced some wind turbine generator failures to date  
287 and anticipates experiencing at least three such failures during the test period.

288 **Q. Does the Company have records documenting these historical failures?**

289 A. Yes. As Confidential Exhibit RMP\_\_\_(MRT-3R) indicates, the Company has had  
290 at least three wind turbine generator failures per year since 2009.

291 **Q. What do you recommend to the Commission?**

292 A. I recommend the Commission reject Mr. Hahn's proposed adjustment to remove  
293 \$318,953 (\$137,643 Utah) from the Company's revenue requirement. Mr. Hahn  
294 makes his recommendation solely on the basis that the Company has not adequately

295 documented the need for such replacements. Significantly, Mr. Hahn puts forward  
296 no evidence to contradict the Company's position. Yet as Confidential Exhibit  
297 RMP\_\_\_(MRT-3R) demonstrates, the Company has historical information that  
298 documents three wind turbine generator failures is a reasonable expectation during  
299 the test period.

300 **Q. Does this conclude your rebuttal testimony?**

301 A. Yes.