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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED BY THE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY PLAN ACT	Docket No. 16-035-36
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WRA EXHIBIT 2.0

PHASE 3 DIRECT TESTIMONY OF KENNETH L. WILSON

ON BEHALF OF

WESTERN RESOURCE ADVOCATES

April 6, 2017

1 **I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY**

2 **Q. Please state your name, employer, position and business address.**

3 A. My name is Kenneth L. Wilson. I am employed by Western Resource Advocates (WRA)
4 as an Engineering Fellow with the Clean Energy Program. My business address is 2260
5 Baseline Road, Suite 200, Boulder, Colorado 80302.

6 **Q. Did you previously submit testimony in this proceeding?**

7 A. Yes, I submitted Phase 1 Direct Testimony on behalf of WRA. A description of my
8 qualifications is included with that testimony.

9 **Q. What is the purpose of this testimony?**

10 A. The purpose of my testimony is to support the Plug-in Electric Vehicle Incentive Pilot
11 Program (“PEV Program”) proposed by Rocky Mountain Power (“Company”). The
12 program is described in their Application and in the testimonies of William J. Comeau
13 and Robert M. Meredith and their accompanying exhibits.

14 **Q. Please summarize your testimony.**

15 A. I support the PEV rate design pilot and associated incentives for PEV owners to
16 participate in the pilot. I believe the proposed pilot will achieve the desired result of
17 developing a body of useful information regarding PEV owners’ charging behavior when
18 presented with a Time of Use (“TOU”) rate structure that is designed to incentivize off-
19 peak charging. The Company has proposed a one-year load study of three groups of
20 customers who are selected randomly from among many PEV owners for the pilot. The
21 criteria for the sampling plan are well thought out, and the overall design of the study

22 should result in scientifically accurate results. However, I recommend continuing the
23 load study for a second year, collecting additional data to improve the analysis and
24 conclusions. This would not change the details of the load study, or extend the pilot
25 beyond the planned period. It would merely allow an additional year of data to be
26 collected.

27 **Q. Please provide your recommendation.**

28 A. I recommend that the Commission approve the Application for the pilot, as proposed,
29 with the addition of a second year of detailed data collection for the load study.

30 **II. DISCUSSION**

31 **Q. What is the purpose of the PEV rate pilot?**

32 A. PEVs are the future of transportation, and their large-scale acceptance by the public will
33 create a new and very large load for electric utilities. If PEV charging is not managed
34 well, it could create peak energy costs at all levels of the energy system. Charging of
35 PEVs by residential customers at their homes should be done at off-peak times when the
36 system can adequately manage the load without the addition of expensive peaking
37 resources. While this is not an issue today, with relatively few PEVs in service, it could
38 become an issue in the future if not managed properly. The PEV rate pilot is designed to
39 test the charging behavior of PEV owners and how their behavior changes when they are
40 incentivized by a TOU rate structure to charge during off-peak hours.

41 **Q. Why is it important to gain information on customers' charging habits and how**
42 **those habits will change with TOU rates?**

43 A. The tendency of many PEV owners is to drive home from work, plug in their PEVs, and
44 immediately start charging. This creates a problem for the Company's distribution grid,
45 their transmission grid, and their generation fleet as this charging behavior creates a new
46 load right when the system is peaking. This would create the need for additional peaking
47 facilities that are expensive to build and operate, increasing costs for all customers. We
48 first need to understand how common this type of charging behavior is for customers on
49 standard, traditional electric rates without a TOU component and second, to see how their
50 charging behavior changes when they are placed on TOU rates. It is our hope that
51 customers will delay charging their PEV batteries until later in the day, when system
52 loads are less. The PEV Rate Pilot will show us, in a scientific way, how charging
53 behavior actually changes when customers are moved to TOU rates.

54 **Q. Did you participate in the EV Pilot workshops?**

55 A. Yes, I did. The workshops included all the interested parties. They were well managed
56 and a wide range of opinions were voiced and considered. The discussions on various
57 proposals were thoughtful and thorough. The Company initially proposed that one of the
58 rate structures that should be tested include a TOU demand charge that would assess
59 customers a fixed fee for each kilowatt of peak power that they used during the peak time
60 of day in a month. Most of the organizations participating in the workshop, including
61 WRA, opposed this idea.

62 **Q. Why are you opposed to demand charges for PEV customers?**

63 A. At this time, I am generally opposed to mandatory demand charges for residential
64 customers as I believe they are less effective than TOU rates at lowering overall energy
65 use. I also think that mandatory demand charges for all residential customers will tend to
66 shift costs to lower income customers and away from higher income customers. With
67 respect to the specific case of customers with PEVs, I do not believe that demand charges
68 are as effective at shifting charging to off-peak hours as TOU rates will be. With a
69 demand charge that is applied during peak hours, if a customer must charge their PEV
70 during peak hours even once in the month, they will know that they have already incurred
71 the demand charge and may be more inclined to charge again during peak hours since
72 there will be little or no additional penalty. With straight TOU rates, any charging during
73 peak hours will incur the higher price.

74 **Q. What rate structures did the group agree to support?**

75 A. The group coalesced on a pilot with two TOU rate structures, one “moderate” and one
76 that is more “aggressive.” By moderate I mean a TOU rate structure where the difference
77 between on-peak and off-peak is significant, but not dramatic, meaning a ratio of less
78 than 4 to 1. By aggressive I mean a TOU rate structure that is greater than a ratio of 8
79 to 1.

80 **Q. Did the Company abide by the consensus of the group with respect to the rate
81 structures that would be used in the pilot?**

82 A. Yes, the Company’s proposal appears to correctly represent the consensus in the
83 workshops.

84 **Q. Was there a discussion by the group of whether customers with distributed**
85 **generation should be allowed to participate in the pilot?**

86 A. Yes. Several parties during the workshops thought that customers with distributed
87 generation should be allowed to participate in the pilot.

88 **Q. What is your opinion on the inclusion of customers with distributed generation in**
89 **the pilot?**

90 A. It would be interesting to know how the charging behavior of PEV customers with
91 distributed generation differs from customers who do not have distributed generation.
92 However, this would add a level of complexity that would at least double the number of
93 participants needed and add corresponding costs to the project. We would need to add at
94 least three additional groups of randomized customers, duplicating each current group
95 with a second group that has distributed generation. Then there are additional factors,
96 such as how large the distributed generation system is in relation to the customer's energy
97 use, the compass orientation of the distributed generation system, etc. For these reasons,
98 I do not recommend that the pilot be expanded to include customers with EVs and
99 distributed generation.

100 **Q. Will the pilot as proposed be a scientifically valid experiment?**

101 A. Yes, it should be. Three random groups of customers will be picked from a large set of
102 volunteers to participate in the load study. The three groups will have three different rate
103 structures: Moderate TOU, Aggressive TOU, and a Control Group. It is important that
104 the pilot have all three of these groups. The Control Group will show when customers
105 charge under the current rate structure. The two TOU rate structures will show how

106 charging behavior differs when customers are moved to TOU. The “Draft Utah Electric
107 Vehicle Time of Use Pilot Program and Analysis” document included as Attachment
108 RMM-1 and the “Load Research Sampling Procedures” included as Attachment RMM-2
109 appear adequate to achieving statistically valid results, though additional details will need
110 to be developed and the pilot and analysis implemented in a professional manner.
111 However, as I suggest below, I think that the load pilot should be extended to two years.

112 **Q. Do you have experience in the design and implementation of sampling plans and**
113 **studies?**

114 A. Yes. For five years, during my time at Bell Labs, I was in charge of a group that
115 conducted testing of telecommunications services. I had several PhD statisticians and
116 experimental psychologists in my group at that time who designed sampling plans and
117 conducted analysis after tests had been completed. The results were used in advertising
118 on national networks by AT&T and had to meet stringent requirements for scientific
119 validity. I personally worked with my employees on these tests and reviewed the results.

120 **Q. What is the rationale for one TOU rate with a moderate spread between peak and**
121 **off-peak rates and a second that has a large spread between peak and off-peak**
122 **rates?**

123 A. We need to find out if customers change when they charge based on TOU rates and how
124 dramatic that change is. The moderate TOU rate has a difference between the peak price
125 and the off-peak price of approximately 3 to 1. The aggressive TOU rate has a difference
126 between the peak price and the off-peak price of approximately 10 to 1. Based on data
127 from general TOU trials in other states, we would expect a modest change in behavior

128 with the moderate TOU rates and a stronger change in behavior with the aggressive rates.
129 But this is speculation until we obtain the actual data. We need the Control Group
130 (which will stay on existing rates that are not TOU based) as a measuring stick against
131 which we can compare the effectiveness of the moderate and aggressive TOU rates.

132 **Q. Are you concerned with cost shifting as a result of the pilot?**

133 A. No. This issue was raised by some parties during the workshops, but it is not a problem.
134 The pilot is very small with respect to the total number of the Company's customers. The
135 maximum number of participants will be less than 1,200 customers, compared to a total
136 customer base in Utah of more than 850,000. The impact of a cost shift due to the pilot,
137 if there is a cost shift, would be very small.

138 **Q. Are you concerned with the duration of the formal load study that is part of the**
139 **pilot?**

140 A. Yes. The Company has proposed that the formal load study utilize data collection for a
141 period of one year. While this may be adequate, I would prefer having the Company
142 collect data for a second year as well. Given that the Company is asking for the tariffed
143 rates to remain in place until January 1, 2022, there should be adequate time to collect a
144 second year of detailed load data.

145 **Q. What would be the timeline if this change is adopted?**

146 A. The Company is proposing to recruit participants beginning July 1, 2017 (assuming
147 approval by the Commission) and to complete recruitment by December 31, 2017. Data
148 collection could begin as soon as meters are installed and tested, say by May 1, 2018.
149 Load data could then be collected for the first year from May 1, 2018 until April 30,

150 2019. The second year of data could be collected from May 1, 2019 until April 30, 2020.
151 Analysis of the data and a full report could be completed on the load study by the end of
152 2020. A final, full report could be prepared in 2021 as proposed by the Company.

153 **Q. What is the advantage of a two-year load study over a one-year load study?**

154 A. First, there will be twice as much data for analysis, providing the potential for more
155 accuracy and better conclusions. There does not seem to be a problem fitting a second
156 year of data collection into the pilot, and doubling the amount of data collected will be
157 very beneficial in the long run. Second, having two years of data may allow for the pilot
158 to see variations in charging behavior under different weather conditions. Weather can
159 impact both driving patterns and charging patterns. For example, a heavy snow year
160 could be quite different from a light snow year. Therefore, having two sets of seasonal
161 data to analyze could be very informative.

162 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

163 A. Yes.