

1 **Q. Please state your name and address.**

2 A. My name is John J. Spanos. My business address is 207 Senate Avenue, Camp Hill,
3 Pennsylvania, 17011.

4 **Q. Are you associated with any firm?**

5 A. Yes. I am associated with the firm of Gannett Fleming, Inc.

6 **Q. How long have you been associated with Gannett Fleming, Inc.?**

7 A. I have been associated with the firm since college graduation in June 1986.

8 **Q. What is your position with the firm?**

9 A. I am a Senior Vice President.

10 **Q. On whose behalf are you testifying in this case?**

11 A. I am testifying on behalf of PacifiCorp d/b/a Rocky Mountain Power (the
12 “Company”).

13 **Qualifications**

14 **Q. Please state your qualifications.**

15 A. Please refer to Exhibit RMP__(JJS-1) for my qualifications.

16 **Purpose of Testimony**

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

18 A. I sponsor the Depreciation Study performed for PacifiCorp attached hereto as Exhibit
19 RMP__(JJS-2) (“Depreciation Study”). The Depreciation Study sets forth the
20 calculated annual depreciation accrual rates by account as of December 31, 2011.
21 Based on the Depreciation Study, I recommend depreciation rates using the projected
22 December 31, 2013 plant and reserve balances for approval. The proposed rates
23 appropriately reflect the rates at which PacifiCorp’s assets should be depreciated over

24 their useful lives and are based on the most commonly used methods and procedures
25 for determining depreciation rates.

26 **Depreciation Study**

27 **Q. Please define the concept of depreciation.**

28 A. Depreciation refers to the loss in service value not restored by current maintenance,
29 incurred in connection with the consumption or prospective retirement of utility plant
30 in the course of service from causes which can be reasonably anticipated or
31 contemplated, against which the Company is not protected by insurance. Among the
32 causes to be given consideration are wear and tear, decay, action of the elements,
33 inadequacy, obsolescence, changes in the art, changes in demand and the
34 requirements of public authorities.

35 **Q. Did you prepare the Depreciation Study filed by PacifiCorp in this proceeding?**

36 A. Yes. I prepared the Depreciation Study submitted by PacifiCorp with its filing in this
37 proceeding. My report is entitled: "Depreciation Study - Calculated Annual
38 Depreciation Accruals Related to Electric Plant as of December 31, 2011." This
39 report sets forth the results of my Depreciation Study for PacifiCorp.

40 **Q. In preparing the Depreciation Study, did you follow generally accepted
41 practices in the field of depreciation valuation?**

42 A. Yes.

43 **Q. Are the methods and procedures of this Depreciation Study consistent with past
44 practices?**

45 A. The methods and procedures of this study are the same as those utilized in past
46 studies of this Company as well as others before this Commission. Depreciation rates

47 are determined based on the average service life procedure and the remaining life
48 method.

49 **Q. Please describe the contents of the Depreciation Study.**

50 A. The Depreciation Study is presented in three parts: Part I, Introduction, presents the
51 scope and basis for the Depreciation Study; Part II, Methods Used in Study, includes
52 descriptions of the basis of the study, the estimation of survivor curves and net
53 salvage and the calculation of annual and accrued depreciation; and Part III, Results
54 of Study, presents a description of the results, a summary of the depreciation
55 calculations, graphs and tables that relate to the service life and net salvage analyses,
56 and the detailed depreciation calculations.

57 The table on pages III-4 through III-19 of the Depreciation Study presents the
58 estimated survivor curve, the net salvage percent, the original cost as of December
59 31, 2011, the book depreciation reserve and the calculated annual depreciation
60 accrual and rate for each account or subaccount. The section beginning on page III-20
61 presents the results of the retirement rate and simulated plant analyses prepared as the
62 historical bases for the service life estimates. The section beginning on page III-580
63 presents the results of the salvage analysis. The section beginning on page III-840
64 presents the depreciation calculations related to surviving original cost as of
65 December 31, 2011. Finally, the section in the Appendix presents the recommended
66 depreciation rates and parameters as of December 31, 2013.

67 **Q. Please explain how you performed your Depreciation Study.**

68 A. I used the straight line remaining life method of depreciation, with the average
69 service life procedure. The annual depreciation is based on a method of depreciation

70 accounting that seeks to distribute the unrecovered cost of fixed capital assets over
71 the estimated remaining useful life of each unit, or group of assets, in a systematic
72 and reasonable manner.

73 **Q. How did you determine the recommended annual depreciation accrual rates?**

74 A. I did this in two phases. In the first phase, I estimated the service life and net salvage
75 characteristics for each depreciable group, that is, each plant account or subaccount
76 identified as having similar characteristics. In the second phase, I calculated the
77 composite remaining lives and annual depreciation accrual rates based on the service
78 life and net salvage estimates determined in the first phase.

79 **Q. Please describe the first phase of the Depreciation Study, in which you estimated**
80 **the service life and net salvage characteristics for each depreciable group.**

81 A. The service life and net salvage study consisted of compiling historical data from
82 records related to PacifiCorp's plant; analyzing these data to obtain historical trends
83 of survivor characteristics; obtaining supplementary information from management
84 and operating personnel concerning practices and plans as they relate to plant
85 operations; and interpreting the above data and the estimates used by other electric
86 utilities to form judgments of average service life and net salvage characteristics.

87 **Q. What historical data did you analyze for the purpose of estimating service life**
88 **characteristics?**

89 A. I analyzed the Company's accounting entries that record plant transactions during the
90 period 1937 through 2011, however, the earliest year of data varied by account. The
91 transactions included additions, retirements, transfers, sales, and the related balances.

92 **Q. What method did you use to analyze these service life data?**

93 A. I used the retirement rate method for most plant accounts. This is the most
94 appropriate method when retirement data covering a long period of time is available
95 because this method determines the average rates of retirement actually experienced
96 by the Company during the period of time covered by the Depreciation Study.

97 **Q. Please describe how you used the retirement rate method to analyze**
98 **PacifiCorp's service life data.**

99 A. I applied the retirement rate analysis to each different group of property in the study.
100 For each property group, I used the retirement rate data to form a life table which,
101 when plotted, shows an original survivor curve for that property group. Each original
102 survivor curve represents the average survivor pattern experienced by the several
103 vintage groups during the experience band studied. The survivor patterns do not
104 necessarily describe the life characteristics of the property group; therefore,
105 interpretation of the original survivor curves is required in order to use them as valid
106 considerations in estimating service life. The Iowa-type survivor curves were used to
107 perform these interpretations.

108 **Q. Did you use any other methods to analyze service life data?**

109 A. Yes. For most distribution assets in Utah and Idaho, the Company accounting records
110 have not maintained the vintage of each transaction. Therefore, the simulated plant
111 record method was utilized to determine life characteristics.

112 **Q. What is an "Iowa-type survivor curve" and how did you use such curves to**
113 **estimate the service life characteristics for each property group?**

114 A. Iowa-type curves are a widely-used group of survivor curves that contain the range of

115 survivor characteristics usually experienced by utilities and other industrial
116 companies. The Iowa curves were developed at the Iowa State College Engineering
117 Experiment Station through an extensive process of observing and classifying the
118 ages at which various types of property used by utilities and other industrial
119 companies had been retired.

120 Iowa-type curves are used to smooth and extrapolate original survivor curves
121 determined by the retirement rate method. The Iowa curves and truncated Iowa
122 curves were used in this study to describe the forecasted rates of retirement based on
123 the observed rates of retirement and the outlook for future retirements.

124 The estimated survivor curve designations for each depreciable property
125 group indicate the average service life, the family within the Iowa system to which
126 the property group belongs, and the relative height of the mode. For example, the
127 Iowa 60-R2 indicates an average service life of 60 years; a right-moded, or R, type
128 curve (the mode occurs after average life for right-moded curves); and a relatively
129 low height, 2, for the mode (possible modes for R type curves range from 1 to 5).

130 **Q. What approach did you use to estimate the lives of significant facilities**
131 **structures such as production plants?**

132 A. I used the life span technique to estimate the lives of significant facilities for which
133 concurrent retirement of the entire facility is anticipated. In this technique, the
134 survivor characteristics of such facilities are described by the use of interim survivor
135 curves and estimated probable retirement dates.

136 The interim survivor curves describe the rate of retirement related to the
137 replacement of elements of the facility, such as, for a building, the retirements of

138 plumbing, heating, doors, windows, roofs, etc., that occur during the life of the
139 facility. The probable retirement date provides the rate of final retirement for each
140 year of installation for the facility by truncating the interim survivor curve for each
141 installation year at its attained age at the date of probable retirement. The use of
142 interim survivor curves truncated at the date of probable retirement provides a
143 consistent method for estimating the lives of the several years of installation for a
144 particular facility inasmuch as a single concurrent retirement for all years of
145 installation will occur when it is retired.

146 **Q. Has Gannett Fleming used this approach in other proceedings?**

147 A. Yes, we have used the life span technique in performing depreciation studies
148 presented to and accepted by many public utility commissions across the United
149 States and Canada. This technique is currently being utilized by PacifiCorp in the
150 same manner recommended in this case.

151 **Q. What are the bases for the probable retirement years that you have estimated
152 for each facility?**

153 A. The bases for the probable retirement years are life spans for each facility that are
154 based on judgment, the life assessment study and incorporate consideration of the
155 age, use, size, nature of construction, management outlook and typical life spans
156 experienced and used by other electric utilities for similar facilities. Most of the life
157 spans result in probable retirement years that are many years in the future. As a result,
158 the retirements of these facilities are not yet subject to specific management plans.
159 Such plans would be premature. At the appropriate time, detailed studies of the

160 economics of rehabilitation and continued use or retirement of the structure will be
161 performed and the results incorporated in the estimation of the facility's life span.

162 **Q. Did you physically observe PacifiCorp's plant and equipment as part of your**
163 **Depreciation Study?**

164 A. Yes. I made field reviews of PacifiCorp's property as part of this study during May
165 and June 2012 to observe representative portions of plant. Field reviews are
166 conducted to become familiar with Company operations and obtain an understanding
167 of the function of the plant and information with respect to the reasons for past
168 retirements and the expected future causes of retirements. This knowledge as well as
169 information from other discussions with management was incorporated in the
170 interpretation and extrapolation of the statistical analyses.

171 **Q. Please describe how you estimated net salvage percentages.**

172 A. I estimated the net salvage percentages by incorporating the historical data for the
173 period 1992 through 2011 and considered estimates for other electric companies. The
174 net salvage percentages are based on a combination of statistical analyses and
175 informed judgment. The statistical analyses consider the cost of removal and gross
176 salvage ratios to the associated retirements during the 20-year period. Trends of these
177 data are also measured based on three-year moving averages and the most recent five-
178 year indications.

179 **Q. Were the net salvage percentages for generating facilities based on the same**
180 **analyses?**

181 A. Yes, for the interim analyses. The net salvage percentages for generating facilities
182 were based on two components, the interim net salvage percentage and the final net

183 salvage percentage. The interim net salvage percentage is determined based on the
184 historical indications from the period, 1992-2011, of the cost of removal and gross
185 salvage amounts as a percentage of the associated plant retired. The final net salvage
186 or dismantlement component was determined based on the assets anticipated to be
187 retired at the concurrent date of final retirement.

188 **Q. Have you included a dismantlement component into the overall recovery of**
189 **generating facilities?**

190 A. Yes. A dismantlement component has been included to the net salvage percentage for
191 steam and other production facilities. There is a separate decommissioning reserve
192 for small hydro facilities which are soon to be retired, as the dismantlement
193 component for hydro facilities in the study is zero.

194 **Q. Can you explain how the dismantlement component is included in the**
195 **Depreciation Study?**

196 A. Yes. The dismantlement component is part of the overall net salvage for each
197 location within the production assets. Based on studies for other utilities and the cost
198 estimates of PacifiCorp, it was determined that the dismantlement or
199 decommissioning costs for steam production facilities is best calculated on a \$/KW
200 factor based on surviving plant at final retirement. These amounts at a location basis
201 are added to the interim net salvage percentage of the assets anticipated to be retired
202 on an interim basis to produce the weighted net salvage percentage for each location.
203 The detailed calculation for each location is set forth on pages III-582 through III-587
204 of Exhibit RMP___(JJS-2).

205 **Q. Please describe the second phase of the process that you used in the**
206 **Depreciation Study in which you calculated composite remaining lives and**
207 **annual depreciation accrual rates.**

208 A. After I estimated the service life and net salvage characteristics for each depreciable
209 property group, I calculated the annual depreciation accrual rates for each group,
210 using the straight line remaining life method, and using remaining lives weighted
211 consistent with the average service life procedure.

212 **Q. Please describe the straight line remaining life method of depreciation.**

213 A. The straight line remaining life method of depreciation allocates the original cost of
214 the property, less accumulated depreciation, less future net salvage, in equal amounts
215 to each year of remaining service life.

216 **Q. Please use an example to illustrate how the annual depreciation accrual rate for**
217 **a particular group of property is presented in your Depreciation Study.**

218 A. I will use Account 353, Station Equipment, as an example because it is one of the
219 largest depreciable mass accounts and represents approximately eight percent of
220 depreciable plant.

221 The retirement rate method was used to analyze the survivor characteristics of
222 this property group. Aged plant accounting data was compiled from 1924 through
223 2011 and analyzed in periods that best represent the overall service life of this
224 property. The life tables for the 1924-2011 and 1982-2011 experience bands are
225 presented on pages III-112 through III-117 of the report. The life table displays the
226 retirement and surviving ratios of the aged plant data exposed to retirement by age
227 interval. For example, page III-112 shows \$1,782,441 retired at age 0.5 with

228 \$1,633,945,595 exposed to retirement. Consequently, the retirement ratio is 0.0011
229 and the surviving ratio is 0.9989. These life tables, or original survivor curves, are
230 plotted along with the estimated smooth survivor curve, the 57-S0 on page III-111.

231 The net salvage percent is presented on pages III-624 and III-625. The
232 percentage is based on the result of annual gross salvage minus the cost to remove
233 plant assets as compared to the original cost of plant retired during the period 1992
234 through 2011. The 20-year period experienced \$9,597,197 (\$4,971,903 -
235 \$14,569,099) in net salvage for \$106,802,184 plant retired. The result is negative net
236 salvage of nine percent ($\$9,597,197 / \$106,802,184$). Although recent trends have
237 shown indications more negative, it was determined that based on industry ranges
238 and Company expectations, that negative five percent was the most appropriate
239 estimate.

240 My calculation of the annual depreciation related to the original cost at
241 December 31, 2011, of electric plant is presented on pages III-1052 through III-1054.
242 The calculation is based on the 57-S0 survivor curve, five percent negative net
243 salvage, the attained age, and the allocated book reserve. The tabulation sets forth the
244 installation year, the original cost, calculated accrued depreciation, allocated book
245 reserve, future accruals, remaining life and annual accrual. These totals are brought
246 forward to the table on page III-15.

247 **Conclusion**

248 **Q. Was the Depreciation Study filed by PacifiCorp in this proceeding prepared by**
249 **you or under your direction and control?**

250 A. Yes.

251 **Q. Can you summarize the results of your Depreciation Study?**

252 A. Yes. The depreciation rates as of December 31, 2011 appropriately reflect the rates at
253 which the value of PacifiCorp's assets have been consumed over their useful lives to
254 date. These rates are based on the most commonly used methods and procedures for
255 determining depreciation rates. The life and salvage parameters are based on widely
256 used techniques and the depreciation rates are based on the average service life
257 procedure and remaining life method. Therefore, the depreciation rates set forth on
258 pages III-4 through III-19 of Exhibit RMP___(JJS-2) represent the calculated rates as
259 of December 31, 2011.

260 **Q. Does your Depreciation Study recommend new depreciation rates based on**
261 **December 31, 2013 plant and reserve balances?**

262 A. Yes. The depreciation accrual rates set forth in the Appendix represent the rates most
263 applicable in this proceeding. These rates utilize all the same methods and procedures
264 as described in the Depreciation Study, but apply the parameters to the projected
265 December 31, 2013 plant and reserve balances. The projected plant balance as of
266 December 31, 2013 and the bring forward of the book reserve from December 31,
267 2011 to December 31, 2013 properly established the most reasonable rate base when
268 the rates will go into effect. Thus, the rates in the Appendix are the recommended
269 depreciation accrual rates.

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

271 A. Yes.