In the Matter Of:

In Re: Rocky Mountain Power - EBA

HEARING, DOCKET NO. 17-035-01

January 31, 2018

Job Number: 383268

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

In the Matter of the) Docket No. 17-035-01
Application of Rocky)
Mountain Power to Decrease) HEARING
the Deferred EBA Rate) Job No. 383268
through the Energy)

Balancing Account

Mechanism

January 31, 2018 9:00 a.m.

Location: Utah Public Service Commission

160 East 300 South, 4th Floor

Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Reporter: Teri Hansen Cronenwett

Certified Realtime Reporter, Registered Merit Reporter

| 1 | A P P | Page 2 E A R A N C E S |
|----|---------------------------------------|--|
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| 4 | | Jordan White |
| 5 | For Rocky Mountain | Yvonne R. Hogle |
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| 25 | | |
| | | |

| 1 | INDEX | Page 3 |
|----|----------------------------------|--------|
| 2 | Witness | Page |
| 3 | MICHAEL G. WILDING | |
| 4 | Direct Examination by Ms. Hogle | 7 |
| 5 | | |
| 6 | DAVID T. THOMSON | |
| 7 | Direct Examination by Ms. Schmid | 10 |
| 8 | | |
| 9 | | |
| 10 | | |
| 11 | | |
| 12 | | |
| 13 | | |
| 14 | | |
| 15 | | |
| 16 | | |
| 17 | | |
| 18 | | |
| 19 | | |
| 20 | | |
| 21 | | |
| 22 | | |
| 23 | | |
| 24 | | |
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| 1 | January 31, 2018 Page 4 9:00 a.m. |
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| 2 | PROCEEDINGS |
| 3 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Good morning. We're here |
| 4 | for Public Service Commission Docket 17351, the |
| 5 | application of Rocky Mountain Power to decrease the |
| 6 | deferred EBA rate through the energy balancing account |
| 7 | mechanism. Why don't we start with appearances for the |
| 8 | utility. |
| 9 | MS. HOGLE: Good morning. Yvonne Hogle on |
| 10 | behalf of Rocky Mountain Power, and with me here today |
| 11 | is Mike Wilding, our witness, who will support the |
| 12 | stipulation this morning. Thank you. |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Okay. Thank you. For |
| 14 | the Division of Public Utilities? |
| 15 | MS. SCHMID: Good morning. Patricia E. |
| 16 | Schmid with the Attorney General's Office representing |
| 17 | Division of Public Utilities. With me as the division's |
| 18 | witness in support of the stipulation is David Thomson. |
| 19 | Also on the phone are the division's consultants from |
| 20 | Daymark Energy Advisors, Daniel Koehler and Phillip |
| 21 | DiDomenico. Thank you. |
| 22 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Thank you. For the |
| 23 | Office of Consumer Services? |
| 24 | MR. SNARR: Yes. My name is Steven Snarr. I |
| 25 | represent the Office of Consumer Services. I'm with the |

Page 5 1 Attorney General's office. I'm here to represent the 2 office today. 3 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Okay. Thank you. For 4 UIEC? MR. EVANS: I am William Evans for the Utah 5 6 Industrial Energy Consumers. I am here to verify that we, although we have not signed the stipulation, we have 7 8 no objection or opposition to the commission accepting 9 it and here to add the appearance and verify that to the commission. I can otherwise be excused if you don't 10 11 mind. 12 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: If that was your only 13 reason to be here, then does any -- does anyone object 14 to him being excused at this point? Okay. Thank you, 15 Mr. Evans. 16 MR. EVANS: All right. Thank you. 17 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: And then before we move forward with witnesses, is there any objection to having 18 witnesses present just from where they are sitting and 19 saving any potential questions from us until the end? 20 21 And I guess, rolled into that guestion is whether there 22 is any intended cross-examination. 23 So Ms. Hogle, do you have any objection to 24 moving forward that way? 25 MS. HOGLE: I have no objection, and I'd like

Page 6 to move for the admission of all of the testimony filed 1 2 in the case consistent with the language in the stipulation. 3 4 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Okay. That applies to 5 all parties' testimony? MS. HOGLE: It does. 6 7 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Okay. Any objection to 8 that motion? Okay. That motion is granted. And then 9 any further objection to proceeding in the way we just 10 described? Okay. I am not seeing any, so we'll go to 11 Ms. Hogle. 12 MS. HOGLE: Thank you. The company calls Mike 13 Wilding. Good morning, Mr. Wilding. 14 THE WITNESS: Good morning. 15 MS. HOGLE: Can you please state your name and 16 your position with Rocky Mountain Power for the record? 17 THE WITNESS: Yes. My name is Michael G. 18 Wilding. I am the manager of Net Power Cost. 19 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: And if I could just swear 20 Mr. Wilding, do you swear to tell the truth? you in. 21 THE WITNESS: Yes. 22 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Okay. Thank you. 23 MICHAEL G. WILDING, called as a witness at the instance of Rocky Mountain 24 Power, having been first duly sworn, was examined and 25

Page 7 testified as follows: 1 2 DIRECT EXAMINATION 3 BY MS. HOGLE: 4 And in that capacity did you file direct and response testimony and attached exhibits in support of 5 the company's application? 6 7 Α. Yes. 0. And do you have any changes to that testimony? 9 Α. No. 10 And do you have a summary that you would like 0. 11 to provide to the commission this morning? 12 Α. Yes. 13 0. Please proceed. Thank you. Good morning, Commissioners. 14 15 March 15th, 2017, Rocky Mountain Power filed its EBA application to refund to customers approximately 6.5 16 million dollars in deferred EBA cost. That 6.5 million 17 dollars includes the following components: 18 A credit of 11.3 million dollars for deferred 19 2.0 net power cost and wheeling revenues, a credit of 2.9 21 million dollars in retiree medical benefit obligation 22 savings related to the Deer Creek Mine closure, a credit 23 of .7 million dollars in coal fuel expense savings also 24 related to the Deer Creek Mine closure, a credit of .5 25 million dollars of interest accrued through April of

Page 8 2017, a credit of .2 million dollars related to an 1 2 adjustment for sales made to special contract customer, 3 and a cost of 9.1 million dollars for the Deer Creek 4 Mine amortization expense. 5 The refund to Utah customers of 6.5 million dollars was used to offset the Energy Balancing Account 6 7 in April of 2017, and the current EBA rate is set at zero cents per kilowatt hour. 8 9 On November 15, 2017, the Division of Public Utilities issued its audit report of the EBA and 10 11 proposed a reduction in the company's application of 12 approximately 8.3 million dollars related to the 13 recovery and abandonment costs of the Joylong Wall at the Bridger Coal Mine and also the replacement power 14 15 costs associated with 14 plant outages. On December 19th, 2017, the company filed 16 17 testimony responding to the EBA's -- to the DPU's EBA audit report, and on that same date the Office of 18 Consumer Services and UAE also filed direct testimony 19 20 supporting the DPU's adjustment related to the Joylong Wall. 21 2.2 On January 22nd, 2018, the parties met and 23 engaged in settlement discussions and agreed to the terms and conditions set forth in the settlement 24 25 stipulation which was filed at the commission on January

DOCKET NO. 17-035-01 - 01/31/2018 HEARING, Page 9 30th, 2018. The proposed settlement results in an 1 2 additional refund to Utah customers of 2.8 million 3 dollars, and this is in addition to the company's 4 initial EBA application, and settles all issues. 5 That additional 2.8 million dollars that will be refunded to the customers will be carried forward in 6 7 the balancing account and will be applied against the 2018 EBA filing, which will be made on March 15th, 2018. 8 9 The settlement stipulation was signed by the four parties, including Rocky Mountain Power, the Utah 10 11 Division of Public Utilities, the Office of Consumer 12 Services, and the Utah Association of Energy Users. And 13 then as we heard this morning, the Utah Industrial Energy Consumers did not sign the stipulation, but they 14 15 do not oppose it. 16 This settlement was negotiated in good faith 17 and is in the public interest, and for that reason, the 18 company respectfully requests that the commission approve this settlement, all its terms and conditions. 19 20 Thank you.

- 21 MS. HOGLE: Thank you. The witness is
- 22 available for cross-examination.
- COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Okay. Does the division
- 24 or the office have any questions for this witness?
- Okay. I think we'll save any possible commission

Page 10 1 questions to the end. Do you have anything further, 2 Ms. Hogle? 3 MS. HOGLE: I do not. Thank you. 4 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Okay. Thank you. Ms. Schmid? 5 6 MS. SCHMID: Good morning. The division's witness in support of the stipulation is Mr. David 7 Thomson. May he please be sworn? 8 9 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Sure. Mr. Thomson, do you swear to tell the truth? 10 11 THE WITNESS: Yes. 12 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Thank you. 13 DAVID T. THOMSON, called as a witness at the instance of the Utah Division 14 15 of Public Utilities, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows: 16 17 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. SCHMID: 18 19 Q. Could you please state your full name, title, 20 employer and business address for the record. 21 Α. Yes. My name is David T. Thomson. I am a 2.2 utility technical consultant. 23 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: I think your microphone 24 is not on. Oh, okay. I'll start over. My name is David 25 Α.

Page 11

- 1 T. Thomson. I am a tech -- a utility technical
- 2 consultant for the Division of Public Utilities, and I
- 3 participate in this docket on behalf of the division.
- 4 My business address is 160 East 300 South, Salt Lake
- 5 City, Utah, 84111.
- 6 Q. (By Ms. Schmid) Thank you. Did you prepare
- 7 and cause to be filed your direct testimony and your
- 8 rebuttal testimony?
- 9 A. Yes, I did.
- 10 Q. These previously have been admitted into the
- 11 record on the motion of the company. With that, do you
- 12 have any changes or corrections to your testimony?
- 13 A. I do not.
- Q. Do you have a statement in support of the
- 15 stipulation?
- 16 A. Yes, I do.
- 17 Q. Please proceed.
- 18 A. Good morning, Commissioners, and thank you for
- 19 the opportunity to express the division's support of the
- 20 stipulation signed by the parties in this docket. The
- 21 division believes that stipulation, including the
- 22 agreed-upon recovery of \$2,800,000, is in the public
- 23 interest.
- 24 The final recovery amount of approximately 9.4
- 25 million for the 2 -- for the 2016 EBA costs consists of

| 1 | Page 12 the company's original reduction to net power costs of |
|----|---|
| 2 | approximately 6.5 million dollars and for an additional |
| 3 | reduction adjustment of \$2,800,000. |
| 4 | The company has already discussed the history |
| 5 | and the details of the stipulation. On behalf of the |
| 6 | division, I would like to note a few specific sections |
| 7 | of the stipulation. |
| 8 | As per Section 4 of the stipulation, in its |
| 9 | confidential audit report the division recommended |
| 10 | further reduction to the Energy Balancing Account costs |
| 11 | of approximately 8.4 million. This amount consisted of |
| 12 | an adjustment to replacement power costs of |
| 13 | approximately .2 million for 14 outages and an |
| 14 | adjustment to the recovery and abandonment cost related |
| 15 | to the Joylong Wall of approximately 8.2 million. |
| 16 | As per Section 7 of the stipulation, signers |
| 17 | to the stipulation have agreed to a black box adjustment |
| 18 | reducing the original cost filed costs an additional |
| 19 | 2.8 million dollars. The division supports Section 8 |
| 20 | which explains the future rate treatment of the |
| 21 | adjustment amount. And that concludes my statement. |
| 22 | Q. Thank you. |
| 23 | MS. SCHMID: Mr. Thomson is available for |
| 24 | cross-examination and questions from the commission. |
| 25 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Okay. Thank you. Do any |

Page 13 1 other parties have any questions for Mr. Thomson? Okay. 2 MS. SCHMID: The division's consultants from 3 Daymark Energy Advisors, Dan Koehler and Phillip 4 DiDomenico are also on the phone. Would you like them sworn in case the commission has any questions for them? 5 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: We can swear them in if 6 7 we do have questions, I think. 8 MS. SCHMID: Okay. Thank you. With that, the 9 division is finished. 10 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Okay. Thank you. 11 Mr. Snarr? 12 MR. SNARR: Yes. Thank you. Representatives 13 of the Office of Consumer Services have participated in 14 this proceeding, have reviewed the filings made by other 15 parties, have been involved in the negotiations leading to this settlement and wholly support this settlement as 16 indicated by the signature of the director, Michele Beck 17 18 on the stipulated document. So we are here to support 19 the stipulation. 2.0 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Okay. Thank you. 21 Anything else from any other party? I am not seeing 22 anything. Commissioner White, do you have any questions 23 for any of the witnesses? 24 COMMISSIONER WHITE: I don't. Thank you. 25 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Commissioner Clark?

Page 14 1 COMMISSIONER CLARK: No questions. Thank you 2 very much. 3 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Just one minor question, 4 I think, for -- first for the utility. The way this is crafted with the 2.8 rolling to the next EBA, if this 5 stipulation is approved, there's not a need for 6 compliance tariff filing, is there? Or am I missing 7 something? 8 9 THE WITNESS: That would be correct. issue that we have is the DPU asked for some adjustments 10 11 to the tariff to some of the language surrounding the 12 EBA process which we agreed to. And so could still make 13 that filing or do it with the EBA in 20 -- when we make the filing in just a couple months. 14 15 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Okay. Thank you. 16 THE WITNESS: We can do that either way. 17 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Does the division have a preference? 18 19 MR. THOMSON: Yes. That's my understanding. 2.0 There would be one when they file in March. 21 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: When they file in March. 2.2 Anything further from anyone? Ms. Hogle? 23 MS. HOGLE: Yes. Thank you. I respectfully request the bench order approving the stipulation, given 24 there is no opposition and I believe no cleanup items. 25

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| | Thank you. |
| 2 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Does anyone want to speak |
| 3 | to the motion? |
| 4 | MS. SCHMID: No objection. |
| 5 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Mr. Snarr? |
| 6 | MR. SNARR: We have no objection. |
| 7 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Okay. Do either of you |
| 8 | have any questions with respect to the motion, |
| 9 | Mr. Clark? |
| 10 | COMMISSIONER CLARK: No. I don't have any |
| 11 | questions. |
| 12 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Mr. White? |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER WHITE: No, no questions, thanks. |
| 14 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Why don't we take a very |
| 15 | brief recess then. I don't even want to put a time |
| 16 | frame on it because I don't think it will be very long |
| 17 | at all. So we will be in recess, and we'll be right |
| 18 | back. Thanks. |
| 19 | (Recess from 9:12 a.m. to 9:14 a.m.) |
| 20 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Okay. We're back on the |
| 21 | record. And based on the stipulation as been filed and |
| 22 | the testimony that's been presented to us, and |
| 23 | particularly based on the representations in paragraph |
| 24 | 10 where all of the signing parties agree that this |
| 25 | stipulation as a whole is just and reasonable and will |
| | |

| 1 | Page 16 result in the public interest, we find that this |
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| 2 | stipulation is just and reasonable and result in the |
| 3 | public interest. |
| 4 | We conclude that this stipulation is |
| 5 | consistent with the EBA statute and any other relevant |
| 6 | statutes and rules, and we approve the stipulation. And |
| 7 | an order memorializing that approval will issue shortly. |
| 8 | And not seeing anything further, we're adjourned. Thank |
| 9 | you. |
| 10 | MS. SCHMID: Thank you. |
| 11 | (The hearing concluded at 9:14 a.m.) |
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| 1 | Page 17 CERTIFICATE |
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| 2 | STATE OF UTAH) |
| 3 | COUNTY OF SALT LAKE) |
| 4 | THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing proceedings |
| 5 | were taken before me, Teri Hansen Cronenwett, Certified |
| 6 | Realtime Reporter, Registered Merit Reporter and Notary |
| 7 | Public in and for the State of Utah. |
| 8 | That the proceedings were reported by me in |
| 9 | Stenotype, and thereafter transcribed by computer under |
| 10 | my supervision, and that a full, true, and correct |
| 11 | transcription is set forth in the foregoing pages, |
| 12 | numbered 3 through 17 inclusive. |
| 13 | I further certify that I am not of kin or otherwise |
| 14 | associated with any of the parties to said cause of |
| 15 | action, and that I am not interested in the event |
| 16 | thereof. |
| 17 | WITNESS MY HAND and official seal at Salt Lake |
| 18 | City, Utah, this 8th day of February, 2018. |
| 19 | |
| 20 | Teri Hansen Cronenwett |
| 21 | Teri Hansen Cronenwett, CRR, RMR License No. 91-109812-7801 |
| 22 | My commission expires: |
| 23 | January 19, 2019 |
| 24 | |
| 25 | |

Index: \$2,800,000..Advisors

| | | ı | ı | 1 |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| \$ | 2.8 9:2,5 12:19 14:5 | 5 | 801 366-0353 2:15 | 8:13 12:14 |
| \$2,800,000 11:22 12:3 | 2.9 7:20 | 5 7:24 | 801 532-1234 2:19 | accepting 5:8 |
| 11.22 12.3 | 20 14:13 | 5th 2:9,13 | 801 536-6111 | account 4:6 8:6 9:7 12:10 |
| | 201 2:6,17 | 6 | 2:19 | accrued 7:25 |
| 10 3:7 15:24 | 2016 11:25 | 6.5 7:16,17 | 84111 2:6,18 11:5 | add 5:9 |
| 11.3 7:19 | 2017 7:15 8:1, 7,9,16 | 8:5 12:2 | 84114-0857 | addition 9:3 |
| 14 8:15 12:13 | 2018 4:1 8:22 | 7 | 2:10,14 | additional 9:2,5 12:2,18 |
| 140857 2:10, 14 | 9:1,8 | 7 3:4 7:23 12:16 | 9 | address |
| 15 8:9 | 22nd 8:22 | 8 | 9.1 8:3 | 10:20 11:4 |
| 15th 7:15 9:8 | 2300 2:6 | | 9.4 11:24 | adjourned 16:8 |
| 160 11:4 | 3 | 8 12:19 | 9:00 4:1 | adjustment 8:2,20 12:3, |
| 17351 4:4 | 300 2:9,13 11:4 | 8.2 12:15 | 9:12 15:19 | 12,14,17,21 |
| 1800 2:18 | 30th 9:1 | 8.3 8:12 | 9:14 15:19 16:11 | adjustments 14:10 |
| 19th 8:16 | 31 4:1 | 8.4 12:11 | A | admission |
| 2 | 4 | 801 220-4014 2:7 | a.m. 4:1 15:19 | 6:1 |
| 2 8:1 11:25 | | 801 366-0335 2:11 | 16:11 | admitted 11:10 |
| 12:13 | 4 12:8 | 2.11 | abandonment | Advisors |

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Index: against..Commissioner

| 4:20 13:3 | 5:9 | Association 2:17 9:12 | believe 14:25 | cause 11:7 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| against 9:7 | appearances 4:7 | attached 7:5 | believes 11:21 | cents 8:8 |
| agree 15:24 | application | Attorney 2:9, | bench 14:24 | Chairman 2:2 |
| agreed 8:23 12:17 14:12 | 4:5 7:6,16 8:11 9:4 | 13 4:16 5:1 | benefit 7:21 | changes 7:8 11:12 |
| agreed-upon | applied 9:7 | audit 8:10,18 12:9 | black 12:17 | City 2:6,10, 14,18 11:5 |
| all 5:16 6:1,5 | applies 6:4 | available 9:22 12:23 | Board 2:2 | Clark 2:3 |
| 9:4,19 15:17, 24 | approval 16:7 | В | box 2:10,14 12:17 | 13:25 14:1 15:9,10 |
| already 12:4 | approve 9:19 16:6 | back 15:18,20 | Bridger 8:14 | cleanup 14:25 |
| also 4:19 7:23 8:14,19 13:4 | approved 14:6 | balancing 4:6 8:6 9:7 12:10 | brief 15:15 | closure 7:22, |
| although 5:7 | approving 14:24 | based 15:21, 23 | business 10:20 11:4 | coal 7:23 8:14 |
| amortization 8:4 | approximatel y 7:16 8:12 | Beck 13:17 | c | commission 4:4 5:8,10 |
| amount 11:24 12:11,21 | 11:24 12:2, 11,13,15 | before 5:17 | called 6:24 10:14 | 7:11 8:25 9:18,25 12:24 13:5 |
| anyone 5:13 14:22 15:2 | April 7:25 8:7 | behalf 4:10 11:3 12:5 | calls 6:12 | Commissione r 4:3,13,22 |
| anything 10:1 | Assistant 2:9, 13 | Behle 2:17 | capacity 7:4 | 5:3,12,17 6:4, 7,19,22 9:23 |
| 13:21,22 14:22 16:8 | associated 8:15 | being 5:14 | carried 9:6 | 10:4,9,12,23 12:25 13:6, 10,20,22,24, |
| appearance | | | case 6:2 13:5 | |

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Index: Commissioners..EBA

| 25 14:1,3,15, 17,21 15:2,5, 7,10,12,13, 14,20 | consisted 12:11 consistent | couple 14:14 | 13:3 December 8:16 | 9:11,23 10:14 11:2,3,21 12:6,9,19 13:9 14:17 |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| Commissione rs 7:14 11:18 | 6:2 16:5 consists | credit 7:19, 20,22,24 8:1 | decrease 4:5 | division's 4:17,19 10:6 11:19 13:2 |
| company 6:12 8:16 9:18 11:11 | 11:25 consultant 10:22 11:2 | Creek 7:22,24 8:3 | Deer 7:22,24 8:3 | docket 4:4 11:3,20 |
| 12:4 company's 7:6 8:11 9:3 | consultants 4:19 13:2 | cross- examination 5:22 9:22 12:24 | deferred 4:6 7:17,19 described | document 13:18 |
| 12:1 compliance 14:7 | Consumer 2:13 4:23,25 8:19 9:11 | current 8:7 | 6:10 details 12:5 | dollars 7:17, 18,19,21,23, 25 8:1,3,6,12 9:3,5 12:2,19 |
| components 7:18 | 13:13 Consumers | customers 7:16 8:5 9:2,6 | Didomenico 4:21 13:4 | DPU 14:10 |
| conclude 16:4 | 5:6 9:14 contract 8:2 | D | direct 3:4,7 7:2,4 8:19 10:17 11:7 | DPU'S 8:17, 20 |
| concluded 16:11 | correct 14:9 | Dan 13:3 | director 13:17 | duly 6:25 10:15 |
| concludes 12:21 | corrections 11:12 cost 6:18 | Daniel 4:20 date 8:18 | discussed 12:4 | E |
| conditions 8:24 9:19 | 7:17,20 8:3 12:14,18 | David 2:3 3:6 4:18 10:7,13, | discussions 8:23 | East 2:13 11:4 |
| confidential 12:9 | costs 8:13,15 11:25 12:1, 10,12,18 | 21,25 Daymark 4:20 | division 2:8 4:14,17 8:9 | EBA 4:6 7:15, 17 8:7,10,17 9:4,8 11:25 14:5,12,13 |
| | | | | I |

Index: EBA'S..issues

| 16:5 | 8:4 | first 6:25 10:15 14:4 | given 14:24 | <u> </u> |
|--|--|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| EBA'S 8:17 | explains 12:20 | Floor 2:9,13 | good 4:3,9,15 6:13,14 7:14 9:16 10:6 | includes 7:18 |
| either 14:16 15:7 | express 11:19 | following 7:18 | 11:18 | including 9:10 11:21 |
| employer 10:20 | F | follows 7:1 10:16 | granted 6:8 guess 5:21 | indicated 13:17 |
| end 5:20 10:1 | faith 9:16 | forward 5:18, 24 9:6 | | Industrial 5:6 9:13 |
| energy 2:17 4:6,20 5:6 8:6 9:12,14 12:10 13:3 | Fax 2:19 | four 9:10 | having 5:18 6:25 10:15 | initial 9:4 |
| engaged 8:23 | few 12:6 file 7:4 14:20, | frame 15:16 | heard 9:13 | instance 6:24 10:14 |
| Evans 2:16 | 21 | fuel 7:23 | hearing 16:11 | intended 5:22 |
| 5:5,15,16 even 15:15 | filed 6:1 7:15 8:16,19,25 11:7 12:18 | full 10:19 further 6:9 | here 4:3,10 5:1,6,9,13 | interest 7:25 9:17 11:23 |
| Examination | 15:21 | 10:1 12:10 14:22 16:8 | 13:18 | 16:1,3 |
| 3:4,7 7:2 10:17 | filing 9:8 14:7,13,14 | future 12:20 | history 12:4 Hogle 2:5 3:4 | into 5:21 11:10 |
| examined 6:25 10:16 | filings 13:14 | G | 4:9 5:23,25 6:6,11,12,15 7:3 9:21 10:2, | involved 13:15 |
| excused 5:10,14 | final 11:24 find 16:1 | General 2:9, | 3 14:22,23 | issue 14:10 16:7 |
| exhibits 7:5 | finished 13:9 | General's | hour 8:8 | issued 8:10 |
| expense 7:23 | | 4:16 5:1 | | issues 9:4 |

Index: items..opposition

| items 14:25 | 13:6,10,20,25 14:3,15,17,21 | 16:7 | 9:13 10:6 11:18 | note 12:6 |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|
| J | 15:2,5,7,12, 14,20 | met 8:22 | motion 6:8 | November 8:9 |
| January 4:1 8:22,25 | like 5:25 7:10 12:6 13:4 | Michael 3:3 6:17,23 | 11:11 15:3,8 Mountain 2:5 | 0 |
| Jordan 2:3 | long 15:16 | Michele 13:17 | 4:5,10 6:16, 24 7:15 9:10 | object 5:13 |
| Joylong 8:13, 20 12:15 | М | microphone 10:23 | move 5:17 6:1 | objection 5:8, 18,23,25 6:7, |
| K | made 8:2 9:8 13:14 | Mike 4:11 6:12 | moving 5:24 | 9 15:4,6 |
| kilowatt 8:8 | Main 2:6,17 | million 7:17, 19,21,23,25 | much 14:2 | obligation 7:21 |
| Koehler 4:20 | make 14:12, 13 | 8:1,3,5,12 9:2,5 11:25 12:2,11,13, | N | office 2:12 4:16,23,25 5:1,2 8:18 |
| 13:3 L | manager 6:18 | 15,19 | name 4:24 6:15,17 | 9:11,24 13:13 |
| <u> </u> | | mind 5:11 | 10:19,21,25 | offset 8:6 |
| Lake 2:6,10, 14,18 11:4 | March 7:15 9:8 14:20,21 | Mine 7:22,24 8:4,14 | need 14:6 | one 14:3,20 |
| language 6:2 | May 10:8 | minor 14:3 | negotiated 9:16 | only 5:12 14:9 |
| 14:11 | mechanism 4:7 | missing 14:7 | negotiations 13:15 | opportunity 11:19 |
| leading 13:15 | medical 7:21 | months 14:14 | net 6:18 7:20 | oppose 9:15 |
| Levar 2:2 4:3, 13,22 5:3,12, 17 6:4,7,19, | Members 2:2 | morning 4:3, 9,12,15 6:13, | 12:1 | opposition |
| 22 9:23 10:4, 9,12,23 12:25 | memorializing | 14 7:11,14 | next 14:5 | 5:8 14:25 |
| | - ' | | _ | - |

Index: order..respect

| | | | | ruci cspccc |
|---|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| order 14:24 16:7 | parties' 6:5 | presented 15:22 | 13:1,5,7,22 14:1 15:8,11, | 10 |
| original 12:1, 18 | party 13:21 Patricia 2:8 | previously 11:10 | 13 R | refund 7:16 8:5 9:2 |
| | 4:15 | | | refunded 9:6 |
| otherwise 5:10 | Phillip 4:20 13:3 | proceed 7:13 11:17 | rate 4:6 8:7 12:20 | related 7:22, 24 8:1,12,20 |
| outages 8:15 12:13 | mb ama 4,40 | proceeding 6:9 13:14 | reason 5:13 | 12:14 |
| | phone 4:19 13:4 | | 9:17 | relevant 16:5 |
| over 10:25 | plant 8:15 | process 14:12 | reasonable 15:25 16:2 | replacement 8:14 12:12 |
| | point 5:14 | proposed 8:11 9:1 | rebuttal 11:8 | report 8:10, |
| P.O. 2:10,14 | position 6:16 | provide 7:11 | recess 15:15, | 18 12:9 |
| paragraph 15:23 | possible 9:25 | public 2:9 4:4,14,17 8:9 | 17,19 recommende | represent 4:25 5:1 |
| Parsons 2:17 | potential 5:20 | 9:11,17 10:15 11:2,22 16:1, | d 12:9 | representatio ns 15:23 |
| participate 11:3 | power 2:5 4:5,10 6:16, 18,25 7:15,20 8:14 9:10 | 3 put 15:15 | record 6:16 10:20 11:11 15:21 | Representativ es 13:12 |
| participated 13:13 | 12:1,12 | Q | recovery 8:13 11:22,24 | representing 4:16 |
| particularly 15:23 | preference 14:18 | question 5:21 14:3 | 12:14 reducing 12:18 | request 14:24 |
| parties 8:22 9:10 11:20 13:1,15 15:24 | prepare 11:6 present 5:19 | questions 5:20 9:24 | reduction | requests 9:18 |
| 10.1,10 10.24 | | 10:1 12:24 | 8:11 12:1,3, | respect 15:8 |

Index: respectfully..testimony

| respectfully 9:18 14:23 | 14,18 11:4 | shortly 16:7 | 10:19 | 11:14,19 13:16,18 |
|---|---|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| responding 8:17 | same 8:18 | sign 9:14 | statement 11:14 12:21 | supporting 8:20 |
| 0.17 | save 9:25 | signature 13:17 | statute 16:5 | 6.20 |
| response 7:5 | saving 5:20 | signed 5:7 | statutes 16:6 | supports 12:19 |
| result 16:1,2 | savings 7:22, | 9:9 11:20 | Steven 2:12 | surrounding |
| results 9:1 | 23 | signers 12:16 | 4:24 | 14:11 |
| retiree 7:21 | Schmid 2:8 3:7 4:15,16 10:5,6,18 | signing 15:24 | still 14:12 | swear 6:19,20 10:10 13:6 |
| revenues 7:20 | 11:6 12:23 13:2,8 15:4 16:10 | sitting 5:19 | stipulated 13:18 | sworn 6:25 10:8,15 13:5 |
| reviewed 13:14 | Section 12:8, 16,19 | Snarr 2:12 4:24 13:11,12 15:5,6 | stipulation 4:12,18 5:7 6:3 8:25 9:9, | T |
| Rocky 2:5 4:5,10 6:16, 24 7:15 9:10 | sections 12:6 | something 14:8 | 14 10:7 11:15,20,21 12:5,7,8,16, | take 15:14 |
| rolled 5:21 | Service 4:4 | South 2:9,13, 17 11:4 | 17 13:19 14:6,24 15:21,25 | tariff 14:7,11 |
| | Services 2:13 4:23,25 8:19 | | 16:2,4,6 | tech 11:1 |
| rolling 14:5 | 9:12 13:13 | speak 15:2 | Street 2:17 | technical 10:22 11:1 |
| rules 16:6 | set 8:7,24 | special 8:2 | Suite 2:6,18 | terms 8:24 |
| s | settlement 8:23,24 9:1,9, | specific 12:6 | summary | 9:19 |
| sales 8:2 | 16,19 13:16 | start 4:7 10:25 | 7:10 | testified 7:1 10:16 |
| Salt 2:6,10, | settles 9:4 | state 6:15 | support 4:11, 18 7:5 10:7 | testimony |

Index: Thad..zero

| 6:1,5 7:5,8 8:17,19 11:7, | until 5:20 | 14:4,16 | Y | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|------------|--|
| 8,12 15:22 | used 8:6 | wheeling 7:20 | Yvonne 2:5 | |
| Thad 2:2 | Users 2:17 9:12 | whether 5:21 | 4:9 | |
| Thomson 3:6 4:18 10:8,9, 13,21 11:1 12:23 13:1 | UT 2:6,10,14 | White 2:3 13:22,24 | Z | |
| 14:19 | Utah 2:16,18 5:5 8:5 9:2, | 15:12,13 | zero 8:8 | |
| through 4:6 7:25 | 10,12,13 10:14 11:5 | whole 15:25 | | |
| time 15:15 | Utilities 2:9 | wholly 13:16 | | |
| title 10:19 | 4:14,17 8:10 9:11 10:15 11:2 | Wilding 3:3 4:11 6:13,18, 20,23 | | |
| today 4:10 5:2 | utility 4:8 10:22 11:1 14:4 | will 4:11 9:5, 6,7,8 15:16, 17,25 16:7 | | |
| treatment 12:20 | v | William 2:16 5:5 | | |
| truth 6:20 10:10 | verify 5:6,9 | witness 3:2 4:11,18 6:14, | | |
| U | w | 17,21,24 9:21,24 10:7, | | |
| UAE 8:19 | Wall 8:13,21 12:15 | 11,14 14:9,16 witnesses | | |
| UIEC 5:4 | want 15:2,15 | 5:18,19 13:23 | | |
| understandin g 14:19 | way 5:24 6:9 | | | |