

In the Matter Of:

In Re: RMP STEP

HEARING, DOCKET NO. 16-035-36

January 22, 2019

Job Number: 512820

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

In the Matter of the) Docket No. 16-035-36
Application of Rocky) HEARING
Mountain Power to)
Implement Programs)
Authorized by the)
Sustainable Transportation)
and Energy Plan Act)

January 22, 2019
10:02 a.m.

Location: Public Service Commission
160 East 300 South, 4th Floor
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
(801) 530-6769

Reporter: Teri Hansen Cronenwett
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Job No. 512820

A P P E A R A N C E S

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1		I N D E X	Page 3
2	Witness		Page
3	IAN HOAG		
4	Direct Examination by Mr. Solander		5
5	F. ROBERT STEWART		
6	Direct Examination by Mr. Solander		11
7	ROHIT NAIR		
8	Direct Examination by Mr. Solander		15
9	ROBERT A. DAVIS		
10	Direct Examination by Ms. Schmid		20
11	BELA VASTAG		
12	Direct Examination by Mr. Snarr		27
13	Cross-Examination by Mr. Solander		32
14	CHERYL MURRAY		
15	Direct Examination by Mr. Snarr		34
16	KATE BOWMAN		
17	Narrative Testimony		37
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			

1 January 22, 2019

10:02 a.m.

2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Good morning,
4 everyone. This is the time and place noticed for a
5 hearing in the Matter of the Application of Rocky
6 Mountain Power to Implement Programs authorized by the
7 Sustainable Transportation and Energy Plan Act. It's
8 commission Docket 16-035-36.

9 My name is Michael Hammer, and I'm the
10 commission's designated presiding officer for this
11 hearing. With that, let's go ahead and take appearances
12 please.

13 MR. SOLANDER: Good morning, Mr. Hammer.
14 Daniel Solander appearing on behalf of Rocky Mountain
15 Power, and I have with me at the counsel table the
16 company's three witnesses we will be presenting in this
17 docket, Ian Hoag, Rohit Nair, and Rob Stewart.

18 MS. SCHMID: Good morning. Patricia E. Schmid
19 with the Attorney General's office on behalf of the Utah
20 Division of Public Utilities. We me at counsel table is
21 Mr. Robert A. Davis, who will be the division's witness
22 in this matter. Thank you.

23 MR. SNARR: And my name is Steven W. Snarr. I
24 am with the Attorney General's office, representing the
25 Office of Consumer Services. Today we will have the

1 opportunity to hear from Bela Vastag and Cheryl Murray,
2 who are with the Office of Consumer Services.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: And Ms. Bowman, did
4 you want to enter an appearance on the record?

5 MS. BOWMAN: Yes. Kate Bowman representing
6 Utah Clean Energy, and our attorney was not able to make
7 it today.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you. Are
9 there any preliminary matters before we call a witness?

10 MR. SOLANDER: No. Thank you.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: All right.

12 Mr. Solander.

13 MR. SOLANDER: Yes. Rocky Mountain Power
14 would like to call Mr. Ian Hoag as its first witness.

15 THE WITNESS: Good morning, Mr. Hammer.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Good morning.

17 Mr. Hoag, do you swear to tell the truth?

18 THE WITNESS: Yes.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you.

20 IAN HOAG,
21 was called as a witness, and having been first duly
22 sworn to tell the truth, testified as follows:

23 DIRECT EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. SOLANDER:

25 Q. Good morning. Would you please state and

1 **spell your name for the record.**

2 A. My name is Ian Hoag. It's I-A-N, H-O-A-G.

3 **Q. And what is your business address?**

4 A. It's 1407 West North Temple, Suite 310, Salt
5 Lake City Utah, 84116.

6 **Q. I think if you hit the button.**

7 A. Oh.

8 **Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?**

9 A. I have been an employee of Rocky Mountain
10 Power for four years as a senior engineer in resource
11 development. I am the project manager for the cryogenic
12 carbon capture project, and I work closely with the
13 project manager for the biomass project.

14 **Q. And have you ever testified in front of the**
15 **Public Service Commission before?**

16 A. No. This is my first time testifying.

17 **Q. Since this is your first time testifying,**
18 **would you please give a brief background on your**
19 **professional experience and employment background?**

20 A. Yes. I received a Bachelor of Science in
21 naval architecture from the United States Naval Academy,
22 a Master's of Science in nuclear science and engineering
23 from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. And I am a
24 professional engineer, licensed in the state of Utah.

25 **Q. And did you help prepare the company's**

1 application and reply comments regarding the clean coal
2 technology in this docket?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And are you adopting the company's application
5 and comments in support of clean coal technology as your
6 testimony?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Do you have any corrections or additions to
9 the application or the comments?

10 A. Yes. I have one minor correction I'd like to
11 note for the record. In Attachment A on page 2 that
12 accompanied the company's application, there is a
13 typographical error that states, "Rocky Mountain Power
14 requests approval to transfer approximately 1.12 million
15 dollars of STEP funding to the recommended projects."
16 The number should be corrected to say 1.16 million
17 dollars.

18 Q. Are there any other additional corrections or
19 additions?

20 A. No.

21 Q. And have you prepared a summary of your
22 testimony?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Please proceed with presenting that to the
25 commission.

1 A. On November 13th, 2018, the company filed an
2 application requesting approval for changes to projects
3 that were previously approved under the Sustainable
4 Transportaiton and Energy Plan, also known as STEP.

5 The first request relates to reallocation of
6 funds in the clean coal project, which I will be
7 providing testimony in support of. The company also
8 requested a change to its commercial line extension
9 pilot program, which is supported by company witness
10 Mr. Rob Stewart, and the solar and energy storage
11 technology project, which is supported by company
12 witness Mr. Rohit Nair.

13 My testimony today summarizes the company's
14 request related to the clean coal projects under STEP.
15 The company is requesting that STEP funds previously --
16 previously allocated for the alternative NOx project
17 that was abandoned be redeployed to the Woody Waste
18 project and the cryogenic carbon capture project. The
19 company's request to reallocate these clean coal funds
20 has not been opposed by any party.

21 The additional funding for the Woody Waste or
22 biomass project would allow Rocky Mountain Power to
23 expand the co-firing tests of processed Woody Waste or
24 biomass at Hunter Unit 3 boiler. The project expansion
25 would, one, increase the amount and type of sensors and

1 measurements taken during the test run; two, facilitate
2 a longer test burn by increasing the amount of processed
3 biomass; and three, adding funding for an owner's
4 engineer to assist with project planning and performance
5 assessment.

6 Expansion of the amount of sensors and
7 measurements would provide, one, a clearer picture of
8 aspects of boiler operation, two, characterization of
9 fuels, three, measurements of gas species, and four,
10 deposition sampling.

11 The additional funding for the cryogenic
12 carbon capture project will allow Rocky Mountain Power
13 to plan for the -- the next scale of operation and to
14 explore the scalability of the unit operations.

15 The expanded scope of these projects will
16 build upon current objectives to include, first,
17 demonstration project that will result in measurable
18 reduced emissions; second, investment in promising
19 technologies and applications that when fully developed
20 in utility scale will allow for coal-fired generation
21 resources to operate with reduced emissions; third,
22 funding of opportunities for industry-targeted areas of
23 research that can be performed by Utah industries; and
24 fourth, promotion of Utah's clean energy technology
25 companies.

1 The company respectfully requests the
2 commission approve the approximately 1.16 million
3 dollars in clean coal technology funds previously
4 approved for the alternative NOx project be transferred
5 to the Woody Waste co-fire and cryogenic carbon capture
6 projects in the amount of approximately 750,000 and
7 approximately \$400,000 respectively.

8 This concludes my prepared statement. Thank
9 you.

10 **Q. In your opinion, Mr. Hoag, are these projects**
11 **prudent and in the company -- the interest of the**
12 **company's customers?**

13 A. Yes.

14 MR. SOLANDER: Thank you. Mr. Hoag is
15 available for cross-examination or questions from the
16 commission.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Schmid?

18 MS. SCHMID: No questions.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Snarr?

20 MR. SNARR: No questions.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: And Ms. Bowman,
22 UCE, as I understand, is an intervenor in this docket,
23 and unless a party objects and we discuss, I think you
24 probably have the right to ask cross-examination
25 questions if you would like.

1 MS. BOWMAN: Thank you. I appreciate -- I
2 appreciate that. No questions.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you. Thank
4 you, Mr. Hoag.

5 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Please call your
7 next witness, Mr. Solander.

8 MR. SOLANDER: Thank you. Rocky Mountain
9 Power would like to call Mr. Rob Stewart as its second
10 witness.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Stewart, do you
12 swear to tell the truth?

13 THE WITNESS: Yes.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you.

15 F. ROBERT STEWART,
16 was called as a witness, and having been first duly
17 sworn to tell the truth, testified as follows:

18 DIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. SOLANDER:

20 **Q. Good morning. Would you please state and**
21 **spell your name for the record.**

22 A. My name, excuse me, F. Robert Stewart, F,
23 R-O-B-E-R-T, S-T-E-W-A-R-T.

24 **Q. What is your business address?**

25 A. It's 4171 West Lake Park Boulevard, Salt Lake

1 City, Utah, 84120.

2 Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?

3 A. I am employed by PacifiCorp as a tariff
4 consultant.

5 Q. And as a tariff consultant, did you help
6 prepare the company's application and reply comments
7 regarding the commercial line extension program?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And are you adopting the company's application
10 and comments regarding the commercial line extension
11 project as your testimony today?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Do you have any corrections or additions that
14 you would like to make to either of those?

15 A. No.

16 Q. And have you prepared a summary of your
17 testimony?

18 A. Yes, I have.

19 Q. Please proceed.

20 A. My testimony is to address the company's
21 proposal to raise the minimum incentive for the
22 nonresidential developers, as contained in Regulation
23 No. 13, the commercial line extension pilot program,
24 from 50,000 to \$250,000. The purpose --

25 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: I'm sorry. What

1 was the problem?

2 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry. I'm getting sick.
3 I'm about to faint.

4 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: I'm sorry, everyone.
5 Let's take a short recess. Ten minutes.

6 (Short recess was taken.)

7 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Let's go back on
8 the record. Mr. Stewart, I'm sorry. Please remind us
9 where you were in your testimony.

10 Q. (By Mr. Solander) Rob, would you mind just
11 restarting from the beginning of your summary. I don't
12 think you were very far into it.

13 A. No, I wasn't. I was on the summary. Yes. My
14 testimony is to address the company's proposal to raise
15 the maximum incentive for nonresidential developers from
16 50,000 to \$250,000, as given in Regulation No. 13.

17 The purpose of the incentive as stated in
18 Regulation No. 13 is twofold: One, reduce the
19 developer's cost within developments for which they are
20 requesting installation of primary backbone facilities,
21 and two, promote the use of electric vehicles by facil
22 -- excuse me, facilitating installation of electric
23 vehicle charging stations.

24 This regulation became effective on May 24th,
25 2017. In the little over year and a half since that

1 time, the participation in the program has been less
2 than anticipated. If by increasing the upper limit
3 larger developers who are not currently participating
4 are incentivized to participate, the goals of the
5 commercial line extension pilot program will be more
6 fully met.

7 The benefits of the program remain the same
8 regardless of the size of the development; and based on
9 the company's experience and calculations, it is
10 unlikely that one developer or project could monopolize
11 all or even most of the in-STEP incentive funds, even
12 with the proposed higher limit.

13 The Office of Consumer Services proposes,
14 along with an increase in the upper limit, that the
15 company provide additional details in the company's
16 annual STEP report. The company does not object to
17 this, the office's proposal. This concludes my summary.

18 MR. SOLANDER: Thank you. Mr. Stewart is
19 available for cross-examination or questions from the
20 commission.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Schmid?

22 MS. SCHMID: No questions.

23 MR. SNARR: May I have just a moment please?

24 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Of course.

25 MR. SNARR: No questions at this time.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Bowman?

2 MS. BOWMAN: No questions.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: All right. And I
4 don't have any either, Mr. Stewart. Thank you very
5 much.

6 Mr. Solander?

7 MR. SOLANDER: Thank you. Rocky Mountain
8 Power will call Mr. Rohit Nair as its final witness.

9 THE WITNESS: Good morning, Mr. Hammer.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Good morning, sir,
11 and since we have lost our court reporter, will you
12 please spell your name for the record.

13 THE WITNESS: Rohit Nair, R-O-H-I-T, N-A-I-R.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you very
15 much. And do you swear to tell the truth today?

16 THE WITNESS: Yes.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you.

18 ROHIT NAIR,

19 was called as a witness, and having been first duly
20 sworn to tell the truth, testified as follows:

21 DIRECT EXAMINATION

22 BY MR. SOLANDER:

23 **Q. Since that's already on the record, what is**
24 **your business address, Mr. Nair?**

25 A. 1407 West North Temple, Suite 290, Salt Lake

1 City, Utah, 84116.

2 **Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?**

3 A. I am employed by Rocky Mountain Power for over
4 seven years as a senior engineer in the engineering
5 standards and technical support department, supporting
6 both the company's Rocky Mountain and Pacific Power
7 divisions. In my current role I am the technical
8 support lead for all the projects approved under the
9 STEP Utah innovative technologies program.

10 **Q. And have you ever testified before the Public**
11 **Service Commission before?**

12 A. No. This is my first time testifying.

13 **Q. Since this is your first time testifying, can**
14 **you please describe your professional experience and**
15 **background.**

16 A. I received a Bachelor's of Science degree in
17 electrical engineering from University of Pune, India, a
18 Master's of Science degree in electrical engineering
19 from Oklahoma State University, a Master's in Business
20 Administration from Sullivan University Kentucky, and I
21 am a registered professional engineer in the state of
22 Arizona.

23 I am also currently the secretary of IEEE
24 renewable technology subcommittee and an active member
25 of multiple IEEE and NERC working groups that focuses on

1 developing national standards and policies on renewable
2 energy systems.

3 **Q. Would you please briefly introduce the topic**
4 **you are going to be discussing today?**

5 A. Today I will be discussing the company's
6 request seeking additional funding of 1.75 million
7 dollars for the solar and energy storage technology
8 project under the STEP Utah innovative technologies
9 program.

10 **Q. In your role as the lead technical support for**
11 **this program, were you -- did you participate in helping**
12 **to draft the company's application and reply comments in**
13 **this portion of the docket?**

14 A. Yes.

15 **Q. And are you adopting those reply comments as**
16 **your testimony in this proceeding?**

17 A. Yes.

18 **Q. And have you prepared a summary of your**
19 **testimony that you would like to share with the**
20 **commission?**

21 A. Yes.

22 **Q. Please proceed.**

23 A. On September 12th, 2016, the company filed an
24 application requesting STEP funding to install a solar
25 and energy storage technology project in the state of

1 Utah. The approved funding request of 7 million dollars
2 included 5 million dollars from STEP funds and 2 million
3 dollars from Blue Sky community funds. This request was
4 approved under the Phase 1 order published on December
5 29th, 2016.

6 Since then the company has completed its due
7 diligence process to identify a vendor that can provide,
8 engineer, procure, construct services and ensure timely
9 delivery of this project.

10 During this process the company realized that
11 the initial costs were underestimated and thereby
12 require additional funds to ensure installation of this
13 project. For this reason, the company submitted a
14 filing on November 13, 2018, requesting an additional
15 1.75 million dollars for this project.

16 The intent of this project was and still
17 remains to help the company develop a better
18 understanding of innovative technologies, in addition to
19 correcting what it -- issues experienced by the
20 company's system under peak loading condition. With
21 this project the company anticipates key learning
22 outcomes regarding the design, commissioning, operation
23 and maintenance of this new technology.

24 The commission's approval for the company's
25 request seeking an additional 1.75 million dollars will

1 enable us to install the company's first ever combined
2 utility scale solar and energy storage project in the
3 State of Utah.

4 Due to increasing lead times of battery
5 systems, denial or delays of the company's request for
6 additional funds will cause the company to cancel this
7 project. The company believes the additional funding
8 request is reasonable and just, considering its benefits
9 to the company and more importantly its customers.

10 The project will ensure better service quality
11 to our customers and allow the company to continue to
12 build a more progressive grid, which is in the best
13 interest of all our customers. Thank you for your time
14 allowing me to discuss my testimony today.

15 **Q. Thank you.**

16 MR. SOLANDER: Mr. Nair is available for
17 cross-examination or questions from the commission.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Schmid?

19 MR. SOLANDER: No questions.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Snarr?

21 MR. SNARR: No questions.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Bowman?

23 MS. BOWMAN: No questions.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: I just have one,
25 Mr. Nair. You mentioned that the project would be

1 cancelled if the request for additional funding were not
2 granted. Do you have an idea of what the sunk costs
3 would be if that were to occur?

4 THE WITNESS: The costs spent until December
5 31st, 2018, is \$407,470.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: That's precise. I
7 have nothing else. Thank you, Mr. Nair.

8 MR. SOLANDER: Thank you. I'd ask that
9 Mr. Nair be excused.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Excused.

11 MR. SOLANDER: And that concludes the
12 company's direct case.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Schmid?

14 MS. SCHMID: Thank you. The division would
15 like to call its witness, Mr. Robert Davis.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Davis, do you
17 swear to tell the truth?

18 THE WITNESS: I do.

19 ROBERT DAVIS,
20 was called as a witness, and having been first duly
21 sworn to tell the truth, testified as follows:

22 DIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY MS. SCHMID:

24 Q. Good morning.

25 A. Good morning.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: It's on.

2 **Q. (By Ms. Schmid) Could you please state your**
3 **full name, employer and title for the record.**

4 A. My name's Robert A. Davis. I'm a utility
5 analyst for the Division of Public Utilities.

6 **Q. In connection with your employment at the**
7 **division, did you prepare and cause to be filed the**
8 **division's comments filed on January 3rd, 2019?**

9 A. Yes.

10 **Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to**
11 **those comments?**

12 A. I do not.

13 **Q. Do you adopt those comments as your testimony**
14 **today?**

15 A. Yes.

16 **Q. Do you have a summary to provide?**

17 A. Yes, I do.

18 **Q. Please proceed.**

19 A. Good morning. In this proceeding Rocky
20 Mountain Power requests the commission's approval of its
21 application to, one, modify funding for the Woody Waste
22 and cryogenic carbon capture projects with remaining
23 funds from the abandoned advanced NOx project; two,
24 approve a significantly higher commercial line extension
25 incentive from \$50,000 to \$250,000; and three, increase

1 the funding for the solar plus storage project.

2 Excuse me. The division has concerns that
3 Rocky Mountain Power's vendor may not be able to produce
4 2,000 pounds of Woody Waste material for the
5 demonstration to take place in the second quarter of
6 2019. The division sees potential value in additional
7 data being collected as a result of more sensors and
8 longer burn times as proposed.

9 The division concludes Rocky Mountain Power's
10 request to reallocate \$748,980 from the abandoned
11 advanced NOx project to the Woody Waste project is in
12 the public interest. Therefore, the division recommends
13 the commission approve Rocky Mountain Power's request
14 for additional funding to the Woody Waste project.

15 Since the commission's approval of the
16 cryogenic carbon capture projects designed in Phase 2 of
17 this docket, Sustainable Energy Solutions revised the
18 base project. It now includes three tasks requiring
19 additional funding to modify the current STEP platform.
20 The division does not have the expertise to fully
21 evaluate these changes but concludes the project may
22 lead to a lower cost solution and reduction of carbon
23 pollution.

24 Future funding for the cryogenic carbon
25 capture project will be secured by Sustainable Energy

1 Solutions through multiple sources, and Rocky Mountain
2 Power will not provide any additional funding for the
3 project. The division concludes Rocky Mountain Power's
4 request to reallocate \$412,521 from the abandoned
5 advanced NOx project to the cryogenic carbon capture
6 project is in the public interest.

7 These two projects total \$1,161,501 of the
8 remaining \$1,245,465 reallocated from the abandoned
9 NOx -- abandoned advanced NOx project, leaving \$83,964
10 of unallocated funds. The division recommends the
11 commission direct Rocky Mountain Power to note these
12 unallocated funds in its next and subsequent annual STEP
13 reports unless it seeks commission approval to use the
14 funds for another clean coal program.

15 Rocky Mountain Power's second request for
16 commission approval is to increase the commercial line
17 extension incentive level. Rocky Mountain requests an
18 incentive level increase from \$50,000 to \$250,000, a
19 five-time increase. Rocky Mountain Power claims the
20 higher incentive is necessary to attract larger
21 developers and projects.

22 Projects costing \$1,250,000 or more would
23 qualify for the proposed incentive under Regulation No.
24 13. \$1,250,000 multiplied by the 20 percent equals the
25 \$250,000 incentive. The proposed incentive level

1 greatly limits how many projects might be awarded.

2 Rocky Mountain Power's responses to the
3 division's data requests for an explanation of the
4 five-time incentive increase did not convince the
5 division that the increase is in the public interest,
6 and its application contained no real justification.

7 The intent of the program is to make incentive
8 funds available for developers to build infrastructure
9 that would not require additional assets at a later
10 date, a result of expansion and to provide charging
11 infrastructure for electric vehicles.

12 The incentive reduces costs to developers for
13 any site project. However, Rocky Mountain Power's sole
14 justification for the proposed change seems to be that
15 it will be easier to spend the money with a larger
16 incentive. More evidence of the current incentive's
17 inadequacy is warranted before quintupling the amount of
18 the incentive.

19 Based on the lack of initial support for the
20 incentive increase and its application and further lack
21 of support through data request responses, it does not
22 appear that the proposed incentive level increase is
23 warranted or needed at this time. Therefore, the
24 division recommends the commission reject Rocky Mountain
25 Power's request to change the commercial line extension

1 incentive level and Regulation 13 at this time.

2 Finally, Rocky Mountain Power requests the
3 commission approve a 1.75 million dollar increase to the
4 solar plus storage project. The premise of the STEP
5 program act is to provide a utility funding to research
6 innovative projects that may lead to efficient uses of
7 the current system and find new technologies that are in
8 the public interest.

9 The solar plus storage project is such a
10 project. The solar plus solar project may fulfill
11 several purposes. First, it could alleviate a voltage
12 issue in the current radial feeder in rural Utah.
13 Second, it is likely to provide valuable training data
14 to Rocky Mountain Power personnel on the potential
15 benefits of storage technologies.

16 Finally, any excess energy generated from the
17 project will be used to offset DBA charges to all Utah
18 customers. The voltage issues on the radial feeder in
19 question can be resolved by standard practices of
20 enlarging the poles and wires using the same amount of
21 funds or other alternatives at likely higher costs.
22 This proposal likely alleviates that issue while
23 providing additional insight.

24 The division is concerned with the 8.75
25 million dollar cost of this project and the ensuing

1 operating, maintenance, administrative and general,
2 OMAG, expenses over the next 16 years. However, the
3 commission's Phase 1 order requires OMAG expenses to be
4 included in the STEP budget and accounted for in the
5 annual STEP reports.

6 Therefore, the division concludes the solar
7 plus storage project remains in the public interest and
8 recommends the commission approve Rocky Mountain Power's
9 request to increase the budget to 8.75 million dollars.
10 Thank you.

11 MS. SCHMID: Mr. Davis is now available for
12 questions from the commission and cross-examination
13 questions from the parties.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Solander?

15 MR. SOLANDER: No questions. Thank you.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Snarr?

17 MR. SNARR: No questions.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Bowman?

19 MS. BOWMAN: No questions.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: And I don't have
21 any, Mr. Davis. Thank you.

22 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Schmid, any
24 other witnesses?

25 MS. SCHMID: No. The division has no further

1 witnesses.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Snarr?

3 MR. SNARR: Yes. The office has two witnesses
4 it would like to present. Like to first call Mr. Bela
5 Vastag as a witness.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Vastag, do you
7 swear to tell the truth?

8 THE WITNESS: Yes.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you.

10 BELA VASTAG,

11 was called as a witness, and having been first duly
12 sworn to tell the truth, testified as follows:

13 DIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MR. SNARR:

15 Q. Could you please state your name and identify
16 who you represent as -- for the record.

17 A. My name is Bela Vastag. I am a utility
18 analyst for the Office of Consumer Services.

19 Q. Thank you. And in connection with this
20 particular proceeding, did you participate in the
21 preparation of comments that were filed on behalf of the
22 Office of Consumer Services?

23 A. Yes, I have.

24 Q. And it is correct that you were primarily
25 responsible for the portion of those comments that

1 relate to the solar energy storage program?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. And the comments that were filed were filed on
4 January 3rd of this year; is that correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And just for identification for the record,
7 those comments that you were primarily responsible for
8 appear on -- commencing on page 6 and end on page 10 of
9 that document; is that correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And do you adopt those comments as it relates
12 to the storage and energy storage program as your
13 testimony here today?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Are there any additions or corrections or
16 explanations you would like to offer since the filing of
17 those comments?

18 A. None.

19 Q. Do you have a prepared summary of these
20 comments you would like to present today?

21 A. Yes, I do.

22 Q. Please proceed.

23 A. As Mr. Snarr stated, my summary only addresses
24 the solar and energy storage project. Office witness
25 Cheryl Murray will address the clean coal technology and

1 the commercial line extension projects.

2 The company is requesting that the commission
3 approve \$1,750,000 of additional funding for the solar
4 and energy storage project. The company's revised cost
5 estimates for the solar and energy storage project
6 include major cost increases for the following
7 components.

8 For project development, an increase of
9 \$645,000 or 129 percent from the original estimate. For
10 battery capital cost, an increase of \$1,676,000 or a 44
11 percent increase. And finally for operations,
12 maintenance, administrative and general or OMAG costs,
13 an increase of \$2,431,000 or an increase of 542 percent.

14 The office does believe that the solar and
15 energy project, energy storage project is an important
16 research project, but before we can support the use of
17 ratepayer funds for the requested large increase in
18 costs, parties should be provided detailed financial
19 information documenting the drivers for these cost
20 increases.

21 The company's November 13th, 2018, application
22 was lacking in detail. Through the discovery process,
23 the office requested a detailed reconciliation between
24 the initial costs and the revised costs for the solar
25 and energy storage project.

1 The company's initial data responses and
2 supplemental data request responses provided some
3 additional information, but this information was not
4 significantly more helpful in explaining the cost
5 increases than what was provided in its November 13,
6 2018, application.

7 Even considering all the information provided
8 in DRs and in the company's January 17, 2019, reply
9 comments, the office still cannot determine if the
10 increase in costs are in the public interest.

11 Therefore, the office recommends that the commission
12 require the company provide additional information and
13 justification regarding the cost increases for the solar
14 and energy storage project and decline to approve these
15 increases at this time.

16 We also recommend that the commission affirm
17 its requirement that all OMAG, O-M-A-G, costs associated
18 with the STEP solar and synergy storage project be
19 included and deducted from the project's budget and
20 require that the company update this current application
21 with this information. That concludes my summary.

22 MR. SNARR: Mr. Vastag is available for
23 cross-examination.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. --

25 MR. SOLANDER: No questions, thank you.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Schmid?

2 MS. SCHMID: No questions.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Bowman?

4 MS. BOWMAN: No questions.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Vastag, I
6 wonder, and this might be a question better directed to
7 your counsel. So feel free to defer to him if you like.
8 But do you have any specific recommendations as to the
9 process the commission should undertake if it were to
10 agree with you?

11 THE WITNESS: I am not that versed in the
12 process the commission requires, but I would think
13 simply just ordering the company to provide some
14 detailed financial information comparing the components
15 of each part of the project with its original estimate
16 so that parties can understand, you know, where, what's
17 driving the cost increase and that the funds will be
18 prudently spent.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Okay. Thank you,
20 Mr. Vastag.

21 MR. SNARR: I think Mr. Vastag has explained
22 what information is necessary. If that were to be
23 focused on or by the commission, an opportunity for
24 further examination by the parties and even public
25 comment would be an appropriate kind of procedural step

1 linked to what Mr. Vastag has summarized.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you. Before
3 I excuse you, let's make sure that Mr. Solander has
4 nothing else.

5 MR. SOLANDER: One moment.

6 CROSS-EXAMINATION

7 BY MR. SOLANDER:

8 **Q. Would it be possible for you to explain what**
9 **additional financial information exactly it is that you**
10 **would be looking for in such a supplemental report?**

11 A. Essentially we need more detailed information.
12 What's been provided is very high level. For example,
13 the OMAG costs have gone up from -- I can't remember the
14 original amount, around 35,000 to \$180,000 a year. So
15 essentially a detailed listing of the components so that
16 we can understand what is in -- what is involved in
17 those expenses.

18 And the same for the battery component, which
19 has gone up considerably. It's confusing because we see
20 in the -- in the industry literature that solar battery
21 costs have declined considerably. So we -- before we
22 can accept -- before the office, you know, can agree
23 with the increases, we would just like to understand
24 where, where the cost increases are.

25 **Q. In your testimony you referenced the first**

1 supplemental data request. I believe it was No. 21.

2 Did the office also receive a second supplemental data
3 request?

4 A. And a third. Oh, a second, right. A second,
5 so no. Yeah, we received a copy of financial model
6 that's used to develop the net present value, and that
7 only contained high level costs. Also it didn't have
8 the detail, that I could ascertain, the detail that we
9 were looking for to see, you know, what, what components
10 of the individual costs were the drivers for the
11 increase.

12 Q. Okay. And the office doesn't dispute the
13 company's statements regarding the necessity to cancel
14 this program if there are any further delays or delays
15 in this process?

16 A. We have no reason to dispute that. We think
17 this -- you know, this additional information could be
18 provided quickly since you -- the company has the
19 information obviously.

20 MR. SOLANDER: Thank you.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you,
22 Mr. Vastag. Mr. Snarr, you have another witness?

23 MR. SNARR: Yes. We would like to call
24 Ms. Cheryl Murray as a witness.

25 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Murray, do you

1 swear to tell the truth?

2 THE WITNESS: Yes.

3 CHERYL MURRAY,

4 was called as a witness, and having been first duly
5 sworn to tell the truth, testified as follows:

6 DIRECT EXAMINATION

7 BY MR. SNARR:

8 Q. Could you please state your name and indicate
9 by whom you are employed.

10 A. My name is Cheryl Murray. I am employed by
11 the Office of Consumer Services as a utility analyst.

12 Q. And is it correct that you participated in the
13 preparation of comments that were filed on behalf of the
14 Office of Consumer Services on January 3rd of this year?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And except for the portions of those comments
17 that have been adopted by Mr. Vastag, were you
18 responsible for the comments overall and the rest of the
19 representations there?

20 A. Yes, I was.

21 Q. Do you adopt those comments as your testimony
22 in this proceeding?

23 A. Yes, I do.

24 Q. Have you prepared a summary of your testimony,
25 your -- the office's position?

1 A. Yes.

2 **Q. Could you present that, please.**

3 A. My summary addresses the clean coal
4 technologies and the commercial line extension pilot
5 program portions of the company's application.

6 The company has requested to reallocate NOx
7 project funding to fund increases for previously
8 authorized clean coal technology projects, specifically
9 \$748,980 to expand the co-firing test of the Woody Waste
10 co-firing project and \$412,521 to expand the scope of
11 the cryogenic carbon capture technology project.

12 As stated in our January 3, 2019, comments,
13 the office recommends that the commission approve the
14 company's application to increase funding for those
15 clean coal technology projects.

16 The company also requested approval to
17 increase the incentive level for the commercial line
18 extension pilot program from \$50,000 to \$250,000,
19 asserting that there has been low participation in the
20 program and increasing the incentive will allow larger
21 projects to be developed.

22 I want to clarify that in our January 3, 2019,
23 comments, contrary to Mr. Stewart's representation, the
24 office did not recommend approval of the company's
25 request to increase the incentive level for the

1 commercial line extension program and that we share the
2 concerns expressed by the division in its comments.

3 However, if the commission does approve the
4 company's request, we reiterate our recommendation that
5 additional reporting requirements as specified in our
6 January 3 comments be required, to which the company has
7 agreed. And that concludes my summary.

8 MR. SNARR: Ms. Murray is available for
9 cross-examination.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Solander?
11 Ms. Schmid?

12 MS. SCHMID: No questions.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Bowman?

14 MS. BOWMAN: No, no questions.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: And I don't have
16 any. Thank you, Ms. Murray.

17 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Snarr, anything
19 else?

20 MR. SNARR: Nothing else from the office.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Bowman, is
22 there anything you would like to present today?

23 MS. BOWMAN: I have a summary of my comments
24 that I would be happy to present.

25 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Is there any

1 objection to Ms. Bowman presenting those?

2 MS. SCHMID: No objection.

3 MR. SNARR: No objection.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Do you swear to
5 tell the truth, Ms. Bowman?

6 MS. BOWMAN: Yes.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you.

8 KATE BOWMAN,
9 was called as a witness, and having been first duly
10 sworn to tell the truth, testified as follows:

11 BY MS. BOWMAN: Thank you for allowing me to
12 provide a brief summary of comments provided by Utah
13 Clean Energy this morning. My name is Kate Bowman, and
14 I am here on behalf of Utah Clean Energy, and my
15 comments address the solar and storage technology
16 program and the commercial line extension program
17 portions of the company's application.

18 First, Utah Clean Energy continues to support
19 the solar and storage technology project and recommends
20 that the commission approve the requested increase in
21 funding. It's valuable for the company to gain
22 experience operating solar and storage to meet grid
23 needs and also to be able to provide information to
24 stakeholders about the benefits of the project relative
25 to its costs.

1 However, Utah Clean Energy also recommends
2 that the company be required to provide additional
3 detail about project costs, equipment and system
4 components in future STEP reports. We also recommend
5 that the commission require more detailed information
6 about project costs and components when considering
7 approval of future storage or generation and storage
8 programs.

9 Second, while Utah Clean Energy supports the
10 expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure,
11 the company's filing has not provided sufficient
12 justification to demonstrate why an increase to the
13 commercial line extension pilot program cap will result
14 in improved or increased electric vehicle charging
15 infrastructure.

16 To date no project has reached the \$50,000
17 existing incentive cap, so it's not apparent why an
18 increase in the cap would result in improved usage of
19 the incentive. We recommend no changes to the program
20 until the company provides more detailed information
21 about projects that have been awarded an incentive thus
22 far and more information about existing barriers that
23 currently prevent utilization of the incentive at its
24 current levels.

25 Thank you for your time. That concludes my

1 summary.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you.

3 Mr. Solander, any questions?

4 MR. SOLANDER: No questions.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Schmid?

6 MS. SCHMID: No questions.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Snarr?

8 MR. SNARR: No questions. Thank you.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: And I don't have
10 any. Thank you, Ms. Bowman.

11 MS. BOWMAN: Thank you.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Is there anything
13 else before we adjourn?

14 MR. SOLANDER: Nothing further from the
15 company.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: All right. Thank
17 you, everyone. We're adjourned.

18 MS. SCHMID: Thank you.

19 (The hearing concluded at about 10:52 a.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF UTAH)
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE)

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me, Teri Hansen Cronenwett, Certified Realtime Reporter, Registered Merit Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Utah.

That the proceedings were partially reported by me in Stenotype, and thereafter transcribed by computer by me, and partially transcribed by me from the streamed audio, and that a full, true, and correct transcription is set forth in the foregoing pages, numbered 3 through 40 inclusive.

I further certify that I am not of kin or otherwise associated with any of the parties to said cause of action, and that I am not interested in the event thereof.

WITNESS MY HAND and official seal at Salt Lake City, Utah, this 30th day of January, 2019.



Teri Hansen Cronenwett, CRR, RMR
License No. 91-109812-7801

My commission expires:
January 19, 2023

\$	23:18 35:18 38:16	13:16,18 18:14 23:24 25:1 30:5	2018 8:1 18:14 20:5 29:21 30:6	32 3:13
\$1,161,501 23:7	\$645,000 29:9	13th 8:1 29:21	2019 4:1 21:8 22:6 30:8 35:12,22	34 3:15
\$1,245,465 23:8	\$748,980 22:10 35:9	1407 6:4 15:25	21 33:1	35,000 32:14
\$1,250,000 23:22,24	\$83,964 23:9	140857 2:5,14	22 4:1	37 3:17
\$1,676,000 29:10	1	15 3:8	2300 2:10	3rd 21:8 28:4 34:14
\$1,750,000 29:3	1 18:4 26:3	16 26:2	24th 13:24	4
\$180,000 32:14	1.12 7:14	16-035-36 4:8	27 3:12	4171 11:25
\$2,431,000 29:13	1.16 7:16 10:2	160 2:5,14	290 15:25	44 29:10
\$250,000 12:24 13:16 21:25 23:18, 25 35:18	1.75 17:6 18:15,25 25:3	17 30:8	29th 18:5	5
\$400,000 10:7	10 28:8	2	2nd 2:18	5 3:4 18:2
\$407,470 20:5	10:02 4:1	2 7:11 18:2 22:16	3	50,000 12:24 13:16
\$412,521 23:4 35:10	10:52 39:19	2,000 22:4	3 8:24 35:12, 22 36:6	542 29:13
\$50,000 21:25	11 3:6	20 3:10 23:24	300 2:5,14	5th 2:14
	129 29:9	2016 17:23 18:5	310 6:4	6
	12th 17:23	2017 13:25	31st 20:5	6 28:8
	13 12:23			

7	A	14,25 19:6,7 20:1 22:6,14, 19 23:2 24:9 25:23 29:3 30:3,12 32:9 33:17 36:5 38:2	12:9 17:15 advanced 21:23 22:11 23:5,9 affirm 30:16 agree 31:10 32:22 agreed 36:7 ahead 4:11 all 5:11 14:11 15:3 16:8 19:13 25:17 30:7,17 39:16 alleviate 25:11 alleviates 25:22 allocated 8:16 allow 8:22 9:12,20 19:11 35:20 allowing 19:14 37:11 along 14:14	already 15:23 also 8:4,7 16:23 30:16 33:2,7 35:16 37:23 38:1,4 alternative 8:16 10:4 alternatives 25:21 amount 8:25 9:2,6 10:6 24:17 25:20 32:14 analyst 21:5 27:18 34:11 annual 14:16 23:12 26:5 another 23:14 33:22 anticipated 14:2 anticipates 18:21 anything 36:18,22 39:12 apparent
7 18:1	a.m. 4:1 39:19			
750,000 10:6	abandoned 8:17 21:23 22:10 23:4,8, 9	additions 7:8, 19 12:13 28:15		
8				
8.75 25:24 26:9	able 5:6 22:3 37:23	address 6:3 11:24 12:20 13:14 15:24 28:25 37:15		
801 220-4014 2:11	Academy 6:21			
801 363-4046 2:19	accept 32:22	addresses 28:23 35:3		
801 366-0335 2:6	accompanied 7:12	adjourn 39:13		
801 366-0353 2:15	accounted 26:4	adjourned 39:17		
84103 2:19	act 4:7 25:5	Administratio n 16:20		
84111 2:10	active 16:24	administrativ e 26:1 29:12		
84114-0857 2:6,15	adding 9:3	adopt 21:13 28:11 34:21		
84116 6:5 16:1	addition 18:18	adopted 34:17		
84120 12:1	additional 7:18 8:21 9:11 14:15 17:6 18:12,	adopting 7:4		

38:17	21:24 22:13 25:3 26:8 29:3 30:14 35:13 36:3 37:20	Assistant 2:4, 13	back 13:7	Bela 3:11 5:1 27:4,10,17
appear 24:22 28:8		associated 30:17	backbone 13:20	believe 29:14 33:1
appearance 5:4	approved 8:3 10:4 16:8 18:1,4	Attachment 7:11	background 6:18,19 16:15	believes 19:7
appearances 4:11	approximatel y 7:14 10:2,6, 7	attorney 2:4, 13 4:19,24 5:6	barriers 38:22	benefits 14:7 19:8 25:15 37:24
appearing 4:14	architecture 6:21	attract 23:20	base 22:18	best 19:12
application 4:5 7:1,4,9,12 8:2 12:6,9 17:12,24 21:21 24:6,20 29:21 30:6,20 35:5,14 37:17	areas 9:22	authorized 4:6 35:8	based 14:8 24:19	better 18:17 19:10 31:6
applications 9:19	Arizona 16:22	available 10:15 14:19 19:16 24:8 26:11 30:22 36:8	battery 19:4 29:10 32:18, 20	between 29:23
applications 9:19	around 32:14	Avenue 2:18	became 13:24	biomass 6:13 8:22,24 9:3
appreciate 11:1,2	ascertain 33:8	awarded 24:1 38:21	before 5:9 6:15 16:10,11 24:17 29:16 32:2,21,22 39:13	Blue 18:3
appropriate 31:25	asserting 35:19	<hr/> B <hr/>	beginning 13:11	boiler 8:24 9:8
approval 7:14 8:2 18:24 21:20 22:15 23:13,16 35:16,24 38:7	assessment 9:5	Bachelor 6:20	behalf 4:14, 19 27:21 34:13 37:14	both 16:6
approve 10:2	assets 24:9	Bachelor's 16:16	being 22:7	Boulevard 11:25
	assist 9:4			Bowman 2:17 3:16 5:3,5 10:21 11:1

15:1,2 19:22, 23 26:18,19 31:3,4 36:13, 14,21,23 37:1,5,6,8,11, 13 39:10,11	33:23	cause 19:6 21:7	15 37:13,14, 18 38:1,9	28:3,7,11,17, 20 30:9 34:13,16,18, 21 35:12,23 36:2,6,23 37:12,15
Box 2:5,14	called 5:21 11:16 15:19 20:20 27:11 34:4 37:9	change 8:8 24:14,25	clearer 9:7	
brief 6:18 37:12	can't 32:13	changes 8:2 21:10 22:21 38:19	closely 6:12	commercial 8:8 12:7,10, 23 14:5 21:24 23:16 24:25 29:1 35:4,17 36:1 37:16 38:13
briefly 17:3	cancel 19:6 33:13	characterizati on 9:8	co-fire 10:5	
budget 26:4,9 30:19	cancelled 20:1	charges 25:17	co-firing 8:23 35:9,10	
build 9:16 19:12 24:8	cannot 30:9	charging 13:23 24:10 38:10,14	coal 7:1,5 8:6, 14,19 10:3 23:14 28:25 35:3,8,15	commission 4:8 6:15 7:25 10:2,16 14:20 16:11 17:20 19:17 22:13 23:11,13,16 24:24 25:3 26:8,12 29:2 30:11,16 31:9,12,23 35:13 36:3 37:20 38:5
burn 9:2 22:8	cap 38:13,17, 18	Cheryl 3:14 5:1 28:25 33:24 34:3,10	coal-fired 9:20	
business 6:3 11:24 15:24 16:19	capacity 6:8 12:2 16:2	City 2:6,10, 15,19 6:5 12:1 16:1	collected 22:7	
button 6:6	capital 29:10	claims 23:19	combined 19:1	
<hr/> C <hr/>	capture 6:12 8:18 9:12 10:5 21:22 22:16,25 23:5 35:11	clarify 35:22	commencing 28:8	commission's 4:10 18:24 21:20 22:15 26:3
calculations 14:9	carbon 6:12 8:18 9:12 10:5 21:22 22:16,22,24 23:5 35:11	clean 2:17,18 5:6 7:1,5 8:6, 14,19 9:24 10:3 23:14 28:25 35:3,8,	comment 31:25	commissionin g 18:22
call 5:9,14 11:6,9 15:8 20:15 27:4	case 20:12	clean 2:17,18 5:6 7:1,5 8:6, 14,19 9:24 10:3 23:14 28:25 35:3,8,	comments 7:1,5,9 12:6, 10 17:12,15 21:8,11,13 27:21,25	community 18:3
				companies

9:25	29:7 31:14 32:15 33:9 38:4,6	18:8	correction 7:10	6:11 8:18 9:11 10:5 21:22 22:16, 24 23:5 35:11
company 8:1, 7,9,11,15 10:1,11 14:15,16 17:23 18:6, 10,13,17,21 19:6,7,9,11 29:2 30:12,20 31:13 33:18 35:6,16 36:6 37:21 38:2,20 39:15	concerned 25:24	consultant 12:4,5	corrections 7:8,18 12:13 21:10 28:15	current 9:16 16:7 22:19 24:16 25:7,12 30:20 38:24
company's 4:16 6:25 7:4, 12 8:13,19 10:12 12:6,9, 20 13:14 14:9,15 16:6 17:5,12 18:20,24 19:1,5 20:12 29:4,21 30:1, 8 33:13 35:5, 14,24 36:4 37:17 38:11	concerns 22:2 36:2	Consumer 2:13 4:25 5:2 14:13 27:18, 22 34:11,14	cost 13:19 22:22 25:25 29:4,6,10,19 30:4,13 31:17 32:24	currently 14:3 16:23 38:23
comparing 31:14	concluded 39:19	contained 12:22 24:6 33:7	costing 23:22	customers 10:12 19:9, 11,13 25:18
completed 18:6	concludes 10:8 14:17 20:11 22:9,21 23:3 26:6 30:21 36:7 38:25	continue 19:11	costs 18:11 20:2,4 24:12 25:21 29:12, 18,24 30:10, 17 32:13,21 33:7,10 37:25 38:3,6	<hr/> D <hr/>
component 32:18	condition 18:20	contrary 35:23	counsel 4:15, 20 31:7	Daniel 2:8 4:14
components	confusing 32:19	convince 24:4	course 14:24	Daniel. solander@ pacificorp. com 2:11
	connection 21:6 27:19	copy 33:5	court 15:11	data 22:7 24:3,21 25:13 30:1,2 33:1,2
	considerably 32:19,21	correct 27:24 28:2,4,9 34:12	cross- examination 3:13 10:15,24 14:19 19:17 26:12 30:23 32:6 36:9	date 24:10 38:16
	considering 19:8 30:7 38:6	corrected 7:16	cryogenic	Davis 3:9 4:21 20:15,

16,19 21:4 26:11,21	deposition 9:10	13:19	dispute 33:12,16	33:10
DBA 25:17	describe 16:14	developers 12:22 13:15 14:3 23:21 24:8,12	division 2:4 4:20 20:14 21:5,7 22:2,6, 9,12,20 23:3, 10 24:5,24 25:24 26:6,25 36:2	driving 31:17
December 18:4 20:4	design 18:22	developing 17:1		DRS 30:8
decline 30:14	designated 4:10	development 6:11 14:8 29:8	division's 4:21 21:8 24:3	due 18:6 19:4
declined 32:21	designed 22:16	developments 13:19	divisions 16:7	duly 5:21 11:16 15:19 20:20 27:11 34:4 37:9
deducted 30:19	detail 29:22 33:8 38:3	diligence 18:7	docket 4:8,17 7:2 10:22 17:13 22:17	during 9:1 18:10
defer 31:7	detailed 29:18,23 31:14 32:11, 15 38:5,20	direct 3:4,6,8, 10,12,15 5:23 11:18 15:21 20:12,22 23:11 27:13 34:6		<hr/> E <hr/>
degree 16:16, 18	details 14:15	discovery 29:22	document 28:9	each 31:15
delays 19:5 33:14	determine 30:9	discuss 10:23 19:14	documenting 29:19	easier 24:15
delivery 18:9	develop 18:17 33:6	discussing 17:4,5	dollar 25:3,25	East 2:5,14
demonstrate 38:12	developed 9:19 35:21		dollars 7:15, 17 10:3 17:7 18:1,2,3,15, 25 26:9	effective 13:24
demonstratio n 9:17 22:5	developer 14:10		draft 17:12	efficient 25:6
denial 19:5	developer's		drivers 29:19	either 12:14 15:4
department 16:5				electric 13:21,22 24:11 38:10,

14	16:4,21 18:8	30:7 31:24	expanded 9:15	36:2
electrical 16:17,18	engineering 6:22 16:4,17, 18	everyone 4:4 13:4 39:17	expansion 8:24 9:6 24:10 38:10	extension 8:8 12:7,10,23 14:5 21:24 23:17 24:25 29:1 35:4,18 36:1 37:16 38:13
emissions 9:18,21	enlarging 25:20	evidence 24:16	expenses 26:2,3 32:17	
employed 6:8 12:2,3 16:2,3 34:9,10	ensuing 25:25	exactly 32:9	experience 6:19 14:9 16:14 37:22	<hr/> F <hr/>
employee 6:9	ensure 18:8, 12 19:10	examination 3:4,6,8,10,12, 15 5:23 11:18 15:21 20:22 27:13 31:24 34:6	experienced 18:19	facil 13:21
employer 21:3	enter 5:4	example 32:12	expertise 22:20	facilitate 9:1
employment 6:19 21:6	equals 23:24	except 34:16	explain 32:8	facilitating 13:22
enable 19:1	equipment 38:3	excess 25:16	explained 31:21	facilities 13:20
end 28:8	error 7:13	excuse 11:22 13:22 22:2 32:3	explaining 30:4	faint 13:3
energy 2:17, 18 4:7 5:6 8:4,10 9:24 17:2,7,25 19:2 22:17,25 25:16 28:1, 12,24 29:4,5, 15,25 30:14 37:13,14,18 38:1,9	essentially 32:11,15	excused 20:9,10	explanation 24:3	feeder 25:12, 18
	estimate 29:9 31:15	existing 38:17,22	explanations 28:16	feel 31:7
	estimates 29:5	expand 8:23 35:9,10	explore 9:14	Fifth 2:5
engineer 6:10,24 9:4	evaluate 22:21		expressed	filed 8:1 17:23 21:7,8
	even 14:11			

27:21 28:3 34:13	29:6	19 10:3 14:11 18:2,3,12 19:6 21:23 23:10,12,14 24:8 25:21 29:17 31:17	given 13:16	14,17 19:18, 20,22,24 20:6,10,13,16 21:1 26:14, 16,18,20,23 27:2,6,9 30:24 31:1,3, 5,19 32:2 33:21,25 36:10,13,15, 18,21,25 37:4,7 39:2,5, 7,9,12,16
filing 18:14 28:16 38:11	follows 5:22 11:17 15:20 20:21 27:12 34:5 37:10	further 24:20 26:25 31:24 33:14 39:14	goals 14:4	
final 15:8	four 6:10 9:9	future 22:24 38:4,7	gone 32:13, 19	
finally 25:2, 16 29:11	fourth 9:24		Good 4:3,13, 18 5:15,16,25 11:20 15:9,10 20:24,25 21:19	
financial 29:18 31:14 32:9 33:5	free 31:7		granted 20:2	happy 36:24
find 25:7	front 6:14	<hr/> G <hr/>		
first 5:14,21 6:16,17 8:5 9:16 11:16 15:19 16:12, 13 19:1 20:20 25:11 27:4,11 32:25 34:4 37:9,18	fuels 9:9	gain 37:21	greatly 24:1	having 5:21 11:16 15:19 20:20 27:11 34:4 37:9
five-time 23:19 24:4	fulfill 25:10	gas 9:9	grid 19:12 37:22	hear 5:1
Floor 2:5,14	full 21:3	general 2:4, 13 26:1 29:12	groups 16:25	hearing 4:5, 11 13:4 39:19
focused 31:23	fully 9:19 14:6 22:20	General's 4:19,24	<hr/> H <hr/>	help 6:25 12:5 18:17
focuses 16:25	fund 35:7	generated 25:16	H-O-A-G 6:2	helpful 30:4
following	funding 7:15 8:21 9:3,11, 22 17:6,24 18:1 19:7 20:1 21:21 22:1,14,19,24 23:2 25:5 29:3 35:7,14 37:21	generation 9:20 38:7	half 13:25	helping 17:11
	funds 8:6,15,	getting 13:2	Hammer 2:2 4:3,9,13 5:3, 8,11,15,16,19 10:17,19,21 11:3,6,11,14 12:25 13:4,7 14:21,24 15:1,3,9,10,	here 28:13 37:14
		give 6:18		high 32:12 33:7

<p>higher 14:12 21:24 23:20 25:21</p> <p>hit 6:6</p> <p>Hoag 3:3 4:17 5:14,17,20 6:2 10:10,14 11:4</p> <p>However 24:13 26:2 36:3 38:1</p> <p>Hunter 8:24</p> <hr/> <p>I</p> <hr/> <p>I-A-N 6:2</p> <p>Ian 3:3 4:17 5:14,20 6:2</p> <p>idea 20:2</p> <p>identification 28:6</p> <p>identify 18:7 27:15</p> <p>IEEE 16:23,25</p> <p>Implement 4:6</p>	<p>important 29:15</p> <p>importantly 19:9</p> <p>improved 38:14,18</p> <p>in-step 14:11</p> <p>inadequacy 24:17</p> <p>incentive 12:21 13:15, 17 14:11 21:25 23:17, 18,20,23,25 24:4,7,12,16, 18,20,22 25:1 35:17,20,25 38:17,19,21, 23</p> <p>incentive's 24:16</p> <p>incentivized 14:4</p> <p>include 9:16 29:6</p> <p>included 18:2 26:4 30:19</p> <p>includes</p>	<p>22:18</p> <p>increase 8:25 14:14 21:25 23:16,18,19 24:4,5,20,22 25:3 26:9 29:8,10,11, 13,17 30:10 31:17 33:11 35:14,17,25 37:20 38:12, 18</p> <p>increased 38:14</p> <p>increases 29:6,20 30:5, 13,15 32:23, 24 35:7</p> <p>increasing 9:2 14:2 19:4 35:20</p> <p>India 16:17</p> <p>indicate 34:8</p> <p>individual 33:10</p> <p>industries 9:23</p> <p>industry 32:20</p>	<p>industry-targeted 9:22</p> <p>information 29:19 30:3,7, 12,21 31:14, 22 32:9,11 33:17,19 37:23 38:5, 20,22</p> <p>infrastructure 24:8,11 38:10,15</p> <p>initial 18:11 24:19 29:24 30:1</p> <p>innovative 16:9 17:8 18:18 25:6</p> <p>insight 25:23</p> <p>install 17:24 19:1</p> <p>installation 13:20,22 18:12</p> <p>Institute 6:23</p> <p>intent 18:16 24:7</p> <p>interest 10:11</p>	<p>19:13 22:12 23:6 24:5 25:8 26:7 30:10</p> <p>intervenor 10:22</p> <p>into 13:12</p> <p>introduce 17:3</p> <p>investment 9:18</p> <p>involved 32:16</p> <p>issue 25:12, 22</p> <p>issues 18:19 25:18</p> <hr/> <p>J</p> <hr/> <p>January 4:1 21:8 28:4 30:8 34:14 35:12,22 36:6</p> <p>justification 24:6,14 30:13 38:12</p>
---	--	---	---	--

K	later 24:9	line 8:8 12:7, 10,23 14:5 21:24 23:16 24:25 29:1 35:4,17 36:1 37:16 38:13	18:23 26:1 29:12	measurement s 9:1,7,9
Kate 2:17 3:16 5:5 37:8, 13	lead 16:8 17:10 19:4 22:22 25:6		major 29:6	meet 37:22
Kate@ utahcleanene rgy.org 2:20	learning 18:21	linked 32:1	make 5:6 12:14 24:7 32:3	member 16:24
Kentucky 16:20	leaving 23:9	listing 32:15	manager 6:11,13	mentioned 19:25
key 18:21	less 14:1	literature 32:20	many 24:1	met 14:6
kind 31:25	level 23:17, 18,25 24:22 25:1 32:12 33:7 35:17,25	little 13:25	Massachusett s 6:23	Michael 2:2 4:9
known 8:4	levels 38:24	loading 18:20	Master's 6:22 16:18,19	might 24:1 31:6
L	licensed 6:24	longer 9:2 22:8	material 22:4	million 7:14, 16 10:2 17:6 18:1,2,15,25 25:3,25 26:9
lack 24:19,20	like 5:14 7:10 10:25 11:9 12:14 17:19 20:15 27:4 28:16,20 31:7 32:23 33:23 36:22	looking 32:10 33:9	matter 4:5,22	mind 13:10
lacking 29:22		lost 15:11	matters 5:9	minimum 12:21
Lake 2:6,10, 15,19 6:5 11:25 15:25	likely 25:13, 21,22	low 35:19	maximum 13:15	minor 7:10
large 29:17	limit 14:2,12, 14	lower 22:22	may 13:24 14:23 22:3,21 25:6,10	minutes 13:5
larger 14:3 23:20 24:15 35:20	limits 24:1	M	measurable 9:17	model 33:5
		Main 2:9		modify 21:21
		maintenance		

22:19	16:25 23:1	23:20 31:22	noticed 4:4	office 2:13 4:19,24,25 5:2 14:13 27:3,18,22 28:24 29:14, 23 30:9,11 32:22 33:2,12 34:11,14 35:13,24 36:20
moment 14:23 32:5	multiplied 23:24	necessity 33:13	November 8:1 18:14 29:21 30:5	
money 24:15	Murray 3:14 5:1 28:25 33:24,25 34:3,10 36:8, 16	need 32:11	NOX 8:16 10:4 21:23 22:11 23:5,9 35:6	
monopolize 14:10		needed 24:23		
more 14:5 19:9,12 22:7 23:22 24:16 30:4 32:11 38:5,20,22	<hr/> N <hr/>	needs 37:23	nuclear 6:22	office's 14:17 34:25
	N-A-I-R 15:13	NERC 16:25	number 7:16	officer 2:2 4:3,10 5:3,8, 11,16,19 10:17,19,21 11:3,6,11,14 12:25 13:4,7 14:21,24 15:1,3,10,14, 17 19:18,20, 22,24 20:6, 10,13,16 21:1 26:14,16,18, 20,23 27:2,6, 9 30:24 31:1, 3,5,19 32:2 33:21,25 36:10,13,15, 18,21,25 37:4,7 39:2,5, 7,9,12,16
morning 4:3, 13,18 5:15, 16,25 11:20 15:9,10 20:24,25 21:19 37:13	Nair 3:7 4:17 8:12 15:8,13, 18,24 19:16, 25 20:7,9	new 18:23 25:7	<hr/> O <hr/>	
	name 4:9,23 6:1,2 11:21, 22 15:12 21:3 27:15,17 34:8,10 37:13	next 9:13 11:7 23:12 26:2	O-M-A-G 30:17	
most 14:11	name's 21:4	None 28:18	object 14:16	
Mountain 2:8, 9 4:6,14 5:13 6:9 7:13 8:22 9:12 11:8 15:7 16:3,6 21:20 22:3,9, 13 23:1,3,11, 15,17,19 24:2,13,24 25:2,14 26:8	Narrative 3:17	nonresidential I 12:22 13:15	objection 37:1,2,3	
	national 17:1	North 6:4 15:25	objectives 9:16	
much 15:5,15	naval 6:21	note 7:11 23:11	objects 10:23	
multiple	necessary	nothing 20:7 32:4 36:20 39:14	obviously 33:19	offset 25:17
			occur 20:3	Oklahoma 16:19
			offer 28:16	

OMAG 26:2,3 29:12 30:17 32:13	31:13	participating 14:3	pilot 8:9 12:23 14:5 35:4,18 38:13	potential 22:6 25:14
one 7:10 8:25 9:7 13:18 14:10 19:24 21:21 32:5	original 29:9 31:15 32:14	participation 14:1 35:19	place 4:4 22:5	pounds 22:4
only 28:23 33:7	outcomes 18:22	particular 27:20	plan 4:7 8:4 9:13	Power 2:9 4:6,15 5:13 6:10 7:13 8:22 9:12 11:9 15:8 16:3,6 21:20 23:2,11,19 25:2,14
operate 9:21	over 13:25 16:3 26:2	parties 26:13 29:18 31:16, 24	planning 9:4	Power's 22:3, 9,13 23:3,15 24:2,13,25 26:8
operating 26:1 37:22	overall 34:18	party 8:20 10:23	platform 22:19	practices 25:19
operation 9:8,13 18:22	owner's 9:3	Patricia 2:4 4:18	plus 22:1 25:4,9,10 26:7	precise 20:6
operations 9:14 29:11	P	peek 18:20	poles 25:20	preliminary 5:9
opinion 10:10	P.O. 2:5,14	percent 23:24 29:9,11,13	policies 17:1	premise 25:4
opportunities 9:22	Pacific 16:6	performance 9:4	pollution 22:23	preparation 27:21 34:13
opportunity 5:1 31:23	Pacificorp 12:3	performed 9:23	portion 17:13 27:25	prepare 6:25 12:6 21:7
opposed 8:20	Park 11:25	personnel 25:14	positions 34:16 35:5 37:17	prepared 7:21 10:8
order 18:4 26:3	part 31:15	Phase 18:4 22:16 26:3	position 34:25	
ordering	participate 14:4 17:11 27:20	picture 9:7	possible 32:8	
	participated 34:12			

<p>12:16 17:18 28:19 34:24</p> <p>present 27:4 28:20 33:6 35:2 36:22,24</p> <p>presenting 4:16 7:24 37:1</p> <p>presiding 2:2 4:3,10 5:3,8, 11,16,19 10:17,19,21 11:3,6,11,14 12:25 13:7 14:21,24 15:1,3,10,14, 17 19:18,20, 22,24 20:6, 10,13,16 21:1 26:14,16,18, 20,23 27:2,6, 9 30:24 31:1, 3,5,19 32:2 33:21,25 36:10,13,15, 18,21,25 37:4,7 39:2,5, 7,9,12,16</p> <p>prevent 38:23</p> <p>previously 8:3,15,16 10:3 35:7</p> <p>primarily</p>	<p>27:24 28:7</p> <p>primary 13:20</p> <p>probably 10:24</p> <p>problem 13:1</p> <p>procedural 31:25</p> <p>proceed 7:24 12:19 17:22 21:18 28:22</p> <p>proceeding 17:16 21:19 27:20 34:22</p> <p>process 18:7, 10 29:22 31:9,12 33:15</p> <p>processed 8:23 9:2</p> <p>procure 18:8</p> <p>produce 22:3</p> <p>professional 6:19,24 16:14,21</p> <p>program 8:9</p>	<p>12:7,23 14:1, 5,7 16:9 17:9, 11 23:14 24:7 25:5 28:1,12 33:14 35:5, 18,20 36:1 37:16 38:13, 19</p> <p>programs 4:6 38:8</p> <p>progressive 19:12</p> <p>project 6:11, 12,13 8:6,11, 16,18,22,24 9:4,12,17 10:4 12:11 14:10 17:8,25 18:9,13,15, 16,21 19:2,7, 10,25 21:23 22:1,11,14, 18,21,25 23:3,5,6,9 24:13 25:4,9, 10,17,25 26:7 28:24 29:4,5, 8,15,16,25 30:14,18 31:15 35:7, 10,11 37:19, 24 38:3,6,16</p> <p>project's 30:19</p> <p>projects 7:15</p>	<p>8:2,14 9:15 10:6,10 16:8 21:22 22:16 23:7,21,22 24:1 25:6 29:1 35:8,15, 21 38:21</p> <p>promising 9:18</p> <p>promote 13:21</p> <p>promotion 9:24</p> <p>proposal 12:21 13:14 14:17 25:22</p> <p>proposed 14:12 22:8 23:23,25 24:14,22</p> <p>proposes 14:13</p> <p>provide 9:7 14:15 18:7 21:16 23:2 24:10 25:5,13 30:12 31:13 37:12,23 38:2</p> <p>provided 29:18 30:2,5,</p>	<p>7 32:12 33:18 37:12 38:11</p> <p>provides 38:20</p> <p>providing 8:7 25:23</p> <p>prudent 10:11</p> <p>prudently 31:18</p> <p>pschmid@ agutah.gov 2:7</p> <p>public 2:4 4:20 6:15 16:10 21:5 22:12 23:6 24:5 25:8 26:7 30:10 31:24</p> <p>published 18:4</p> <p>Pune 16:17</p> <p>purpose 12:24 13:17</p> <p>purposes 25:11</p>
---	--	--	--	--

Q	18	recess 13:5,6	reduces 24:12	remain 14:7
qualify 23:23	raise 12:21 13:14	recommend 30:16 35:24 38:4,19	reduction 22:22	remaining 21:22 23:8
quality 19:10	ratepayer 29:17	recommendat ion 36:4	referenced 32:25	remains 18:17 26:7
quarter 22:5	reached 38:16	recommenda tions 31:8	regarding 7:1 12:7,10 18:22 30:13 33:13	remember 32:13
question 25:19 31:6	real 24:6	recommende d 7:15	regardless 14:8	remind 13:8
questions 10:15,18,20, 25 11:2 14:19,22,25 15:2 19:17, 19,21,23 26:12,13,15, 17,19 30:25 31:2,4 36:12, 14 39:3,4,6,8	realized 18:10	recommends 22:12 23:10 24:24 26:8 30:11 35:13 37:19 38:1	registered 16:21	renewable 16:24 17:1
quickly 33:18	reallocate 8:19 22:10 23:4 35:6	reconciliation 29:23	regulation 12:22 13:16, 18,24 23:23 25:1	reply 7:1 12:6 17:12,15 30:8
quintupling 24:17	reallocated 23:8	record 5:4 6:1 7:11 11:21 13:8 15:12,23 21:3 27:16 28:6	reporter 12:22 13:16, 18,24 23:23 25:1	report 14:16 32:10
R	reallocation 8:5	reconciliat ion 29:23	reporter 13:2 15:11	reporting 36:5
R-O-B-E-R-T 11:23	reason 18:13 33:16	redeployed 8:17	reiterate 36:4	reports 23:13 26:5 38:4
R-O-H-I-T 15:13	reasonable 19:8	reduce 13:18	reject 24:24	represent 27:16
radial 25:12,	receive 33:2	reduced 9:18, 21	relate 28:1	representatio n 35:23
	received 6:20 16:16 33:5		relates 8:5 28:11	
			relative 37:24	

representations 34:19	30:17	restarting 13:11	S	scope 9:15 35:10
representing 4:24 5:5	requirements 36:5	result 9:17 22:7 24:10 38:13,18	S-T-E-W-A-R-T 11:23	second 9:18 11:9 22:5 23:15 25:13 33:2,4 38:9
request 8:5, 14,19 17:6 18:1,3,25 19:5,8 20:1 22:10,13 23:4,15 24:21,25 26:9 30:2 33:1,3 35:25 36:4	requires 26:3 31:12	revised 22:17 29:4,24	Salt 2:6,10, 15,19 6:4 11:25 15:25	secretary 16:23
requested 8:8 29:17,23 35:6,16 37:20	requiring 22:18	Rob 4:17 8:10 11:9 13:10	same 14:7 25:20 32:18	secured 22:25
requesting 8:2,15 13:20 17:24 18:14 29:2	research 9:23 25:5 29:16	Robert 3:5,9 4:21 11:15,22 20:15,19 21:4	sampling 9:10	seeking 17:6 18:25
requests 7:14 10:1 21:20 23:17 24:3 25:2	resolved 25:19	Rocky 2:8,9 4:5,14 5:13 6:9 7:13 8:22 9:12 11:8 15:7 16:3,6 21:19 22:3,9, 13 23:1,3,11, 15,17,19 24:2,13,24 25:2,14 26:8	say 7:16	seeks 23:13
require 18:12 24:9 30:12,20 38:5	resource 6:10	Rohit 3:7 4:17 8:12 15:8,13, 18	scalability 9:14	seems 24:14
required 36:6 38:2	resources 9:21	role 16:7 17:10	scale 9:13,20 19:2	sees 22:6
requirement	respectfully 10:1	run 9:1	Schmid 2:4 3:10 4:18 10:17,18 14:21,22 19:18 20:13, 14,23 21:2 26:11,23,25 31:1,2 36:11, 12 37:2 39:5, 6,18	senior 6:10 16:4
	respectively 10:7	rural 25:12	science 6:20, 22 16:16,18	sensors 8:25 9:6 22:7
	responses 24:2,21 30:1, 2			September 17:23
	responsible 27:25 28:7 34:18			service 6:15 16:11 19:10
	rest 34:18			services 2:13

4:25 5:2 14:13 18:8 27:18,22 34:11,14	Snarr 2:13 3:12,15 4:23 10:19,20 14:23,25 19:20,21 26:16,17 27:2,3,14 28:23 30:22 31:21 33:22, 23 34:7 36:8, 18,20 37:3 39:7,8	Solutions 22:17 23:1	25:19	Stewart 3:5 4:17 8:10 11:9,11,15,22 13:8 14:18 15:4
seven 16:4		sorry 12:25 13:2,4,8	standards 16:5 17:1	
several 25:11		sources 23:1	state 5:25 6:24 11:20 16:19,21 17:25 19:3 21:2 27:15 34:8	Stewart's 35:23
share 17:19 36:1		South 2:5,9, 14		still 18:16 30:9
short 13:5,6	Solander 2:8 3:4,6,8,13 4:13,14 5:10, 12,13,24 10:14 11:7,8, 19 13:10 14:18 15:6,7, 22 19:16,19 20:8,11 26:14,15 30:25 32:3,5, 7 33:20 36:10 39:3,4,14	species 9:9	stated 13:17 28:23 35:12	storage 8:10 17:7,25 19:2 22:1 25:4,9, 15 26:7 28:1, 12,24 29:4,5, 15,25 30:14, 18 37:15,19, 22 38:7
should 7:16 29:18 31:9		specific 31:8	statement 10:8	
sick 13:2		specifically 35:8	statements 33:13	
significantly 21:24 30:4		specified 36:5	states 6:21 7:13	Street 2:9
simply 31:13		spell 6:1 11:21 15:12	stations 13:23	subcommitte e 16:24
since 6:17 13:25 15:11, 23 16:13 18:6 22:15 28:16 33:18	solar 8:10 17:7,24 19:2 22:1 25:4,9, 10 26:6 28:1, 24 29:3,5,14, 24 30:13,18 32:20 37:15, 19,22	spend 24:15	step 7:15 8:4, 14,15 14:16 16:9 17:8,24 18:2 22:19 23:12 25:4 26:4,5 30:18 31:25 38:4	submitted 18:13
sir 15:10		spent 20:4 31:18		subsequent 23:12
site 24:13	sole 24:13	ssnarr@utah. gov 2:16		such 25:9 32:10
size 14:8	solution 22:22	stakeholders 37:24	Steven 2:13 4:23	sufficient 38:11
Sky 18:3		standard		

Suite 2:10 6:4 15:25	16:5	13:6	6:16,17 16:12,13	38:25
Sullivan 16:20	supports 38:9	tariff 12:3,5	testimony 3:17 7:6,22 8:7,13 12:11, 17,20 13:9,14 17:16,19 19:14 21:13 28:13 32:25 34:21,24	timely 18:8
summarized 32:1	Sustainable 4:7 8:3 22:17, 25	tasks 22:18	tests 8:23	times 19:4 22:8
summarizes 8:13	swear 5:17 11:12 15:15 20:17 27:7 34:1 37:4	technical 16:5,7 17:10	than 14:2 30:5	title 21:3
summary 7:21 12:16 13:11,13 14:17 17:18 21:16 28:19, 23 30:21 34:24 35:3 36:7,23 37:12 39:1	sworn 5:22 11:17 15:20 20:21 27:12 34:5 37:10	technologies 9:19 16:9 17:8 18:18 25:7,15 35:4	thereby 18:11	today 4:25 5:7 8:13 12:11 15:15 17:4,5 19:14 21:14 28:13, 20 36:22
sunk 20:2	synergy 30:18	technology 6:23 7:2,5 8:11 9:24 10:3 16:24 17:7,25 18:23 28:25 35:8, 11,15 37:15, 19	Therefore 22:12 24:23 26:6 30:11	topic 17:3
supplemental 30:2 32:10 33:1,2	system 18:20 25:7 38:3	Temple 6:4 15:25	third 9:21 33:4	total 23:7
support 7:5 8:7 16:5,8 17:10 24:19, 21 29:16 37:18	systems 17:2 19:5	Ten 13:5	three 4:16 9:3,9 21:25 22:18	training 25:13
supported 8:9,11	table 4:15,20	test 9:1,2 35:9	through 23:1 24:21 29:22	transfer 7:14
supporting	take 4:11 13:5 22:5	testified 5:22 6:14 11:17 15:20 16:10 20:21 27:12 34:5 37:10	time 4:4 6:16, 17 14:1,25 16:12,13 19:13 24:23 25:1 30:15	transferred 10:4
	Taken 9:1	testifying		Transportation 8:4
				Transportation 4:7
				truth 5:17,22 11:12,17 15:15,20

20:17,21 27:7,12 34:1, 5 37:5,10	undertake 31:9	Utah 2:10,17, 18 4:19 5:6 6:5,24 9:23 12:1 16:1,9 17:8 18:1 19:3 25:12,17 37:12,14,18 38:1,9	38:10,14	will 4:16,21, 25 8:6 9:12, 15,17,20 14:5 15:8,11 17:5 18:25 19:6,10 22:25 23:2 24:15 25:17 28:25 31:17 35:20 38:13
two 9:1,8 13:21 21:23 23:7 27:3	unit 8:24 9:14		vehicles 13:21 24:11	
twofold 13:18	United 6:21	Utah's 9:24	vendor 18:7 22:3	
type 8:25	University 16:17,19,20		versed 31:11	wires 25:20
typographical 7:13	unless 10:23 23:13	Utilities 2:4 4:20 21:5	voltage 25:11,18	within 13:19
<hr/> U <hr/>	unlikely 14:10	utility 9:20 19:2 21:4 25:5 27:17 34:11	<hr/> W <hr/>	witness 3:2 4:21 5:9,14, 15,18,21 8:9, 12 11:5,7,10, 13,16 15:8,9, 13,16,19 20:4,15,18,20 26:22 27:5,8, 11 28:24 31:11 33:22, 24 34:2,4 36:17 37:9
UCE 10:22	until 20:4 38:20	utilization 38:23	want 5:4 35:22	
unallocated 23:10,12	update 30:20	<hr/> V <hr/>	warranted 24:17,23	
under 8:3,14 16:8 17:8 18:4,20 23:23	upper 14:2,14	valuable 25:13 37:21	Waste 8:17, 21,23 10:5 21:21 22:4, 11,14 35:9	witnesses 4:16 26:24 27:1,3
underestimat ed 18:11	usage 38:18	value 22:6 33:6	West 6:4 11:25 15:25	wonder 31:6
understand 10:22 31:16 32:16,23	use 13:21 23:13 29:16	Vastag 3:11 5:1 27:5,6,10, 17 30:22 31:5,20,21 32:1 33:22 34:17	while 25:22 38:9	Woody 8:17, 21,23 10:5 21:21 22:4, 11,14 35:9
understandin g 18:18	uses 25:6	vehicle 13:23	whom 6:8 12:2 16:2 34:9	work 6:12
	using 25:20			
	UT 2:6,15,19			

working

16:25

Y

year 13:25

28:4 32:14

34:14

years 6:10

16:4 26:2