

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

In the Matter of the Application of Rocky Mountain Power for Approval of Changes to Renewable Avoided Cost Methodology for Qualifying Facilities Projects Larger than Three Megawatts

DOCKET NO. 12-035-100

Rebuttal Testimony of Ros Rocco Vrba

For Energy of Utah

November 28, 2012

1 **Q. Please state your name, title and business affiliation.**

2 A. My name is Ros Rocco Vrba. I am the principal partner of Energy of Utah, a local wind
3 power development company.

4 **Q. What is your association with this docket?**

5 A. Energy of Utah is the parent company of Long Ridge Wind. Long Ridge Wind has
6 received Schedule 38 Qualifying Facility indicative pricing from the Rocky Mountain Power,
7 and is directly affected by the outcome of the Docket.

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

9 A. The purpose of my testimony is to offer my direct experience in the development and
10 construction of wind power projects and to add my view regarding the economic benefits of
11 wind developments for Utah.

12 **Q. Please describe your qualifications for the development of a wind project in Utah.**

13 **A.** I have an MBA, a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering and several construction
14 management certifications. Between 1999 and 2007 I was the Project Engineer or Project
15 Manager for a number of large construction projects in Utah. Since 2007, I have been the Project
16 Manager, or Director of Construction, for 26 wind power projects at various stages of
17 development in Oregon, Wyoming, Missouri, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, Alabama,
18 Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Florida, North Carolina, Arizona and Utah. A number of these projects
19 were larger than the Long Ridge Wind project and seven of these projects are operational today.

20 **Q. Have you ever worked for PacifiCorp?**

21 **A.** Yes. As a Project Manager, I was directly involved with Glenrock Wind, Glenrock III,
22 Rolling Hills, Seven Mile Hill and Marengo II.

23 **Q. Did you develop projects in any states that did not have a mandatory Renewable**
24 **Portfolio Standard (RPS)?**

25 **A.** Yes, some of the developments were in states that did not have an RPS in place.

26 **Q. Did your projects provide competitively-priced power to ratepayers?**

27 **A.** Yes, I have been very privileged to work on projects in both regulated and non-regulated
28 environments. The renewable energy business is very competitive and always involves careful
29 planning, financing, asset acquisition and marketing. I have been directly responsible for
30 ensuring that our assets were competitively priced and that they added value for local ratepayers.
31 Wind has become a very cost-competitive resource.

32 **Q. Based on your experience, do local communities benefit from wind developments?**

33 A. Yes, there are tremendous direct economic benefits for communities in which wind
34 energy projects are developed and operated. Short term construction benefits are considerable.
35 Despite high turbine costs, wind developments tend to have high life-of -service local contents
36 and high local multiplier effects. Lease payments and long-term, skilled employment provide
37 communities with significant, non-cyclical revenue that is contracted for decades. Many
38 communities across the country have strengthened their tax bases with visible effects. A recent
39 study quantifies the expected benefits for a wind development in Juab County.¹

40 **Q. Do you have any further comments?**

41 A. Yes, I would like to add that wind development, via the Qualifying Facility process,
42 offers significant benefits for our state's many stake-holders. I hope that Energy of Utah will be
43 given the opportunity to demonstrate these benefits, derived without additional costs to
44 ratepayers. I fully trust that Utah's voluntary RPS has already initiated the first step in this
45 direction.

46 **Q. Does that conclude your testimony?**

47 A. Yes.

Submitted Respectfully,

Ros Vrba MBA

For Energy of Utah

¹ Ratliff, Hartman and Stafford; [An Analysis of State-Level Economic Impacts from the Development of Wind Power Plants in San Juan County, Utah](#); Jon M. Huntsman School of Business, Utah State University. March 2010