



GARY HERBERT  
*Governor*  
SPENCER J. COX  
*Lieutenant Governor*

State of Utah  
Department of Commerce  
Division of Public Utilities

FRANCINE GIANI  
*Executive Director*

THOMAS BRADY  
*Deputy Director*

CHRIS PARKER  
*Director, Division of Public Utilities*

## ACTION REQUEST RESPONSE

**To: Public Service Commission of Utah**

**From: Utah Division of Public Utilities**

Chris Parker, Director

Artie Powell, Energy Section Manager

Jeffrey S. Einfeldt, Utility Analyst

**Date: October 7, 2016**

**Re: Review and Make Recommendations**

Docket No. 16-035-20. PacifiCorp's Affiliated Interest Report for the Year Ended December 31, 2015. Requesting the Division to Review the above Report for Compliance and Make Recommendations.

### RECOMMENDATION (ACKNOWLEDGE REPORT)

The Division has reviewed PacifiCorp's (Company) Affiliated Interest Report (Report) for the Year Ended December 31, 2015. The Division determined that the report complies with MidAmerican Holdings Company Transaction Commitment #8 approved in Docket No. 05-035-54. The Division has reviewed transactions from major affiliates and a sample of transactions representing relatively less dollar amounts. The Division has found no evidence that the terms and pricing in these transactions are not at the lower of cost or market, or otherwise not in the public interest. The Division recommends that the Commission acknowledge the report.

## **ISSUE/REQUEST**

On May 31, 2016 the Commission issued an Action Request for the Division to review PacifiCorp's Affiliated Transaction Report indicating a due date of June 30, 2016. The Division required additional time to complete the review. The Commission granted an extension to October 7, 2016. This is the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

## **DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS**

In the absence of a Utah statute defining affiliated interests, the Division follows those found in Oregon, Washington and California for guidance. Affiliated interests of PacifiCorp are defined by Oregon Revised Statutes 757.015, Revised Code of Washington 80.16.010 and California Public Utilities Commission Decision 97-12-088, as amended by Decision 98-08-035, as having two or more officers or Directors in common with PacifiCorp or by meeting the ownership requirements of five percent direct or indirect ownership.

Although PacifiCorp provides retail electricity services to certain affiliates within its service territory, such transactions are excluded from this report because they are billed at tariff rates. Due to the volume and breadth of the Berkshire Hathaway Inc. ("Berkshire Hathaway") family of companies, it is possible that employees of PacifiCorp have made purchases from certain Berkshire Hathaway affiliates not listed here, and have been reimbursed by PacifiCorp for those purchases as a valid business expense. PacifiCorp does not believe those transactions would be material individually or in aggregate.

The purpose of the PacifiCorp Affiliated Interest report is to inform the Commission of the current subsidiaries and affiliates associated with PacifiCorp, including a brief narrative of the operations of each affiliate including officers and directors in common, the services received and provided, and certain financial information.

The Division, at the direction of the Commission, reviews the extent affiliates actually exercise any substantial influence over the policies and actions of PacifiCorp. The Division noted eleven

affiliates listed on the 2015 report that did not appear on the 2014 report. Ten affiliates appearing on the 2014 and 2015 reports had no financial activity reported for the 2015 period.

## **TYPES OF SERVICES**

The PacifiCorp Affiliate transactions are of two kinds: 1) the administrative services provided and received that are covered by the methods and procedures defined by the Intercompany Administrative Services Agreement (IASA); and 2) the tangible goods and services provided and received outside the IASA. Six new affiliates provided services governed by the IASA and five new affiliates provided and/or received goods and services outside the IASA.

### **IASA Services**

The services provided and received under the IASA are billed and payments are made according to the IASA agreement. The Division requested the complete SAP general ledger detail of these transactions and was able to reconcile to the totals included on the summary of transactions included in section II of the 2015 Affiliated Interest Report. These transactions appeared quite similar to prior years' activity with an approximately 15 percent decrease of total activity for the current year of \$3.1 million. Total IASA services for 2015 were \$16,943,000 compared to the prior year total of \$20,055,000. These billings and payments follow the procedures set forth by the IASA at 4(b) PAYMENT and provide assurance that these transactions provided the affiliates with the benefit of the services. The Division did not observe any indication of undue negative or positive financial impact to the Company as a result of these transactions.

### **Non-IASA Services**

The Non-IASA services are tangible goods and services exchanged between PacifiCorp and the respective affiliate. The affiliates that provided and/or received material amounts of non-IASA services are reviewed below.

#### **Coal**

As calculated from data included in the PacifiCorp Affiliate interest report, the coal producing affiliate transactions total \$219,371,000 and comprise approximately 77.7 percent of the total dollar amount of \$282,275,000 of non-IASA affiliate transactions for the year ended 2015 and is

similar in amount to that reported in 2014 of 77 percent. The coal contracts and costs are reviewed during rate cases and other actions, therefore, the Division conducted no additional review or investigation of coal costs at this time.

### **Water Assessments**

The ownership percentage the Company holds in three water companies represents the water shares purchased by the Company to provide the annual amount of water needed for its generating plants. The water companies assess the shareholders the yearly anticipated amount needed for operation. These water companies are organized under Section 501(c) 12 of the Internal Revenue Code and operate as non-profit organizations. The billings for these services are based on the non-profit operation requirement of the water companies and are billed at cost. Total services received for 2015 are quite similar to the prior year. Further review of these transactions is considered unnecessary under the circumstances described above.

### **BNSF Rail Freight Service**

The contract for rail freight of coal products between PacifiCorp and BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) is a multiyear contract and was negotiated and in force prior to the purchase of BNSF by Berkshire Hathaway. Transactions with BNSF for 2015 total \$39,485,000 and represents 15.2 percent of total dollar amount of non-IASA goods and services received from affiliates. The total received in 2015 is up .7 percent from 2014 activity. When negotiated, the contract was an arm's length transaction. The majority of contract revisions since that time have been in the area of fuel surcharges. The Company has provided requested SAP transaction data of the BNSF affiliate transactions and they have been reviewed by the Division. These transactions are also subject to review by the Division during rate cases as part of the coal analysis. BNSF is a wholly owned subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway. The rail transportation services dollar amounts paid by PacifiCorp during the last three years has been extremely small when compared with the total annual revenues of BNSF and not sufficient to be considered material. These revenues have been at less than two-tenths of one percent of the total annual revenues of BNSF. The pricing and amount of the services are considered to approximate lower of cost or market. Further evaluation is not necessary. The length of the contract and its inception prior to the ownership by Berkshire Hathaway lends additional assurance that the pricing structure is reasonable. No activity or

indicators were found through services, pricing, or other methods that indicated undue influence over the policies and actions of either company.

### **HomeServices of America, Inc.**

HomeServices of America, Inc. (HomeServices) is a majority owned subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway Energy Holding Company. HomeServices charges PacifiCorp a flat fee per relocation for its services, plus the actual costs of services procured from its vendors and service providers. The pricing in this contract appears to be reasonable for the services provided. The Division recommended in the 2014 review of the Affiliated Interest report that the Company conduct an RFP for the services provided by HomeServices. The Company sought competitive bids from four entities including HomeServices. The Division reviewed the documentation submitted by all four entities and found the RFP process to be reasonable and prudent. The Division agrees with the Company's conclusion that HomeServices compared favorably when compared with the other three entities.

### **Kern River Gas Transmission Company**

Natural gas transportation services are priced at a tariff rate on file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") or as priced in a negotiated rate transportation service agreement filed with and approved by FERC. This pricing structure makes the pricing of services acceptable as market pricing. Neither company appears to be exercising any substantial influence over the policies and actions of the other.

### **International Business Machines Corporation**

At December 31, 2015, Berkshire Hathaway held an 8 percent ownership interest in IBM. IBM provides services to PacifiCorp in the normal course of business at standard pricing. The dollar amount of the services provided to PacifiCorp by this affiliate does not reach the level sufficient to consider either company is exercising any substantial influence over the other. This pricing would allow the normal course of business at standard pricing to be considered lower of cost or market pricing.

## **Nevada Power Company**

Wholesale energy purchases and sales are priced based on a negotiated rate capped by the selling entity's cost. Electricity transmission services and transmission ancillary services provided by Nevada Power are priced pursuant to Nevada Power's Open Access Transmission Tariff ("OATT"). Transmission line losses provided by Nevada Power are priced pursuant to a Nevada Power OATT schedule. Electricity transmission services provided by PacifiCorp are priced based on a formula rate on file with FERC. Transmission line losses and transmission ancillary services provided by PacifiCorp are priced pursuant to PacifiCorp's OATT Schedules. Operations and maintenance costs are ultimately based on PacifiCorp's share of actual operations and maintenance costs incurred. Interest income is priced based on rates on file with FERC. These pricing references provide sufficient verification as to be considered lower of cost or market pricing.

## **Wells Fargo & Company**

At December 31, 2015, Berkshire Hathaway held a 10 percent ownership interest in Wells Fargo. Wells Fargo provides financial services to PacifiCorp in the normal course of business at standard pricing for certain transactions, and at negotiated rates below standard pricing for certain other transactions. No substantial influence over either company's policies or actions was found to exist.

## **Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's")**

At December 31, 2015, Berkshire Hathaway held a 13 percent ownership interest in Moody's. Moody's Investor Service provides banking services to PacifiCorp in the normal course of business at standard pricing. Influence over either company's policies and actions was not found to exist to prevent pricing arrangements to be considered lower of cost or market driven.

## **Summary**

Generally, 2015 financial activity between the Company and the listed affiliated entities closely resembles activity of prior years. Eleven new affiliates were listed on 2015's report compared to 2014 and ten affiliates listed in 2014 reported no financial activity with the Company in 2015.

In excess of 90 percent of the IASA services were information technology and administrative support services including the labor costs associated therewith. The Division's findings regarding PacifiCorp's pricing for the IASA was basically the sharing of the Information Technology and Administrative Support services department resources and the costs to operate those departments. The pricing of these services is an allocation of costs rather than pricing to include a profit or markup. The Division did not attempt to audit the affiliates that provided these services to PacifiCorp. The financial activity reported in the 2015 Affiliated Interest report for many of these affiliates fails to reach a level that generally allows influence sufficient to affect the operational decisions and pricing strategies. While it is proper that the Commission require analysis of minority interest owned companies in the report, it appears the pricing more closely approximates arms-length transactions than wholly-owned controlled entities. Based upon the financial information reviewed and the review performed by the Division, the pricing does not appear to be inappropriate.

The non-IASA services included coal and related rail transportation costs (excess of 90 percent of the total value of total non-IASA transactions), water assessments, employee relocations, and other miscellaneous activity. In its review of the Non-IASA goods and services, the Division observed the term "standard business pricing" was found to be referenced often in the minority interest owned affiliates financials and notes. Based upon the financial information reviewed and the review performed by the Division related to the non-IASA goods and services, the pricing does not appear to be inappropriate.

The Division tests and reviews the Company's internal controls during general rate cases and other actions further increasing the Division's belief that undue influence favoring the Company or the listed affiliates regarding intercompany financial transactions is not evident.

## **Conclusion and Recommendation**

The Division has completed the review of the Affiliated Interest Report and the associated information. As a result of this review the Division believes that:

1. Active affiliated interest relationships exist between PacifiCorp and the reported entities.

2. The appropriate affiliate transactions' information have been provided to the Division upon request to the Company.
3. The activity between the affiliates as reported in the filing does not appear to be adverse to the public interest.

This concludes the Division's report and response to the Action Request from the Commission. The Division recommends the Commission accept PacifiCorp Affiliated Interest Report for the year ended December 31, 2015.

CC Jeffrey Larsen, Rocky Mountain Power  
Bob Lively, Rocky Mountain Power  
Michele Beck, Office of Consumer Services