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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

WRA EXHIBIT 4.0

PHASE 3 SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF KENNETH L. WILSON

ON BEHALF OF

WESTERN RESOURCE ADVOCATES

May 16, 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 and Phase 3 Direct and Rebuttal Testimony
8 on behalf of WRA. A description of my qualifications is included with my Phase 1
9 testimony.

10 **Q. Is WRA a signatory to the Stipulation and Partial Settlement Agreement of Phase 3**
11 **Issues (Settlement Agreement) filed by Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) on May 16?**

12 A. Yes. WRA participated in discussions with the settling parties (Parties) on May 11 and
13 May 12. WRA signed the Settlement Agreement on May 15.

14 **Q. What issues are purported to be resolved by the Settlement Agreement?**

15 A. A number of issues pertaining to RMP's proposed Electric Vehicle (EV) Incentive and
16 Time of Use (TOU) Pricing Pilot (Pilot) Programs were addressed and resolved in the
17 Settlement Agreement, subject to approval by the Commission. WRA is a signatory to
18 the Settlement Agreement and I will therefore not address those issues here.

19 **Q. What issues were not resolved by the Settlement Agreement?**

20 **A.** Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, the Parties agreed that the time periods and energy
21 charges for Rate Option 1 and Rate Option 2 for Schedule 2E under the Pilot will be
22 litigated for final determination by the Commission. These are issues of rate design,
23 which I address here.

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

25 **A.** The purpose of my testimony is to address issues raised in rebuttal by Rocky Mountain
26 Power, the Office of Consumer Services (OCS), and Utah Clean Energy (UCE).

27 **Q. Please summarize your testimony.**

28 **A.** The primary remaining dispute is whether TOU rates for Option 1 and Option 2 of the
29 Pilot will have a clean, simple split between on-peak and off-peak energy rates or
30 whether one or both of those options will also have “tiered” rates superimposed on the
31 TOU rates. WRA does not support adding tiered rates to TOU rates. Adding tiered rates
32 to TOU rates will make the results of the pilot confusing and therefore, less valuable.
33 Furthermore, tiered rates are not conducive to owning electric vehicles and they will be
34 confusing to customers in the pilot.

35 **Q. Please provide your recommendation.**

36 **A.** I recommend that the Commission adopt the rate structure for the Pilot as originally
37 proposed by Rocky Mountain Power. This proposed rate structure has a ratio between
38 on-peak and off-peak energy of 3:1 for Option 1 and 10:1 for Option 2. If the
39 Commission feels that the 10:1 ratio for Option 2 is too large, I would recommend that it

40 not be set lower than 6:1 so that the pilot has two distinct points to compare and make
41 conclusions around.

42 **II. DISCUSSION**

43 **Q. What is UCE proposing for the rate structure of the Pilot?**

44 A. UCE is proposing to add energy tiers to the simple TOU rate structure proposed by RMP.
45 In direct, UCE specified an on-peak tier for energy use less than 1,000 kWh per month
46 and a higher price for on-peak energy use that is over 1,000 kWh per month. They do the
47 same for off-peak energy with one price for energy use under 1,000 kWh and a higher
48 price for energy use at off-peak times over 1,000 kWh. So essentially, the rate structure
49 for Option 1 that UCE is proposing has four different rates instead of two.

50 For Option 2, UCE added a fifth rate during off-peak hours that they designated as super-
51 off-peak. Option 2 under this proposal would therefore have five rates instead of two.

52 In rebuttal testimony, Sarah Wright of UCE instead proposes to reduce the tier threshold
53 to 700 kWh instead of 1,000 kWh, while maintaining four rates instead of two. Under
54 this revised proposal UCE is advocating that Option 2 adopt the rate structure proposed
55 by OCS, which maintains a simple TOU rate structure, but with a very small differential
56 between on-peak and off-peak energy use.

57 **Q. What is your primary concern with the proposal of UCE to add tiered rates to the**
58 **TOU pilot?**

59 A. The EV Pilot was conceived to determine how customers will change their charging
60 behavior based on TOU rates. TOU rates that charge a high price for on-peak charging

61 and a low price for off-peak charging will incentivize customers to charge their EVs
62 during off-peak hours, saving money for the utility and all customers. The rate structure
63 proposed by RMP is a clean and simple TOU rate structure with one on-peak rate and one
64 off-peak rate. Option 1 would have a “moderate” ratio of 3:1 between on-peak and off-
65 peak rates and Option 2 would have an “aggressive” ratio of 10:1. This would show a
66 clear difference between customer behavior with moderate and aggressive ratios. Adding
67 a tiered rate structure to this simple TOU rate structure results in a complex rate structure
68 with four rates, confusing both customers and the overall analysis of the pilot, leading to
69 unscientific results.

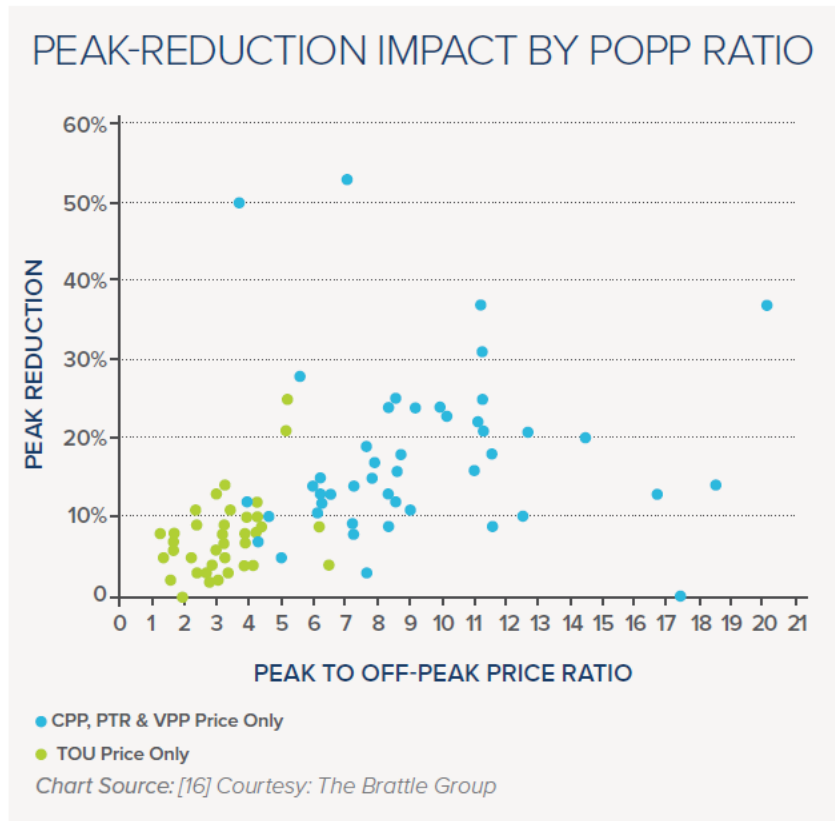
70 In addition, having tiered rates is a disincentive for customers to use their electric
71 vehicles more. This is because under a tiered rate structure, EV owners will know that
72 the more they drive their electric vehicles, the higher the price will be for electricity.
73 This is not the message that we want to send with the EV Pilot. In general, tiered rates
74 are not beneficial for the promotion of electric vehicles.

75 **Q. What is your primary concern with a small ratio between on-peak and off-peak**
76 **energy use, as advocated by OCS and adopted by UCE in rebuttal?**

77 A. Considerable work has been done to look at the ratio of on-peak rates to off-peak rates
78 that is necessary to incentivize customers to change the time of day when they use
79 energy. Figure 1 below was originally developed by the Brattle Group, summarizing data

80 from a number of rate studies, and was published in a 2016 report by the Rocky
81 Mountain Institute (RMI).¹

82 **Figure 1: Peak Reduction Impact Based on Peak to Off-Peak Ratios**



83
84
85 This chart depicts the peak reduction impact of various TOU rates as a function of the
86 peak to off-peak price ratio, or POPP ratio. The chart shows that peak reduction is
87 strongly correlated with the POPP ratio. Analysis of the chart by RMI's report (WRA
88 Exhibit A) shows that a 2:1 ratio can be expected to produce a peak reduction of about

¹ Rocky Mountain Institute, A Review of Alternative Rate Designs: Industry Experience with Time-Based and Demand Charge Rates for Mass-Market Customers, May 2016; attached as WRA Exhibit A and also available at www.rmi.org/alternative_rate_designs.

89 5%, while a 5:1 ratio can be expected to produce a 14% peak reduction. A 10:1 ratio can
90 be expected to produce a 16% peak reduction, indicating some diminishing return above
91 about a 5:1 ratio.

92 While the RMI study did not evaluate a change in charging behavior for EVs specifically,
93 it does indicate a general trend in customer behavior. Ultimately, we need the EV Pilot to
94 test how actual charging behavior in Utah changes with respect to the POPP ratio. If we
95 don't have both moderate and aggressive options to compare, we will likely see little
96 change in behavior and therefore will not be able to perform an evaluation of the pilot
97 that reaches scientifically valid conclusions. For these reasons I strongly urge the
98 Commission to maintain both moderate and aggressive TOU rates for Options 1 and 2
99 respectively, as originally planned for the pilot by RMP.

100 **Q: You said you support RMP's moderate (3:1) and aggressive (10:1) TOU rate**
101 **differentials for the EV Pilot. Would you accept something less than 10:1 for the**
102 **aggressive TOU rate differential?**

103 As referenced in the RMI study, we could consider reducing the aggressive 10:1 POPP
104 ratio proposed by RMP in Option 2 to a ratio of 5:1 or 6:1, as these ratios should still be
105 adequate to incent changes in customer charging behavior. However, we should not go
106 below that range.

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

108 A. Yes.