## In the Matter Of:

In Re: Rocky Mountain Power - EBA

## **HEARING PROCEEDINGS DOCKET NO. 17-035-01**

April 19, 2017

*Job Number: 383266* 

1 BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH 2 3 In the Matter of the Application of Rocky Mountain Power to Decrease the Deferred EBA 4 Rate through the Energy Docket No. 17-035-01 Balancing Account Mechanism 5 6 7 HEARING PROCEEDINGS 8 9 Public Service Commission TAKEN AT: 10 160 East 300 South, Room 403 Salt Lake City, Utah 11 DATE: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 TIME: 9:00 a.m. 12 REPORTER: Daren S. Bloxham, R.P.R. 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 Job Number: 383266

Page 2 1 APPEARANCES 2 PRESIDING OFFICER: Melanie Reif, Administrative Law Judge 3 FOR THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES: 4 Justin Jetter 5 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL 160 East 300 South, Fifth Floor 6 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114 7 FOR ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER: Yvonne R. Hogle 8 Rocky Mountain Power 1407 West North Temple, Suite 320 9 Salt Lake City, UT 84116 10 11 FOR THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER SERVICES: Robert Moore 12 Office of Consumer Services 160 East 300 South, 2nd Floor 13 Salt Lake City, Utah 84111 14 FOR THE UTAH ASSOCIATION OF ENERGY USERS: Gary A. Dodge 15 Hatch, James & Dodge 10 West Broadway, Suite 400 16 Salt Lake City, Utah 84101 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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2	000
3	COMMISSIONER REIF: Good morning, everyone.
4	I'm Melanie Reif, Administrative Law Judge for the Utah
5	Public Service Commission. This morning we will be
6	hearing Docket 17-035-01. This is the hearing that is
7	scheduled for this time and date, Wednesday, April 19,
8	2017, at 9 a.m.
9	Let's start first by taking appearances,
10	please, starting with you, Ms. Hogle.
11	MS. HOGLE: Good morning. Yvonne Hogle with
12	Rocky Mountain Power. With me here today is Mr. Mike
13	Wilding, and on the phone is Mr. Robert Meredith, both
14	who will be testifying in support of the application.
15	Thank you.
16	COMMISSIONER REIF: Thank you, Ms. Hogle.
17	Mr. Jetter?
18	MR. JETTER: Good morning, Your Honor.
19	Justin Jetter with the Utah Attorney General's Office.
20	And I'm here today representing the Utah Division of
21	Public Utilities. And with me at counsel table
22	is David Thompson with the Division of Public
23	Utilities. And he will be the only witness for the
24	Division this morning.
25	COMMISSIONER REIF: Thank you.

Page 5 Robert Moore for the Office of 1 MR. MOORE: 2 Consumer Services. With me is Michelle Brett, Director of Office of Consumer Services. She's not here to 3 4 testify, but she's available for questions. 5 COMMISSIONER REIF: Thank you, Mr. Moore. MR. DODGE: Gary Dodge on behalf of the Utah 6 Association of Energy Users. UAE submitted reply 7 comments but does not intend to call a witness. 8 9 COMMISSIONER REIF: Thank you, Mr. Dodge. Before we get to the heart of the matter this 10 11 morning, I wanted to address a preliminary issue that 12 is pending before the Commission right now. And that 13 is the petition to intervene by UAE, which has not been 14 acted upon as of yet. I thought it would be a good 15 idea for us to address that right out of the chute this 16 morning. 17 So with that said, is there any objection to the motion -- the petition, excuse me, that's been made 18 19 to intervene by UAE? Hearing none, the petition is 20 granted. 21 MR. DODGE: Thank you. 2.2 COMMISSIONER REIF: So we'll move on to the 23 substantive matter for the hearing. 24 And, Ms. Hogle, would you like to go first? 25 MS. HOGLE: Yes. Thank you. The Company

Paqe 6 calls Mr. Mike Wilding and proposes, if it pleases you, 1 2 Ms. Hearing Officer, that he testifies where he is. 3 COMMISSIONER REIF: Sure. That's just fine, 4 Mr. Wilding. I'll go ahead and swear you in. 5 --000--6 MICHAEL G. WILDING, having been first duly sworn to tell the 7 truth, was examined and testified as follows: 8 9 EXAMINATION BY MS. HOGLE: 10 11 Good morning, Mr. Wilding. Q. 12 Α. Good morning. 13 Can you please state your name, place of 0. employment, and position for the record? 14 15 Yes. My name is Michael G. Wilding, work for Α. 16 PacifiCorp as the manager of net power loss. 17 And in that capacity, did you prepare direct 0. testimony with attached exhibits MGW-1 through MGW-3? 18 19 Α. Yes. 20 And do you have any changes to that 0. 21 testimony? 2.2 Α. No. 23 0. So if I asked you the questions therein again today, your answers would be the same? 24 25 Α. Yes.

Page 7 MS. HOGLE: At this time, Your Honor, I'd 1 2 like to move for the admission of the direct testimony and Exhibits MGW-1 through MGW-3 into the record. 3 4 COMMISSIONER REIF: Any objection? Hearing 5 none, they're admitted. 6 ο. (By Ms. Hogle) Mr. Wilding, do you have a summary that you would like to present to the 7 Commission today? 8 9 Α. Yes, I do. Yes. The Company recommends that 10 the Commission approve a refund of \$6.5 million to 11 customers on an interim basis effective May 1, 2017, 12 consistent with the Commission's orders from the recent 13 docket addressing changes to the EBA and consistent with the DPU's recommendation in its preliminary report 14 15 filed March 31, 2017. However, as this is the first EBA with 16 17 interim rates, there is a six-month period in which the collections from the 2016 EBA and the refund from the 18 19 2017 EBA or this proceeding overlap. 20 And because of this overlap, the first rate 21 decrease would be effective on an interim basis on 2.2 May 1st, and then a second decrease would occur 23 sometime around September when the 2016 EBA has been 24 fully collected. 25 And so based on discussions with parties this

Page 8 morning, and if the Commission desires just a single 1 2 rate change, an alternative approach would be to offset the amount that we're currently collecting for the 2016 3 4 EBA with the refund amount from the 2017 EBA, with the possible exception of one special contract customer who 5 is questioning its EBA charge, and the Company would 6 carve this amount out from the alternative approach. 7 And then the current EBA rates would continue 8 to be effective until the net balance of the two EBA 9 amounts was collected, which would be sometime in the 10 11 next few months, possibly around -- around June. 12 And then as we got closer to that point when 13 that net balance was going to be fully collected, the 14 Company would file to change interim rates at that time 15 to zero. And -- and then that would be carried forward 16 and any subsequent balance or changes that resulted 17 18 from the EBA review process would be carried forward to 19 next year's EBA as per the process established by the 20 Commission. 21 0. Do you have any final comments, Mr. Wilding? 2.2 Α. Yes. The Company recommends that the 23 Commission either approve the refund of \$6.5 million to 24 customers on an interim basis effective May 1 or the 25 alternate approach that has been discussed with parties

Page 9 and that I proposed here today. 1 2 Q. Thank you, Mr. Wilding. 3 MS. HOGLE: Mr. Wilding is now available for questions. 4 COMMISSIONER REIF: Mr. Jetter? 5 6 MR. JETTER: No questions from the Division. 7 Thank you. COMMISSIONER REIF: Mr. Moore? 8 MR. MOORE: The Office has no questions. 9 10 Thank you. 11 COMMISSIONER REIF: Mr. Dodge? 12 MR. DODGE: No questions. 13 COMMISSIONER REIF: Mr. Wilding, let me make 14 sure I understand your position. So if I'm understanding you correctly, you are agreeing to what 15 16 Mr. Dodge has presented and what the Office has presented in their comments as an alternative. 17 18 Do you have a preference one over the other? 19 THE WITNESS: So I think our proposal is 20 slightly different from what they propose in that it 21 would be a single rate change. And we would not change rates until the net balance of the two -- so -- let me 2.2 23 step back a minute. So there's about a \$9 1/2 million balance 24 25 from last year's EBA from the 2016 EBA, so we would net

Page 10 that against the \$6 1/2 million refund to customers in 1 2 this EBA. And we would keep the current rates in 3 effect until that net balance, that \$3 million, was 4 collected, and at which time we would set interim rates 5 to zero. So I don't -- so it is -- it's very similar 6 to what the Office and UAE proposed, but it's not the 7 same. It's a different alternative. And we did 8 discuss that with parties this morning, and parties 9 were agreeable to that solution. 10 11 COMMISSIONER REIF: Ms. Hogle, is there 12 something that you intend to present to the Commission 13 in the way of an agreed upon alternative, a stipulation, for example? 14 15 MS. HOGLE: I think that the Company has presented it. I think that it will be -- my 16 expectation is that the parties who were discussing it 17 this morning will present their testimony. So in terms 18 19 of a stipulation, you will get it live, I believe. 20 COMMISSIONER REIF: Okay. Very good. All 21 right. Thank you, Mr. Wilding. Thank you, Ms. Hogle. 2.2 MS. HOGLE: The Company calls Mr. Robert 23 Meredith. 24 COMMISSIONER REIF: Thank you. Mr. Meredith, are you on the line? 25

Page 11 1 THE WITNESS: Can you hear me? Kind of 2 interference going on there? 3 COMMISSIONER REIF: Yes. Sorry about that, 4 Mr. Meredith. We can hear you. I think we're going to 5 proceed without that microphone. 6 THE WITNESS: Okay. 7 COMMISSIONER REIF: I'm going to go ahead and 8 swear you in now. 9 --000--10 ROBERT M. MEREDITH, 11 having been first duly sworn to tell the 12 truth, was examined and testified as follows: 13 EXAMINATION 14 BY MS. HOGLE: 15 Good morning, Mr. Meredith. Can you please Q. 16 state your name and position for the record? Yes. My name is Robert M. Meredith. T work 17 Α. for the Company as the manager of pricing, cost of 18 19 service. And my place of employment is 825 Northeast 20 Multnomah Street, Suite 2000, Portland, Oregon 97232. 21 0. And in that capacity, did you prepare direct 22 testimony with attached Exhibits RMM-1 through RMM-4? 23 Α. Yes, I did. 24 0. And do you have any changes to that testimony? 25

Page 12 1 No. Α. 2 Q. So if I asked you the questions in your testimony again here today, would your answers be the 3 4 same? 5 Α. Yes. 6 Q. Thank you. MS. HOGLE: At this time I'd like to move for 7 the admission of the direct testimony of Mr. Robert 8 9 Meredith with attached Exhibits RMM-1 through RMM-4. 10 COMMISSIONER REIF: Any objection? 11 MR. JETTER: No objection. 12 COMMISSIONER REIF: They're admitted. 13 MS. HOGLE: Thank you. Mr. Meredith is 14 available for questions. 15 MR. JETTER: No questions from the Division. MR. MOORE: No questions from the Office. 16 17 MR. DODGE: No questions. Thank you. 18 COMMISSIONER REIF: Okay. Mr. Meredith, I do have a question. And it --19 20 THE WITNESS: Okay. 21 COMMISSIONER REIF: -- it relates to the 2.2 question that I asked of Mr. Wilding earlier, which is 23 whether the Company is in agreement that the proposal that has either been submitted by the Company or the 24 25 alternative that has been proposed this morning be

Page 13 1 accepted by the Commission. Is that your understanding 2 of the Company's position? 3 THE WITNESS: Yes. Okay. And my follow-up 4 COMMISSIONER REIF: question -- this may be a question for either 5 Mr. Meredith or Mr. Wilding -- is that inasmuch as it's 6 been pointed out that this is the first rate decrease 7 that has been requested by the EBA, does what is being 8 9 proposed here outside of the interim rate process that has been ordered previously -- do the parties have the 10 11 intention of treating that kind of issue the same going 12 forward, or is this just a special circumstance because 13 of this particular issue in this particular docket? 14 Can you reflect upon that for us? 15 THE WITNESS: Sure. I think this is a 16 special circumstance in this particular docket because, as Mr. Wilding had indicated, we have this issue where 17 we have overlapping periods with both the 2017 EBA 18 deferral collection, as well as the 2016 EBA deferral 19 20 collection. So I think that going forward in future 21 EBAs with this process, we won't have the same issue. 2.2 COMMISSIONER REIF: Okay. Thank you very 23 much for that clarification, sir. 24 I don't have any further questions, so Ms. Hogle, unless you have anything further? 25

Page 14 1 MS. HOGLE: The Company rests. Thank you. 2 COMMISSIONER REIF: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Jetter? 3 4 MR. JETTER: Good morning. The Division would like to call and have sworn in Mr. David 5 6 Thompson. 7 --000--8 DAVID THOMPSON, 9 having been first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined and testified as follows: 10 11 EXAMINATION 12 BY MR. JETTER: 13 Good morning, Mr. Thompson. Would you please 0. 14 state your name and occupation for the record. 15 My name is David Thompson. I'm a utility Α. technical consultant for the Division of Public 16 Utilities. 17 18 0. Thank you. And in the course of your employment with the Division of Public Utilities, did 19 you create and cause to be filed with the Commission --20 21 I believe they are comments dated March 31, 2017, with 22 a recommendation? 23 Α. Yes, but I hope they were dated the 30th because that's when I filed them. 24 25 Okay. Q.

Page 15 I will leave that as corrected March 30, 1 Α. 2 2017. Do you have any corrections you would like to 3 0. make to the recommendation? 4 I do not. 5 Α. MR. JETTER: I quess I move at this time to 6 enter the Division's comments that were filed by David 7 Thompson in the record -- into the record of this 8 9 hearing. 10 COMMISSIONER REIF: Any objection? 11 Mr. Jetter, if it helps, it was March 31st. 12 MR. JETTER: 31st? Okay. 13 THE WITNESS: Okay. COMMISSIONER REIF: So they're admitted --14 15 MR. JETTER: Thank you. COMMISSIONER REIF: -- with that correction. 16 17 THE WITNESS: I thought it was the 30th. I 18 apologize. 19 ο. (By Mr. Jetter) Mr. Thompson, have you prepared a brief statement to read into the record? 20 21 Α. I have. 22 Q. Please go ahead. Thank you. The Division of Public Utilities 23 Α. 24 has performed a preliminary review of the Rocky 25 Mountain Power application as filed. And based on the

1	Page 16 overall body of information in the energy balancing
2	account filing, the Division at this time believes the
3	filing does not depart from prior years' filings.
4	The Division recommends that the Public
5	Service Commission acknowledge the Company's filing as
6	being complete, and that interim rates based on the
7	application be approved effective May 1 to be amortized
8	through April 30th the following year unless otherwise
9	determined by Commission order.
10	An alternative proposal has been suggested by
11	parties, and the Division would not oppose that
12	proposal. That concludes my testimony.
13	MR. JETTER: I have no further questions.
14	And Mr. Thompson is available for cross-examination by
15	the parties or questions from the Hearing Officer.
16	COMMISSIONER REIF: Ms. Hogle, any questions?
17	MS. HOGLE: Just one clarification.
18	EXAMINATION
19	BY MS. HOGLE:
20	Q. Mr. Thompson, I just want to be clear about
21	what your second proposal was. Am I correct in
22	understanding that the Division does not oppose the
23	alternative approach that the parties discussed this
24	morning and that Mr. Wilding testified to?
25	A. That is true. It does not.

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1	MS. HOGLE: Thank you.
2	COMMISSIONER REIF: Mr. Moore?
3	MR. MOORE: No questions.
4	COMMISSIONER REIF: And Mr. Dodge?
5	MR. DODGE: No questions. Thank you.
6	COMMISSIONER REIF: Okay. Thank you,
7	Mr. Thompson. One actually, one follow-up. Similar
8	to what I asked earlier to the parties representing the
9	Company concerning the alternative approach that's
10	pending before the Commission, is it your understanding
11	that the approach that is being proposed is an approach
12	that would be applicable in this docket only, not in
13	other dockets that might involve decreases?
14	THE WITNESS: Yes, it is. Just this docket
15	is special.
16	COMMISSIONER REIF: Okay. All right. Thank
17	you.
18	Mr. Jetter, any follow-up?
19	MR. JETTER: I have no follow-up.
20	COMMISSIONER REIF: Okay. Mr. Moore?
21	MR. MOORE: Just to say that the Office
22	advocates for the alternative approach as set out by
23	the Company and the Division, and Director Beck is
24	available for any questions if you would like her to be

Page 18 1 COMMISSIONER REIF: Okay. To the extent that 2 I -- the Commission would like clarification as to the Office's position on the alternative approach that's 3 4 being proposed, I think it will be helpful to swear in 5 Ms. Beck. 6 --000--7 MICHELE BECK, having been first duly sworn to tell the 8 truth, was examined and testified as follows: 9 10 --000--11 COMMISSIONER REIF: Thank you. So is it your 12 understanding that the Office is supporting the 13 alternative approach? 14 THE WITNESS: Yes. The Office does support the alternative approach specifically as outlined by 15 Mr. Wilding this morning. And I concur with Rocky 16 Mountain Power that it is slightly different than what 17 we envisioned in the comments that we submitted to the 18 19 Commission. We do explicitly here today support what 20 they put forward. 21 COMMISSIONER REIF: Okay. And regarding the 2.2 issue of whether this approach would be specific to this docket or other dockets where we have decreases 23 in -- in rates in EBA matters, do you see this approach 24 as being unique to the situation or applicable in other 25

Page 19 situations as well? 1 2 THE WITNESS: I think the approach -- the 3 agreement upon this approach is likely unique to this 4 situation, but I could very much envision future scenarios where we would advocate for the same. 5 It would be our expectation that we would need to bring 6 7 our arguments at that time. 8 COMMISSIONER REIF: Okay. I think it might 9 be helpful, if you don't mind, to reiterate your understanding based on the change that Mr. Wilding 10 11 proposed this morning that alters what was filed by the 12 Office and UAE in this matter just so the Commission 13 has a clearer vision of exactly what the timeline looks 14 like and -- and how you're seeing this playing out. 15 THE WITNESS: Okay. I'm not certain that UAE and the Office filed identical positions, but I feel 16 17 like at this point it would be most helpful not to focus on what was filed, but instead to focus on what 18 19 we support at this point. 20 And the Office does not want to characterize 21 this as interim rates because, as you know from our 2.2 filing, we are not at this time waiving our arguments 23 on that issue from a legal perspective. 24 But from an operational accounting 25 perspective, it is our understanding that there is

1	Page 20 something around \$9.5 million that is yet to be
2	collected from the last EBA filing. And then there is
3	\$6.5 million of a credit that is being proposed at this
4	time by the Company.
5	And certainly at the end of the of this
6	docket, it may be found that there's a different
7	number. But that's what's being requested at this
8	time.
9	So my understanding is that the \$6.5 million
10	would just be credited against the account that's
11	carrying a balance of \$9.5 million, which results in
12	\$3 million yet to be collected. And I'm not intimately
13	familiar with these numbers. Those are round numbers.
14	And so the agreement then is to rather
15	than making a rate change at this time, keep the former
16	rate in place until the \$3 million is collected. Now,
17	obviously \$3 million will be collected more quickly
18	than the 9.5 would, so that rate is not going to stay
19	in place as long as it otherwise would have.
20	My understanding from what Mr. Wilding
21	testified to this morning is that the rate that's
22	currently in place would only need to stay in place for
23	maybe another couple of months; that probably around
24	June it will have come very close to recovering the
25	full balance. And at that point the rate would go to

Page 21 1 zero. 2 I do not take a position on the filing that 3 would be made for that, but I understand that the 4 Company has intentions to come in and ask for an interim rate at zero at that point in time. And we 5 6 would not oppose that. 7 COMMISSIONER REIF: Okay. THE WITNESS: And then my final understanding 8 9 of this process would be that any changes that would come out from this -- this docket at the end of 10 11 testimony and hearings, as well as any small residual 12 that might be left in the account, as I'm sure you are aware, when -- when riders like this are collected, 13 it's hard to get precisely to zero. So there's 14 oftentimes a little residual. 15 16 So my understanding from the parties' discussion this morning is that that residual, as well 17 as any outcomes from this proceeding, would then come 18 into a future rate change as originally contemplated 19 20 next year. 21 COMMISSIONER REIF: Thank you, Ms. Beck. 2.2 That's very helpful. I really do appreciate that. 23 Was there any follow-up that you wish to add, 24 Mr. Moore? 25 MR. MOORE: No.

Page 22 Okay. And considering 1 COMMISSIONER REIF: 2 Ms. Beck's explanation, does that -- does anyone wish to add anything or ask any questions as a result? 3 4 MR. DODGE: I would only state that UAE supports the explanation that Ms. Beck has given as its 5 6 understanding. 7 COMMISSIONER REIF: Okay. Thank you. MR. JETTER: And I think just on behalf of 8 the Division, I would confirm that that was matching 9 our understanding of the discussion that we had had 10 this morning and agreed that the Division is sort of 11 12 indifferent to either option, but that's how we 13 understand. We certainly don't oppose that as an 14 alternate. 15 COMMISSIONER REIF: Okay. 16 MS. HOGLE: The Company has no questions. 17 COMMISSIONER REIF: Okay. And -- and just to follow it up, did Ms. Beck's explanation, is that 18 19 consistent with your understanding and the Company's 20 understanding of what's being proposed? 21 MS. HOGLE: Yes. Her explanation about her 22 position -- about the Office's position with regard to 23 interim rates in particular is her position, and the 24 Company does not share that. 25 However, the way that I heard Ms. Beck

Page 23 explain in her view what was the understanding of the 1 2 parties this morning, the Company -- it is the Company's view that it is consistent with what 3 4 Mr. Wilding testified to. COMMISSIONER REIF: Okay. Thank you very 5 6 much. That was the gist of my question. Thank you for clarifying that. I do appreciate it. 7 Mr. Dodge, I realize you don't have a witness 8 9 this morning, but -- and you have made your statement 10 just a moment ago. Do you wish to add anything 11 further? 12 MR. DODGE: No. But thank you very much. 13 COMMISSIONER REIF: Okay. Very good. Is 14 there anything else to come before the Commission 15 today? Okay. All right. Well, thank you very much for being here this morning and for your explanation. 16 The Commission will take this under consideration and 17 issue a ruling. 18 19 (The proceedings concluded at 9:26 a.m.) 20 21 2.2 23 24 25

1	Page 24 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
2	STATE OF UTAH )
3	COUNTY OF UTAH )
4	
5	I, Daren S. Bloxham, a Notary Public and
6	Certified Shorthand Reporter, Registered Professional
7	Reporter, hereby certify:
8	THAT the foregoing proceedings were taken
9	before me at the time and place set forth in the
10	caption hereof; that the witnesses were placed under
11	oath to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing
12	but the truth; that the proceedings were taken down by
13	me in shorthand and thereafter my notes were
14	transcribed through computer-aided transcription; and
15	the foregoing transcript constitutes a full, true, and
16	accurate record of such testimony adduced and oral
17	proceedings had, and of the whole thereof.
18	I have subscribed my name on this 20th day of
19	April, 2017.
20	
21	Daren S. Bloxham
22	Registered Professional Reporter #335
23	
24	
25	

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