

In the Matter Of:

In Re: RMP - STEP Act

HEARING, DOCKET NO. 16-035-36

June 17, 2019

Job Number: 537232

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

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

June 17, 2019

10:00 a.m.

Location: Heber M. Wells Building
160 East 300 South, Room 403
Salt Lake City, Utah

Reporter: Melinda J. Andersen
Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public
Job No. 537232

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

2 HEARING OFFICER: Good morning, everyone. This
3 is the time and place noticed for the hearing in the Matter
4 of the Application of Rocky Mountain Power to Implement
5 Programs Authorized by the Sustainable Transportation and
6 Energy Plan Act. It's Commission Docket No. 16-035-36.

7 My name is Michael Hammer. I am the
8 Commission's designated presiding officer. Let's go ahead
9 and take appearances beginning with the Applicant please.

10 MR. SOLANDER: Good morning. I'm Daniel
11 Solander here on behalf of Rocky Mountain Power.

12 MS. SCHMID: Patricia E. Schmid with the Utah
13 Attorney General's Office on behalf of the Division of
14 Public Utilities. And with me is Robert Davis as the
15 Division's witness.

16 MR. MOORE: Robert Moore of the Attorney
17 General's Office representing the Office of Consumer
18 Services. With me is Alex Ware of the Office.

19 MS. HAYES: Good morning. Sophie Hayes on
20 behalf of Western Resource Advocates. And with me
21 telephonically is our witness Ken Wilson. And thank you to
22 the Commission for allowing him to appear by phone today.

23 MR. HOLMAN: Good morning, I'm Hunter Holman --
24 (Off the record.)

25 HEARING OFFICER: Let's go back on the record

1 please. I believe we were with Mr. Holman making his
2 appearance. Go ahead.

3 MR. HOLMAN: Again, my name is Hunter Holman.
4 I'm with Utah Clean Energy. With me today is Kate Bowman,
5 also with Utah Clean Energy.

6 HEARING OFFICER: And there being no other
7 parties in the room, is there anything before we ask the
8 Applicant to call its first witness? Would the parties
9 prefer the witnesses take the stand today or testify from
10 their place next to counsel? Is there a preference?

11 MR. SOLANDER: Mine aren't next to me.

12 HEARING OFFICER: Are they here?

13 MR. SOLANDER: Yes, they're right behind me.

14 HEARING OFFICER: Well, they can either come
15 sit next to you or come up to the stand. I don't know
16 whether to anticipate that there will be a lot of cross
17 examination. Do the parties have a preference? I'm fine
18 with the parties staying seated next to counsel.

19 MS. SCHMID: I would be fine with the parties
20 sitting next to counsel as well.

21 MS. HAYES: No objection.

22 HEARING OFFICER: Then we'll proceed that way.
23 Mr. Solander?

24 MR. SOLANDER: Yes. Thank you. Rocky Mountain
25 Power will be presenting three witnesses today: James

1 Campbell in support of the Intermodal Hub Project; William
2 Comeau in support of the Battery Demand Response Project;
3 and Rohit Nair in support of the ARMS project. And
4 Mr. Campbell will be our first witness.

5 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Campbell, do you swear to
6 tell the truth?

7 THE WITNESS: I do.

8 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

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

12 DIRECT EXAMINATION

13 BY MR. SOLANDER:

14 Q. Would you please state and spell your name for
15 the record?

16 A. Yes. My name is James Campbell, J-A-M-E-S,
17 C-A-M-P-B-E-L-L.

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

19 A. I'm employed at Rocky Mountain Power where I am
20 the policy and project adviser.

21 Q. As a policy adviser did you prepare testimony
22 in this docket for the Intermodal Hub Project?

23 A. Yes, I did.

24 Q. Do you have any additions or corrections that
25 you would like to make to the testimony at this time?

1 A. No, I don't.

2 MR. SOLANDER: I would ask that at this time
3 Mr. Campbell's testimony be moved into the record.

4 HEARING OFFICER: It's admitted.

5 Q. (By Mr. Solander) And, Mr. Campbell, have you
6 prepared a summary of your testimony that you would like to
7 share with the Commission today?

8 A. Yes, I have. The Company requests
9 authorization to spend approximately \$2 million on the
10 Intermodal Hub Project to develop a power balance and
11 control system for multi modal vehicle charging at sites
12 with high peak power demand.

13 The primary goals are to reduce peak loads and
14 increase utilization of electrical equipment, which should
15 minimize both infrastructure upgrades and operating costs.

16 This project is the unique collaboration of the
17 Company, Utah State University's Sustainable Electrified
18 Transportation Center, or SELECT, and the Utah Transit
19 Authority, which will demonstrate the ability to manage the
20 challenges of meeting and coordinating expanding high
21 wattage electric transportation power demands.

22 The proposed system will be developed and
23 evaluated at the Utah State University's Electric Vehicle
24 Roadway Research Facility and Test Track, and will be
25 deployed and validated at the UTA Salt Lake City Intermodal

1 Hub located on 200 South and 600 West in Salt Lake City.

2 The UTA site will serve as a living laboratory
3 for data collection and a model showcase of sustainable
4 electrified transportation technology. The lessons learned
5 should reduce the cost for both customers and the system as
6 EV adoption becomes more widespread.

7 Thus, the project's objectives are to develop
8 best practices for new technology function and deployment
9 and to evaluate the merit of the technology's application.

10 **Q. Would you also today like to respond to the**
11 **comments filed by the parties regarding the Intermodal Hub**
12 **Project?**

13 A. Yes, I would. So in summary, the Division of
14 Public Utilities recommended approval with a recommendation
15 for quarterly updates. The Office recommended approval
16 with conditions that RMP report on risk communication
17 issues not resolved on the appropriate timeframe and
18 perform a cost benefit analysis at the end of the pilot
19 project.

20 WRA recommended approval with annual reporting
21 requirements, including information about how the planning
22 and operating tools will be used to demonstrate the cost
23 effectiveness of replicating the project at other sites,
24 information about plans for applying project results to
25 other sites including cost effectiveness evaluations,

1 information on whether and how the project is informing
2 plans for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and
3 distribution planning, and then reports about the hardware,
4 software, and power control technologies the Company is
5 employing to control and schedule vehicle charging, and
6 documentation of the benefits gained from this project.

7 Lastly, Utah Clean Energy recommended approval
8 with the condition that RMP host stakeholder workshops
9 following the conclusion of each of the four tasks
10 identified in the Company's application.

11 The Company agrees with the recommendations
12 from the Division. The Company also agrees with the
13 recommendation from the Office.

14 In terms of WRA, the Company believes that the
15 annual STEP report that the Company files will provide much
16 of the information requested by WRA, but we do suggest as
17 an alternative that the annual report will include progress
18 on achieving the project's four goals outlined in the
19 original application that was included in supporting
20 testimony by myself.

21 The Company also commits to providing at the
22 conclusion of the project the final report, including the
23 detailed cost benefit analyst together with an assessment
24 of the potential for future deployment of the technology at
25 other sites.

1 And then lastly, in terms of Utah Clean
2 Energy's recommendation, the Company does believe that the
3 stakeholder workshops in essence would be covered through
4 the quarterly updates and would agree to make those open to
5 stakeholders to participate with the quarterly updates.

6 And then in terms of the specific -- following
7 the conclusion of each of the four tasks, the Company did
8 not agree to the timing with those completion of specific
9 tasks.

10 **Q. Mr. Campbell, in your opinion is the Intermodal**
11 **Hub Project consistent with the goals of the STEP**
12 **legislation and in the interest of the Company's customers?**

13 A. I do. The Company does believe this project is
14 in the interest of the Company's customers. And we
15 respectfully request that the Commission approve
16 approximately \$2 million of STEP funding for the Intermodal
17 Hub Project.

18 **Q. Does that conclude your testimony?**

19 A. Yes, it does.

20 **Q. Thank you.**

21 MR. SOLANDER: Mr. Campbell is available for
22 cross examination.

23 HEARING OFFICER: Ms. Schmid?

24 MS. SCHMID: No questions.

25 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Moore?

1 MR. MOORE: No questions. Thank you.

2 HEARING OFFICER: Ms. Hayes?

3 MS. HAYES: I have no questions. Thank you.

4 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Holman?

5 MR. HOLMAN: No questions. Thank you.

6 HEARING OFFICER: All right. And I have none.

7 Mr. Solander, please call your next witness.

8 MR. SOLANDER: All right. I would ask that
9 Mr. Campbell be excused.

10 HEARING OFFICER: He is.

11 MR. SOLANDER: William Comeau will be the
12 Company's next witness.

13 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Comeau, do you swear to
14 tell the truth?

15 THE WITNESS: I do.

16 WILLIAM COMEAU,
17 was called as a witness, and having been first duly
18 sworn to tell the truth, testified as follows:

19 DIRECT EXAMINATION

20 BY MR. SOLANDER:

21 Q. Would you please state and spell your name for
22 the record?

23 A. Absolutely. Good morning, everyone. William
24 Comeau, W-I-L-L-I-A-M, C-O-M-E-A-U.

25 Q. And by whom are you employed and in what

1 capacity?

2 A. Rocky Mountain Power. I am the director of
3 customer innovations.

4 Q. As director of customer innovations did you
5 file testimony in this docket in support of the Battery
6 Demand Response Project?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Do you have any corrections or additions to
9 that testimony that you would like to make today?

10 A. No.

11 MR. SOLANDER: At this time I would move that
12 Mr. Comeau's testimony be entered into the record.

13 HEARING OFFICER: It's admitted.

14 Q. (By Mr. Solander) Thank you. Have you
15 prepared a summary of that testimony that you would like to
16 share with the Commission today?

17 A. I have.

18 Q. Please proceed.

19 A. On March 8, 2019 the Company filed an
20 application seeking authorization from the Commission to
21 implement three projects, one of which was for a Battery
22 Demand Response Project.

23 The proposed Battery Demand Response Project is
24 a collaboration between the Company and Wasatch Development
25 for the installation of batteries at a 600 unit

1 multi-family complex in Herriman.

2 The batteries would be charged by solar and the
3 Company would have control of the batteries to deploy them
4 for demand response and other system needs.

5 In addition to demand response, the project
6 would also allow the Company to inform the value of having
7 behind-the-meter grid optimized solar and battery storage
8 connected to the Company's distribution system.

9 The Company is requesting authorization to
10 spend approximately \$3.27 million of STEP funds as an
11 innovating technology. By partnering with Wasatch for this
12 project the Company will be able to test the feasibility
13 and economic benefit of battery demand response and study
14 behind-the-meter battery behavior for a fraction of what it
15 would normally cost.

16 In comments parties were supportive of this
17 project with the following recommendations, which the
18 Company agrees to as recommend: Quarterly updates on the
19 project; proof of Herriman City's approval; assurance that
20 the Company and its customers are protected from any
21 resulting legal actions from the batteries; assurance that
22 the Company will not use the data gathered from the project
23 in insolation to develop rate design.

24 The following additional recommendations were
25 made by parties which the Company addressed in its reply

1 comments. Report annually on the aggregate total of
2 ongoing OAG for all STEP projects through remaining lives
3 of the project. The Company proposes this topic be
4 discussed at the STEP exit strategy meeting later this
5 year.

6 WRA's request that the Company provide twice
7 yearly updates. In response to WRA, the Company proposes
8 to provide performance updates midyear annually as part of
9 the quarterly updates followed by a more comprehensive
10 report to be submitted with this STEP annual report.

11 The Company believes this project is consistent
12 with the STEP act and in the interest of Rocky Mountain
13 Power customers and respectfully requests that the
14 Commission approve this project as proposed.

15 **Q. Does that conclude your testimony today?**

16 **A.** It does.

17 **Q. Thank you.**

18 MR. SOLANDER: Mr. Comeau is available for
19 cross examination.

20 HEARING OFFICER: Ms. Schmid?

21 MS. SCHMID: No questions.

22 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Moore?

23 MR. MOORE: No questions. Thank you.

24 HEARING OFFICER: Ms. Hayes?

25 MS. HAYES: No questions. Thank you.

1 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Holman?

2 MR. HOLMAN: No questions. Thank you.

3 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. And I have none.

4 Mr. Comeau, you are excused. And your final witness,
5 Mr. Solander?

6 MR. SOLANDER: Yes. It will be Rohit Nair in
7 support of the ARMS Project.

8 THE WITNESS: Good morning, everyone.

9 THE COURT: Mr. Nair, do you swear to tell the
10 truth, sir?

11 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

12 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

13 ROHIT NAIR,
14 was called as a witness, and having been first duly
15 sworn to tell the truth, testified as follows:

16 DIRECT EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. SOLANDER:

18 Q. Would you please state and spell your name for
19 the record?

20 A. My name is Rohit P. Nair, R-O-H-I-T, P,
21 N-A-I-R.

22 Q. And by whom are you employed and in what
23 capacity?

24 A. I'm employed by Rocky Mountain Power for over
25 seven years as Grid Solutions Manager in the Transmission &

1 Distribution Operations Group, supporting both of the
2 Company's Rocky Mountain Power and Pacific Power Divisions.
3 In my role I'm the technical support lead for all projects
4 approved under the STEP Utah Innovative Technologies
5 Program.

6 **Q. Mr. Nair, have you ever testified in front of**
7 **the Public Service Commission before?**

8 A. Yes. This is my second testimony supporting
9 projects supported under the STEP Utah Innovative
10 Technologies Program.

11 **Q. Would you please briefly introduce the topic**
12 **you are going to be testifying about today?**

13 A. I will be discussing the Company's request
14 seeking funding of \$16.52 million for the Advanced
15 Resiliency Management System, also known as the ARMS
16 Project, under the STEP Utah Innovative Technologies
17 Program.

18 **Q. Did you file testimony in support of that**
19 **program?**

20 A. Yes.

21 **Q. Do you have any additions or corrections you**
22 **would like to make to that testimony?**

23 A. No.

24 MR. SOLANDER: I move that Mr. Nair's testimony
25 be admitted into the record.

1 HEARING OFFICER: It's admitted.

2 Q. (By Mr. Solander) And have you prepared a
3 summary of your testimony that you would like to share with
4 the Commission?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Please proceed.

7 A. On March 8, 2019 the Company file an
8 application requesting STEP funding to develop and deploy
9 an Advanced Resiliency Management System that includes, but
10 is not limited to, the ability to receive outage
11 notifications from existing ERT electric meters, installing
12 line sensors and communicating fault circuit indicators on
13 distribution circuits connecting critical customers to
14 enable realtime information in exchange with the Company's
15 control center.

16 Based on a detailed analysis, the Company will
17 identify optimal locations for installing the ERT Gateway
18 systems that will enable the Company to collect information
19 from all existing residential AMR meter installations.

20 The Company will also evaluate available
21 information on outage data, number of critical customers on
22 the circuit, distribution circuit conflict configurations
23 as in radial or looped, type of distribution equipment
24 installed, and other similar information to determine the
25 distribution circuits requiring installation of advanced

1 line sensors and other hardware to improve outage
2 management.

3 The Company consistently implements reliability
4 and power quality enhancements on its transmission and
5 distribution systems to improve safety, reliability and
6 customer service. The ARMS project enables the Company to
7 explore, develop, and enhance new outage management
8 capabilities to restore power faster to critical customers
9 such as hospitals, trauma centers, police and fire dispatch
10 centers, as well as all other customers in the State of
11 Utah.

12 Deploying innovative technologies to improve
13 system reliability will further provide the Company an
14 understanding of the opportunities and challenges of
15 utilizing emerging technology on the distribution system.

16 In addition to improving reliability and
17 enhancing outage management capabilities, customers will be
18 able to access automated, timely, and accurate bills,
19 regardless of weather conditions or property access
20 limitations, which traditionally hamper collection of meter
21 information. This project will further provide customers
22 the ability to access interval usage data.

23 This project also creates a significant
24 opportunity for the Company to enable technologies that can
25 be leveraged for future grid modernization applications,

1 including distribution automation, outage management, data
2 analytics, and demand-response programs.

3 The Division, the Office, and WRA recommended
4 approval of the Company's proposal with some reporting
5 conditions that are addressed in the Company's reply
6 comments. Utah Clean Energy supports the project, but
7 recommends it be funded through base rate instead of STEP.
8 For reasons that are provided in the replied comments the
9 Company believes that the ARMS Project is more
10 appropriately funded through STEP than base rates.

11 The Company respectfully requests the
12 Commission to approve the Company's request to utilize STEP
13 funding in the amount of \$16.52 million to implement the
14 Advanced Resiliency Management System Project that will
15 ensure better service quality to our customers and allow
16 the company to continue to build a more progressive grid
17 which is in the best interest of all our customers.

18 Thank you for your time allowing me to discuss
19 my testimony today.

20 **Q. Does that conclude your testimony?**

21 **A.** Yes, it does.

22 MR. SOLANDER: Mr. Nair is available for cross
23 examination.

24 HEARING OFFICER: Ms. Schmid?

25 MS. SCHMID: No questions. Thank you.

1 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Moore?

2 MR. MOORE: No cross. Thank you.

3 HEARING OFFICER: Ms. Hayes?

4 MS. HAYES: I have no questions. Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Holman?

6 MR. HOLMAN: No questions. Thank you.

7 HEARING OFFICER: All right. Thank you. You
8 are excused, Mr. Nair. Mr. Solander, no other witnesses?

9 MR. SOLANDER: That concludes the Company's
10 presentation. Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER: Great. Ms. Schmid?

12 MS. SCHMID: Thank you. The Division would
13 like to call Mr. Robert Davis as its witness. May he
14 please be sworn?

15 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Davis, do you swear to
16 tell the truth?

17 THE WITNESS: I do.

18 ROBERT DAVIS,
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 MS. SCHMID:

23 **Q. Please state your full name, title, employer,**
24 **and business address for the record.**

25 A. Robert A. Davis. I work for the Division of

1 Public Utilities where I am a Utility Technical Consultant.

2 Q. And the address? 160 East 300 South, perhaps,
3 Salt Lake City?

4 A. Yes. Thank you.

5 Q. Have you participated in this docket in
6 conjunction with your employment at the Division?

7 A. Yes, I have.

8 Q. Did you prepare or cause to be prepared and
9 filed the Division's memorandum dated May 14, 2019?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to that
12 memorandum?

13 A. I don't.

14 Q. Do you adopt these comments as your testimony
15 today?

16 A. I do.

17 MS. SCHMID: The Division would like to move
18 for the admission of its comments dated May 14, 2019.

19 HEARING OFFICER: They are admitted.

20 MS. SCHMID: Thank you.

21 Q. (By Ms. Schmid) Mr. Davis, have you prepared a
22 summary today?

23 A. Yes, I have.

24 Q. Please proceed.

25 A. In Phase Five of the STEP proceeding, Rocky

1 Mountain Power requests the Commission's approval of its
2 application to implement the Intermodal Hub Project, the
3 Battery Demand Response Project, and the Advanced
4 Resiliency Management System Project.

5 The Intermodal Hub Project is a significant
6 research and design project in collaboration with Utah
7 State University and the Utah Transit Authority to develop
8 and deploy algorithms along with hardware to utilize
9 existing Utah Transit Authority infrastructure more
10 efficiently. The project provides charging infrastructure
11 for various types of electric vehicles at Utah Transit
12 Authority's Salt Lake Central Station. Rocky Mountain
13 Power is requesting approximately \$2 million of STEP funds
14 for this project.

15 The Battery Demand Response Project provides an
16 opportunity to study how a complex, behind-the-meter
17 multi-family community, solar and storage system, might
18 interact with the distribution grid under different
19 scenarios. Rocky Mountain Power is requesting
20 approximately \$3.2 million of STEP funds for this project.

21 The Advanced Resiliency Management System
22 Project has two parts: (1) a proposal to modify current
23 Automated Meter Reading meters to provide data similar to
24 Advanced Metering Infrastructure meters through software
25 upgrades; and (2) deploy a communication mesh network and

1 line sensors. The proposed cost to develop and deploy the
2 Automated Meter Reading system is approximately \$11.3
3 million. The cost to develop and deploy the communication
4 based fault circuit indicator and encoder receiver
5 transmitter gateway network is approximately \$5.2 million.
6 The proposed combined budget for the Advanced Resiliency
7 Management System Project is approximately \$16.5 million.

8 While the Division recognizes that Rocky
9 Mountain Power has an obligation to serve its customers,
10 which includes researching innovative ways to serve its
11 customers as demands and technologies change, certain
12 aspects of the proposed projects, if presented as
13 stand-alone projects outside of the STEP programs, may not
14 be in the public interest. Specifically, the use of
15 ratepayer funds to the primary benefit of a single customer
16 or entity without the offsetting knowledge and experience
17 that will enhance Rocky Mountain Power's ability to meet
18 changing customer demands and benefit all ratepayers in the
19 future, would likely not be in the public interest.
20 Weighing the potential benefits for all customers as an
21 outcome of Rocky Mountain Power's proposed projects versus
22 the benefits to the single customer or entity, the Division
23 concludes that the proposals marginally meet the public
24 interest standard.

25 The Division recommends the Commission direct

1 RMP to meet with interested parties quarterly throughout
2 the remainder of the STEP program to update those
3 interested on the progress of the projects. The Division
4 also recommends the Commission direct Rocky Mountain Power
5 to meet with the Division and other interested parties
6 during the fourth quarter of this year to discuss the exit
7 strategy for the STEP program.

8 The Division concludes the projects are useful
9 to inform Rocky Mountain Power personnel and other
10 stakeholders with valuable information that will help
11 manage system impacts as a result of electric vehicle
12 charging infrastructure, self-sustained multi-family
13 communities, and address reliability issues from
14 distributed generation and outages.

15 The Division recommends the Commission approve
16 Rocky Mountain Power's request to implement the Intermodal
17 Hub, Battery Demand Response, and Advanced Resiliency
18 Management System projects for roughly \$21.7 million of
19 Step funds. Thank you.

20 MS. SCHMID: Mr. Davis is now available for
21 cross examination and questions from the Hearing Officer.

22 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Solander?

23 MR. SOLANDER: No questions. Thank you.

24 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Moore?

25 MR. MOORE: No questions. Thank you.

1 HEARING OFFICER: Ms. Hayes?

2 MS. HAYES: I'll add I have no questions.

3 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Holman?

4 MR. HOLMAN: I also have no questions. Thank
5 you.

6 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Ms. Schmid, any
7 other witnesses?

8 MS. SCHMID: No. That concludes the Division's
9 presentation.

10 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Mr. Moore?

11 MR. MOORE: The Office calls Alex Ware and asks
12 that he be sworn.

13 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Ware, do you swear to
14 tell the truth?

15 THE WITNESS: I do.

16 ALEX WARE,

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

19 DIRECT EXAMINATION

20 BY MR. MOORE:

21 **Q. Would you please state your name and where you**
22 **are employed?**

23 A. My name is Alex Ware. I am employed as a
24 Utility Analyst with the Office of Consumer Services.

25 **Q. In your capacity as a Utility Analyst, have you**

1 worked on the issues presented in Docket 16-035-36?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did you participate in the drafting and filing
4 of the Office's May 14, 2019 comments in this docket?

5 A. Yes, I did.

6 Q. Do you have any changes you would like to make
7 to the May 14th comments?

8 A. No, I don't.

9 Q. Do you adopt these comments as your testimony
10 today?

11 A. I do.

12 MR. MOORE: The Office asks for admission of
13 these comments as Mr. Ware's testimony.

14 HEARING OFFICER: They're admitted.

15 Q. (By Mr. Moore) Have you prepared a statement
16 concerning the issues presented in the May 14th comments?

17 A. Yes, I did.

18 Q. Please proceed.

19 A. Thank you. As stated in our comments on this
20 case from May 14, 2019, the Office recommends the
21 Commission approve the Intermodal Hub Project, the Battery
22 Demand Response Project, and the ARMS Project.

23 We recommend approval of the Intermodal Hub
24 Project subject to the following conditions: That the
25 Commission require the Company to conduct a full cost

1 benefit analysis at the completion of the project; and that
2 the Commission also require the Company to report to the
3 Commission and other stakeholders any risks or delays in
4 the project that are not resolved within an appropriate
5 timeframe.

6 The Office believes that with the expected
7 increase in electric vehicles of all types, finding ways to
8 decrease the expense of upgrades to substations and
9 distribution centers, and to better utilize the
10 infrastructure by optimizing charging should be beneficial
11 to all customers.

12 We also recommend that the Battery Demand
13 Response Project be approved subject to the following
14 conditions: The Commission require the Company to report
15 annually, and at the time of a new STEP project is
16 proposed, the aggregate total of ongoing operations,
17 maintenance, administrative and general costs for all
18 existing in proposed STEP projects by year for the
19 remaining lives of the projects.

20 The Office believes this project meets the
21 requirements of the STEP legislation. And the Office
22 agrees with the Company that the proposed project is a cost
23 effective way for the Company to study a large
24 behind-the-meter, solar, battery program.

25 And lastly, we recommend the approval of the

1 Advanced Resiliency Management System called Arms. The
2 Office sees the Arms Project as a practical improvement to
3 meter data gathering and outage detection for a more
4 minimal investment rather than replacing all AMR meters
5 with AMI meters at this time. That concludes my statement.

6 MR. MOORE: Mr. Ware is available for cross
7 examination and questions from the Hearing Officer.

8 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Solander?

9 MR. SOLANDER: No questions.

10 HEARING OFFICER: Ms. Schmid?

11 MS. SCHMID: No questions. Thank you.

12 HEARING OFFICER: Ms. Hayes?

13 MS. HAYES: No questions. Thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Holman?

15 MR. HOLMAN: No questions. Thank you.

16 HEARING OFFICER: All right. Thank you. Any
17 other witnesses, Mr. Moore?

18 MR. MOORE: No other witnesses. Thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER: We'll turn to you, Ms. Hayes.

20 MS. HAYES: Thank you. Western Resource
21 Advocates would like to call Ken Wilson.

22 HEARING OFFICER: Who is on the telephone?

23 MS. HAYES: Who is on the telephone, I believe.

24 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Wilson?

25 THE WITNESS: I'm here. Can you hear me?

1 HEARING OFFICER: Yes, we can hear you.

2 Mr. Wilson, do you swear to tell the truth?

3 THE WITNESS: I do.

4 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

5 KENNETH WILSON,

6 was called as a witness, and having been first duly

7 sworn to tell the truth, testified as follows:

8 DIRECT EXAMINATION

9 BY MS. HAYES:

10 Q. Mr. Wilson, would you please state your name,
11 position, and employer for the record?

12 A. Kenneth Wilson. My employer is Western
13 Resource Advocates. My address is 2260 Baseline Road,
14 Suite 200, Boulder, Colorado, 80302.

15 Q. What is your position at Western Resource
16 Advocates?

17 A. I'm the energy fellow, or engineering fellow.

18 Q. Thank you. In that capacity did you prepare
19 comments that were filed with this Commission on May 14,
20 2019?

21 A. Yes, I did.

22 Q. Do you have any changes to those comments?

23 A. I do not.

24 Q. Do you adopt those comments as your testimony
25 here today?

1 A. I do.

2 MS. HAYES: I would request that the Commission
3 admit those comments to the record.

4 HEARING OFFICER: They're admitted.

5 Q. (By Ms. Hayes) Mr. Wilson, did you prepare a
6 summary of your comments to present today?

7 A. Yes, I did.

8 Q. Please proceed with that.

9 A. Thank you. Good morning. I'm Ken Wilson
10 representing Western Resource Advocates. I've been an
11 electrical engineer with 40 years of experience. I have
12 appeared before this Commission a number of times over the
13 past 20 years. And I appreciate being able to participate
14 by phone today, especially because it allowed me to be home
15 with my family on Father's Day.

16 WRA supports the three new STEP projects that
17 Rocky Mountain Power is proposing. They are all good
18 projects that will add to the projects already being
19 implemented under STEP legislation.

20 The Intermodal Hub Project is an innovative
21 idea that will allow fast charging of electric buses and
22 other vehicles utilizing grid infrastructure already in
23 place to power light rail. Both light rail and fast
24 charging require high capacity grid facilities to carry
25 large loads. The Intermodal Hub Project will study using

1 the same infrastructure for both applications.

2 I have already been promoting this project in
3 other states where similar sharing of good resources could
4 be beneficially applied.

5 The Battery Demand Response Project will allow
6 Rocky Mountain Power to gain valuable experience in
7 managing behind-the-meter battery storage in combination
8 with distributed solar generation. This experience will
9 allow the company and other interested parties to see how
10 effectively this type of storage can be utilized to reduce
11 peak flow on the grid and on the Company's bulk power
12 system. This is a relatively large project. It should get
13 interesting results.

14 The ARMS Project is a STEP in the evolution of
15 the Company's distribution grid. Grid modernization is a
16 key element in providing customers with increased
17 reliability and other grid features.

18 I have testified in other state how grid
19 modernization provides multiple benefits to customers, the
20 most valuable being measurable improvements in reliability.
21 The ARMS Project should deliver increased reliability that
22 can be measured as it is implemented.

23 WRA recommends additional reporting
24 requirements associated with these projects in order to
25 help evaluate the benefits of future distribution grid

1 programs and investments. WRA also recommends the
2 Commission begin investigating the public interest benefits
3 of an integrated distribution system planning in order to
4 ensure that customers receive the maximum benefit from the
5 distribution side investment. Rather than repeating those
6 recommendations here, I will refer the Commission to our
7 final comments.

8 In summary, Western Resource Advocates supports
9 these new STEP projects with the additional metrics and
10 updates that we have recommended in our comments.

11 I would be happy to answer any questions you
12 may have at this time.

13 **Q. Thank you, Mr. Wilson.**

14 MS. HAYES: Mr. Wilson is available for
15 questions.

16 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Solander?

17 MR. SOLANDER: No questions. Thank you.

18 HEARING OFFICER: Ms. Schmid?

19 MS. SCHMID: No questions. Thank you.

20 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Moore?

21 MR. MOORE: No questions. Thank you.

22 MR. HOLMAN: No questions. Thank you.

23 HEARING OFFICER: All right. Any other
24 witnesses, Ms. Hayes?

25 MS. HAYES: No. Thank you.

1 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Holman?

2 MR. HOLMAN: Thank you. Utah Clean Energy
3 would like to call Ms. Bowman.

4 HEARING OFFICER: Ms. Bowman, do you swear to
5 tell the truth?

6 THE WITNESS: I do.

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

10 DIRECT EXAMINATION

11 BY MR. HOLMAN:

12 Q. Good morning, Ms. Bowman. Can you please state
13 your name, employer, and title please?

14 A. My name is Kate Bowman, K-A-T-E, B-O-W-M-A-N.
15 I'm employed by Utah Clean Energy as the Renewable Energy
16 Program Manager.

17 Q. Thank you. Did you submit comments in this
18 docket on May 14th and reply comments on May 31st?

19 A. Yes, I did.

20 Q. Do you have any changes or additions to those
21 to make today?

22 A. No, I don't.

23 Q. Do you accept those as your testimony here
24 today as well?

25 A. Yes, I do.

1 MR. HOLMAN: I move to incorporate Ms. Bowman's
2 comments and reply comments into the record.

3 HEARING OFFICER: They're admitted.

4 MR. HOLMAN: Thank you.

5 Q. (By Mr. Holman) Ms. Bowman, do you have a
6 statement prepared today?

7 A. Yes, I do.

8 Q. Please proceed.

9 A. Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to
10 provide input on the Company's application to implement
11 programs authorized by the STEP Act, and to summarize the
12 comments I provided on May 14th and May 31st.

13 Utah Clean Energy supports the Company's
14 efforts to improve grid resiliency and flexibility through
15 the development of the Intermodal Hub Project, the Battery
16 Demand Response Project, and the Advanced Resiliency
17 Management System. I recommend that the Commission approve
18 the Intermodal Hub Project and the Battery Demand Response
19 Project, which will provide the Company with the
20 opportunity to pilot the integration of distributed clean
21 energy technologies, including solar, battery storage, and
22 electric vehicles.

23 The Intermodal Hub Project is designed to
24 demonstrate the viability of managed electric vehicle
25 charging to reduce the costs associated with high wattage

1 electric vehicle charges. The Company intends to use the
2 tools and lessons that result from this project to reduce
3 infrastructure and operating costs to customers resulting
4 from electric vehicle infrastructure deployment at future
5 sites in Utah. The lessons learned from this project can
6 and should be used to optimize integration of renewable
7 energy resources by better aligning electricity usage with
8 generation from these low cost resources.

9 The purpose of the Battery Demand Response
10 Project is to pilot utility control of customer-sited
11 batteries for demand response in order to reduce peak
12 loading on the grid. The information garnered through this
13 project will help the Company to identify strategies for
14 leveraging customer-owned, behind-the-meter battery storage
15 to realize benefits through reduced peak loading. Utility
16 control of customer-owned batteries is not the only model
17 through which behind-the-meter batteries can provide
18 benefits to the grid, and any future consideration of rate
19 design related to customer-owned batteries should not rely
20 on the information gained through this pilot project in
21 isolation.

22 In reply comments, the Company stated that it
23 will provide stakeholders with quarterly updates on the
24 status and finding from all three proposed STEP projects.
25 This addresses Utah Clean Energy's comments related to

1 program reporting, and I look forward to the opportunity to
2 participate in the quarterly update meetings.

3 Finally, Utah Clean Energy supports the
4 Company's intention to modernize the electric grid and to
5 improve communications and resiliency through the ARMS
6 Project, although I have reservations about the use of STEP
7 funding for this project.

8 The purpose of the STEP program, as I
9 understand it, is to fund innovative sustainability energy
10 and transportation projects that allow the Company to pilot
11 new programs or technologies, or that provide the Company
12 with the opportunity to gain experience operating new
13 technologies or systems. The rationale behind funding
14 these programs through the STEP surcharge is that the
15 utility would not be able to implement these programs
16 through its normal business operations or within the more
17 defined bounds of standard ratemaking. The STEP program is
18 not intended to fund capital upgrades that are generally
19 cost effective, even if those upgrades also improve
20 conservation, efficiency, or reliability. Tree trimming,
21 for example, also provides customers with benefits in the
22 form of reduced outages, but is funded through customer
23 rates.

24 As the proposed ARMS Project demonstrates, new
25 and improved distributed energy technologies are enabling

1 modernization of the grid and improving the flexibility and
2 communications capacity of the distribution system. As
3 grid modernization progresses, a coordinated and
4 transparent grid planning process should be used to align
5 grid modernization efforts planned for the distribution
6 system with generation and transmission planning processes.

7 A defined grid planning process will help to
8 evaluate the costs and benefits of new technologies
9 relative to other potential upgrades and to identify the
10 set of technologies that will result in the most cost
11 savings and benefits for customers. The pace of new
12 technology moves quickly, and an integrated grid planning
13 process can be used to evaluate and coordinate the
14 deployment of a variety of distribution level technologies,
15 from communications equipment to distributed energy
16 resources.

17 The need for an integrated grid planning
18 process is illustrated by the situation the ARMS Project
19 seeks to address. The Company has requested \$16.5 million
20 for a project that relies on updating existing AMR meters
21 to behave like AMI meters. The AMR meters are only halfway
22 through their useful lives, and the larger issue at hand is
23 that the Company is currently in a position where a widely
24 implemented technology has fallen behind the industry
25 standard halfway through its anticipated life. Traditional

1 long term utility planning processes are not well suited to
2 evaluate and anticipate the rapid growth of distributed
3 energy technologies.

4 For these reasons, if the Commission approves
5 the Company's application for the ARMS Project I suggest
6 that it be accompanied by a Commission investigation into
7 integrated grid planning as recommended by WRA. This will
8 help to support the integration of this and other
9 distributed energy resource and technology projects to
10 inform grid modernization efforts, and to ensure that
11 customers are truly benefiting from grid modernization
12 expenditures.

13 The investigation could consider examples of
14 how distributed and grid planning processes that have been
15 implemented in other states, and how to best incorporate
16 distribution and generation planning in order to minimize
17 the burdens associated with additional reporting
18 requirements. That concludes my statement. Thank you.

19 **Q. Thank you, Ms. Bowman.**

20 MR. HOLMAN: Ms. Bowman is ready for questions
21 and cross examination.

22 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Solander?

23 MR. SOLANDER: No questions.

24 HEARING OFFICER: Ms. Schmid?

25 MS. SCHMID: No question. Thank you.

1 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Moore?

2 MR. MOORE: Thank you. No questions.

3 HEARING OFFICER: Ms. Hayes?

4 MS. HAYES: No questions. Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER: And you have no other
6 witnesses, Mr. Holman?

7 MR. HOLMAN: That concludes our presentation.
8 Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Is there anything
10 else before we adjourn?

11 MR. SOLANDER: Nothing from the Company.

12 HEARING OFFICER: All right. Thank you,
13 everyone.

14 (The hearing concluded at 11:00 a.m.)
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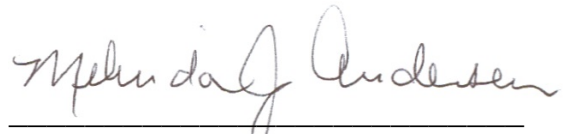
STATE OF UTAH)
:
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE)

I, Melinda J. Andersen, Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public in and for the County of Salt Lake and State of Utah, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place herein set forth, and were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter transcribed into typewritten under my direction and supervision:

That the foregoing 39 pages contain a true and correct transcription of my shorthand notes so taken.

WITNESS MY HAND and official seal at Salt Lake City, Utah this 27th day of June, 2019.



My Commission Expires:
February 10, 2022

Melinda J. Andersen, C.S.R.

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