

1 **Q. Are you the same Dana M. Ralston who submitted direct testimony in this**
2 **proceeding on behalf of PacifiCorp dba Rocky Mountain Power (“the**
3 **Company”)?**

4 A. Yes, I am.

5 **Purpose of Rebuttal Testimony**

6 **Q. What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony in this proceeding?**

7 A. The purpose of my rebuttal testimony is to respond to proposed generation plant
8 addition adjustments recommended by Mr. Richard S. Hahn, of La Capra
9 Associates, in his direct testimony filed on behalf of the Utah Division of Public
10 Utilities (“DPU”). Mr. Hahn expresses concern regarding four projects that were
11 not in the original July 2013 to June 2015 forecast that are now expected to be
12 placed into service during the March 2014 to June 2015 time period, well within
13 the test period in this case of 12 months ending June 2015 (“Test Period”). My
14 testimony will demonstrate that three of the four projects are necessary and will be
15 used and useful within the Test Period and, therefore, that their capital investment
16 should be allowed in this case. The fourth project, the Naughton U3 OH Waterwall
17 Tube replace CY15, STMP, will be removed from the case. Specifically I will
18 address the following projects:

- 19 • DJ U3 Primary Superheater Mid Span STMP SG
- 20 • Lakeside U12 Comb Turbine Exhaust Cylinder OTHP SG
- 21 • Huntington U1 FGD inlet Duct Header STMP SG
- 22 • Naughton U3 OH Waterwall Tube replace CY15 STMP

23 I will also rebut the Office of Consumer Services witness Ms. Donna Ramas’

24 criticism and proposed adjustment to the Company's generation O&M expense
25 included in the case. My testimony will demonstrate that the concern about the
26 difference between the forecasted costs for the 12-month period ending in May of
27 2013 from the previous rate case and the actual costs for the 12-month period
28 ending in June of 2013 for the current rate case, of approximately \$6.8 million with
29 the actuals being lower than the forecast, is explainable and should not be the basis
30 for any disallowance. Finally I will rebut Utah Association of Energy Users
31 ("UAE") witness Mr. Kevin C. Higgins' claim that the Company has overestimated
32 the four-year average overhaul costs for the Lake Side 2 plant.

33 **Capital Projects**

34 **Q. What concern does Mr. Hahn express related to the Naughton U3 OH**
35 **Waterwall Tube replacement project, the DJ U3 Primary Superheater Mid**
36 **Span Support project, the Lakeside U12 Comb Turbine Exhaust Cylinder**
37 **Installation project, and the Huntington U1 FGD inlet Duct Header**
38 **Replacement project?**

39 A. These four thermal generation projects are part of 10 capital investment projects
40 Mr. Hahn expresses concern about in his direct testimony. Specifically, this group
41 of projects was part of an update to the capital additions in the rate case as described
42 further in the rebuttal testimony of Mr. Steven R. McDougal. In data request DPU
43 35.4, Mr. Hahn requested additional support and detail for these projects. Mr. Hahn
44 expresses concern about the lack of project support provided, and requests similar
45 detail to what has been provided for other capital addition projects. The Company
46 determined that the supporting documentation for the Lake Side and Huntington

47 projects was indeed provided, but inadvertently included with the Company's
48 response to data request DPU 35.1.

49 **Q. Please comment on the Naughton U3 OH Waterwall Tube replacement**
50 **project.**

51 A. Upon further review, I determined that tubes will be replaced on an as-needed basis
52 during inspections as O&M expenses and the project will be removed from the case.

53 **Q. Please comment on the DJ U3 Primary Superheater Mid Span Support**
54 **project.**

55 A. In 2010, a portion of the DJ Unit 3 primary superheat mid span was replaced.
56 During the past year, there have been three leaks in the Unit 3 primary superheat
57 mid span support tubes. Analysis of the failed tube that occurred in June 2013, was
58 performed by Investigative Engineering Corporation. The analysis indicated that
59 the tube material, which was not replaced in 2010, was at the end of its useful life
60 and required replacement. The two leaks that occurred in January 2014 were also
61 analyzed by Investigative Engineering Corporation and were found to have failed
62 from “significant overheating” in the superheat area. Investigative Engineering
63 Corporation further stated that additional leaks will occur until the material is
64 replaced. The scope of the projects is to replace the remaining primary superheat
65 mid span support tubes that were not replaced in 2010. Not replacing the tubes will
66 result in increased forced outages due to failure of the mid span supports which will
67 translate into higher costs. Therefore, it is reasonable to replace the tubes.

68 **Q. What is the estimated cost of this project?**

69 A. Approximately \$1.4 million.

70 **Q. What is the projected in-service date for the project?**

71 A. This project is currently in the development stage and is estimated to be in-service
72 April 2015, which is prior to the May 2015 in service date reflected in the case.

73 **Q. Please comment on the Lakeside U12 Comb Turbine Exhaust Cylinder**
74 **Installation project.**

75 A. The project description, justification, and Company approvals are included in
76 Exhibit RMP____(DMR-1R). This project will be placed in service in April 2015,
77 which is prior to the May 2015 in service date reflected in the case.

78 **Q. Please comment on the Huntington U1 FGD inlet Duct Header Replacement**
79 **project.**

80 A. The project description, justification, and Company approvals are included in
81 Exhibit RMP____(DMR-2R). This project will be placed in service in November of
82 2014.

83 **Generation O&M Expense**

84 **Q. What are the reasons for the difference between actual and forecasted costs**
85 **cited by Ms. Ramas in her direct testimony?**

86 A. The main drivers for the difference are:

87 1) The sulfur content of the fuel consumed was lower than the forecasted
88 amount, resulting in lower scrubber reagent consumption.

89 2) The capacity factor on a number of units was less than forecasted. This
90 directly resulted in lower scrubber reagent and other chemical consumption.

91 3) The amount of fuel oil consumed for startup was less than forecast. In this
92 case the operations of the units and the new equipment put in service was

93 better than forecasted. Fuel oil consumption has been adjusted in the current
94 forecast test period to reflect this operating experience.

95 4) The timing of a number of expenditures was different than the forecasted
96 amounts. The Company budgets on a calendar year basis. Expenditures are
97 often shifted throughout the year to accommodate workloads, schedules,
98 and operating conditions.

99 **Q. Is it reasonable to expect the items listed above to be variable when comparing**
100 **actuals to forecast?**

101 A. Yes. The use of reagent is directly tied to the quality and amount of fuel consumed.
102 Small changes in the quality (sulfur content) or amount (capacity factor) of fuel can
103 greatly impact the total cost of reagent used in plant operations. Fuel oil consumed
104 can also vary greatly depending on the actual operation of the units relative to
105 forecasted operations. Both of these items are truly variable costs depending on
106 actual operating conditions and can be higher or lower than forecast.

107 **Q. Is it reasonable to expect the timing of projects and expenses to move due to**
108 **workloads, schedules, and operating conditions?**

109 A. Yes. The timing of projects and other expenses are actively managed to maximize
110 availability and minimize costs. Often this requires the actual expenditures to move
111 from a period outside of the rate case periods but generally within the calendar year
112 in which they were budgeted.

113 **Q. Is the difference identified by Ms. Ramas typical?**

114 A. No. When comparing the budgeted O&M amounts to actual O&M spend for the
115 four year period of 2010 to 2013 the Company actually spent approximately \$36.8

116 million more than the budgeted amount. Taking a single period to make adjustments
117 does not always accurately reflect the complete picture of what has occurred. The
118 Company uses the best information available when making forecasts for future
119 expenditures. There are times when the actual results differ from the forecasted or
120 budgeted amounts. The actual difference can either be above or below the
121 forecasted depending on operating conditions. These over or under occurrences are
122 evident when looking and the period Ms. Ramas reviewed and then comparing it to
123 the four year period 2010 to 2013 when the Company actually spent \$36.8 million
124 more than what was budgeted.

125 **Lake Side 2 Overhaul Expense**

126 **Q. UAE witness Mr. Higgins proposed a downward revision to the four-year**
127 **average overhaul expense for the Lake Side 2 plant. Do you agree with his**
128 **recommendation?**

129 A. No. Because Lake Side 2 is a new plant and does not have four years of historical
130 overhaul expense, the Company estimated the annual overhaul expense for the Lake
131 Side 2 plant by using four years of projected annual costs for the period July 2014
132 to June 2018. Mr. Higgins does not object to this approach, but claims that the
133 Company has tended to overestimate its projected overhaul costs for new plants in
134 rate case proceedings (see Higgins direct testimony, page 22, line 427 - 430). What
135 Mr. Higgins failed to acknowledge is that projected four year average overhaul
136 costs for Lake Side 2 reflected in this case is less than the actual four year average
137 for either Current Creek or Lake Side 1. As summarized in table 1 below, Mr.
138 Higgins table KCH-3 shows actual average overhaul costs for the first four years

139 of operations for the Currant Creek and Lake Side 1 plants at \$1.7 million and \$1.2
 140 million, respectively. By comparison, the Company is including only \$1.0 million
 141 for the four year average of Lake Side 2 (see Exhibit RMP____(SRM-3) page 4.8.2)
 142 which is less than either Currant Creek or Lake Side 1.

Table 1

Plant	4 Year Average Overhaul Cost	Source
Currant Creek	\$1,685,095	Table KCH-3
Lake Side 1	\$1,237,744	Table KCH-3
Average	\$1,461,420	
Lake Side 2	\$1,031,295	Exhibit RMP____(SRM-3) Page 4.8.2

143 The forecasted overhaul expense for Lake Side 2 is reasonable and consistent with
 144 current projections. The Commission should reject the Generation Overhaul
 145 adjustment proposed by Mr. Higgins.

146 **Summary and Conclusion**

147 **Q. Please summarize your rebuttal testimony.**

148 A. The proposed reductions to capital investment for the DJ U3 Primary Superheater
 149 Mid Span Support project, the Lakeside U12 Comb Turbine Exhaust Cylinder
 150 Installation project, and the Huntington U1 FGD inlet Duct Header Replacement
 151 project recommended by the DPU should be rejected. These projects are necessary
 152 to continue to provide safe and reliable service to customers and will be placed in
 153 service and be used and useful prior to and during the Test Period. In addition, the
 154 proposed reductions to incremental generation O&M (non-overhaul) should also be
 155 rejected for the reasons set forth above. The lower reagent usage is directly related

156 to the quality and amount of fuel consumed and is a variable cost. Oil costs are also
157 variable costs. Finally, project timing will indeed change due to workloads,
158 schedules, and operating conditions causing expenses to move. The detail provided
159 in my direct testimony specifically lays out the items and the reasons for the
160 increases in O&M over the base period and, as further explained above, show the
161 prudence and need for the additional expenditures requested. The explanation of
162 the differences between the forecast and actual periods along with the fact that over
163 the four year period 2010 to 2013 the Company has actually spent \$36.8 million
164 more than the budgeted amounts supports rejecting the adjustments suggested by
165 Ms. Ramas. Also, as explained above, Mr. Higgins' proposed adjustment to the
166 Lake Side 2 overhaul expense should be rejected.

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

168 A. Yes.