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October 19, 2017

***VIA ELECTRONIC FILING
AND OVERNIGHT DELIVERY***

Utah Public Service Commission
Heber M. Wells Building, 4th Floor
160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Attention: Gary Widerburg
Commission Secretary

RE: Docket No. 17-035-39
**APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF RESOURCE DECISION TO REPOWER
WIND FACILITIES**

Rocky Mountain Power hereby submits for electronic filing its Rebuttal Testimony and Exhibits in Docket No. 17-035-39. As requested by the Commission, Rocky Mountain Power is also providing seven (7) printed copies of the filing via overnight delivery, along with a CD containing the confidential electronic copies of the testimony, exhibits, and workpapers in the file formats in which they were created.

Rocky Mountain Power respectfully requests that all formal correspondence and requests for additional information regarding this filing be addressed to the following:

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PacifiCorp
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Informal inquiries may be directed to Jana Saba at (801) 220-2823.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey K. Larsen".

Jeffrey K. Larsen
Vice President, Regulation

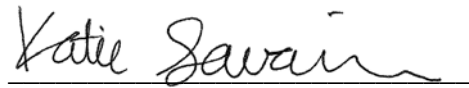
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on October 19, 2017, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail and overnight delivery to the following:

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Katie Savarin
Coordinator, Regulatory Operations

Rocky Mountain Power
Docket No. 17-035-39
Witness: Cindy A. Crane

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF UTAH

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER

Rebuttal Testimony of Cindy A. Crane

October 2017

1 **Q. Are you the same Cindy A. Crane who previously provided direct testimony in**
2 **this case on behalf of Rocky Mountain Power (“Company”), a division of**
3 **PacifiCorp?**

4 A. Yes.

5 **PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REBUTTAL TESTIMONY**

6 **Q. What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony?**

7 A. I provide the Company’s overall policy rebuttal to the objections of the Division of
8 Public Utilities (“DPU”), Office of Consumer Services (“OCS”), and the Utah
9 Association of Energy Users (“UAE”) to the Company’s request for resource approval
10 of its wind repowering project.

11 **Q. Please summarize your testimony.**

12 A. As the wind repowering project has developed, it has become an increasingly attractive
13 resource opportunity for customers. The benefits are now greater and more certain, and
14 the risks have decreased. In rebuttal to the parties’ objections to the repowering project,
15 the Company demonstrates that it has recognized and reasonably managed all of the
16 potential risks and concerns. This includes the risk of near-term changes in federal
17 corporate income tax rates that could adversely affect the project’s benefits. The
18 Company will manage this and other potential risks either through the off-ramps built
19 into the project or by seeking additional direction from the Commission before or
20 during project implementation.

21 **OVERVIEW OF WIND REPOWERING PROJECT BENEFITS AND RISK**
22 **MANAGEMENT**

23 **Q. Based on the wind repowering project’s current status and the Company’s**
24 **updated analysis of benefits, costs, and risks, does the project satisfy the public**
25 **interest standard for resource approval under Utah Code Ann. § 54-17-402?**

26 A. Yes. The repowering project is the least-cost, least-risk path available to serve the
27 Company’s customers. Company witness Mr. Rick T. Link’s rebuttal testimony and
28 updated economic analysis demonstrates customer benefits of \$115 million in the 20-
29 year medium case and \$471 million in the 2050 medium case—an increase of
30 \$102 million and \$112 million, respectively, from the Company’s original analysis.
31 Company witness Mr. Jeffrey K. Larsen’s rebuttal testimony shows how those
32 increased benefits will flow through to customers. Company witness Mr. Timothy J.
33 Hemstreet’s rebuttal testimony and project update details the Company’s extensive and
34 ongoing efforts to minimize technical and construction risk with higher-performing
35 equipment, fixed pricing, and penalties for non-performance. Company witness
36 Ms. Nikki L. Kobliha’s rebuttal testimony addresses how the Company has maximized
37 production tax credit (“PTC”) benefits and minimized risk related to the PTC
38 qualification requirements. Together, this evidence shows that the repowering project
39 satisfies the public interest standard for resource approval under Utah Code Ann.
40 § 54-17-402.

41 **Q. The parties argue that there remain significant risks related to qualification for**
42 **the PTC. Do you agree?**

43 A. No. As demonstrated in the rebuttal testimonies of Mr. Hemstreet and Ms. Kobliha, the
44 Company’s project development and tax teams have worked together to apply Internal

45 Revenue Service guidance on each relevant issue, and to calibrate the project scope,
46 expenditures, and timelines to ensure compliance. This testimony shows that the
47 Company has actively managed and mitigated all areas of potential PTC risk raised by
48 the parties.

49 **Q. The parties argue that there is a significant risk that benefits will not materialize**
50 **as claimed by the Company, and that the repowering project may prove**
51 **uneconomic in the long run for reasons beyond the Company's control. Do you**
52 **agree?**

53 A. I do not. Mr. Link's sensitivity modeling is designed to capture a wide range of
54 conditions and circumstances that could impact the economics of the repowering
55 project. In the Company's updated economic analysis, the wind repowering project
56 shows benefits under all sensitivities. While all resource decisions inherently include
57 some risk, the Company has demonstrated a high likelihood that the repowering project
58 will be beneficial to customers.

59 **Q. Both DPU and OCS object to the wind repowering project unless the Company**
60 **provides additional economic analysis, such as a facility-by-facility review and a**
61 **tax sensitivity. (Peaco Direct, lines 72 - 75; Hayet Direct, lines 589 - 592.) Has the**
62 **Company addressed this request for additional economic analysis to validate the**
63 **benefits of the wind repowering project?**

64 A. Yes. In direct response to these concerns, the Company's updated economic analysis
65 includes both a facility-by-facility review of the wind repowering project and a
66 sensitivity based on a potential reduction of the federal corporate income tax rate from

67 35 percent to 25 percent. As Mr. Link explains in his testimony, this additional analysis
68 further substantiates the benefits of the wind repowering project.

69 **Q. Based on the Company's economic analysis showing the increased benefits of the**
70 **wind repowering project, has the Company updated its forecast of the near-term**
71 **rate benefits of the project to Utah customers?**

72 A. Yes. As explained in the testimony of Mr. Larsen, the Company's updated economic
73 analysis for years 2019 through 2022 estimates a Utah customer net benefit in each
74 year, with net benefits of up to \$12.4 million by 2022. Under the Resource Tracking
75 Mechanism proposed by the Company, these benefits will flow directly to customers.

76 **Q. If circumstances arise that make the repowering project uneconomic, has the**
77 **Company structured off-ramps to allow it to stop project development?**

78 A. Yes. As addressed by Mr. Hemstreet, the Company has negotiated a fixed-price, turn-
79 key contract with General Electric for wind turbines supply and installation. It has also
80 established precautionary off-ramps in the General Electric contract to allow it to exit
81 the repowering project before issuing retrofit work orders if the project becomes
82 uneconomic. The timing of the execution of the Company's turbine supply contract
83 with Vestas also provides flexibility to allow the Company to reassess project
84 economics, if necessary, before executing the contract.

85 **Q. How will the Company respond if it receives approval of repowering in this docket**
86 **and a subsequent event occurs that adversely affects the economics of the project**
87 **during implementation?**

88 A. As allowed under Utah Code Ann. § 54-17-404,¹ if there is an adverse change of
89 circumstances that materially affects the wind repowering project's economics, the
90 Company will seek Commission review regarding whether it should proceed with
91 implementation of the approved resource decision. The Company will apply this
92 approach if there are material, adverse changes in the federal tax law that occur during
93 project implementation. But as Ms. Koblaha explains—and as OCS witness Ms. Donna
94 Ramas also reports—the window for tax law changes is likely to close in early 2018,
95 well before the final off-ramp for the repowering project. (Ramas Direct, lines 577 -
96 578.)

97 **Q. If significant portions of the repowering project do not ultimately qualify for PTCs**
98 **due to delays, or the project incurs unanticipated cost increases within the**
99 **Company's control, is the Company prepared to bear those risks?**

100 A. Yes. The Company has taken every precaution to ensure that each repowered facility
101 will meet the requirements and timelines of the five-percent safe-harbor requirement,
102 as well as the 80/20 test, and has developed a construction schedule and negotiated
103 contract terms that minimize schedule risks. While we do not believe it is appropriate
104 for the Company to absorb risks beyond its control—such as those associated with the
105 actions of the U.S. Congress—we are prepared to accept risks associated with our

¹ Utah Code Ann. §54-17-404(1)(a) (“In the event of a change in circumstances or projected costs, an energy utility may seek a commission review and determination of whether the energy utility should proceed with the implementation of an approved resource decision.”).

106 performance. We are confident that our 2016 investment will meet the five percent
107 threshold of total project costs, that we will complete the repowering project well in
108 advance of the 2020 deadline, and that the post-repowering fair market value of each
109 wind turbine will include at least 80 percent new equipment.

110 **Q. How will the Company respond if the federal corporate income tax rate is**
111 **significantly altered, impacting the economics of repowering?**

112 A. This depends on the extent and the nature of the change. As Mr. Link's tax sensitivity
113 analysis shows, the repowering project remains beneficial under the reasonable
114 assumption that a new corporate federal tax rate would not be below 25 percent, so the
115 repowering project will be in the public interest even if the corporate tax rate is
116 substantially reduced.

117 If a tax rate change occurs before the Company executes turbine supply and
118 installation contracts in early 2018, the Company will refresh the project economics to
119 inform its decision to proceed or terminate. The Company will either update its pending
120 request, or if the change occurs during the implementation of the repowering project,
121 the Company will seek guidance from the Commission under Utah Code Ann.
122 § 54-17-404.

123 If the tax law change occurs after the repowering project is completed, then the
124 change should be addressed like any other factor that occurs after a resource decision
125 is approved by the Commission based on the facts known at the time. There is always
126 a risk that future changes in laws could affect decisions made today, and the Company
127 has to operate on the best information available at the time decisions are made. That is
128 why we are before the Commission now—to determine whether the Company has

129 adequately addressed the project risks and whether repowering is in the public interest
130 given the information currently available.

131 **Q. Does this conclude your rebuttal testimony?**

132 A. Yes.

REDACTED

Rocky Mountain Power

Docket No. 17-035-39

Witness: Timothy J. Hemstreet

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF UTAH

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER

REDACTED

Rebuttal Testimony of Timothy J. Hemstreet

October 2017

1 **REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF TIMOTHY J. HEMSTREET**

2 **Q. Are you the same Timothy J. Hemstreet who previously provided direct testimony**
3 **in this case on behalf of Rocky Mountain Power (“Company”), a division of**
4 **PacifiCorp?**

5 A. Yes.

6 **PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REBUTTAL TESTIMONY**

7 **Q. What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony?**

8 A. I provide an update on the technical and commercial aspects of the Company’s wind
9 repowering project, demonstrating the project’s increasing value and decreasing risk. I
10 also respond to the direct testimony of Division of Public Utilities (“DPU”) witnesses
11 Dr. Joni S. Zenger and Daniel Peaco recommending that the Public Service
12 Commission of Utah (“Commission”) not approve the Company’s energy resource
13 decision for wind repowering.

14 **Q. What are the key issues you address in your rebuttal testimony?**

15 A. I address the following key issues:

- 16 • A description of the fully negotiated contracts with General Electric
17 International, Inc. (“GE”) and Vestas-American Wind Technology, Inc.
18 (“Vestas”) for the wind repowering project, and associated cost-savings.
- 19 • An update on the wind turbine generator equipment specified for the wind
20 repowering project and the increased generation benefits now anticipated as a
21 result of changes to that equipment.
- 22 • In response to the DPU’s testimony, I summarize the Company’s significant
23 efforts to date and future plans to minimize risk associated with the wind

24 repowering project to ensure that the project will deliver the anticipated
25 benefits.

26 • The timing and process leading up to the Company’s decision to execute safe-
27 harbor equipment-purchase contracts in late 2016, the evaluation of the
28 repowering project in the Company’s integrated resource planning process, and
29 the appropriateness of the Commission’s review of the wind repowering
30 resource decision.

31 **Q. Please summarize your testimony.**

32 A. The Company has continued to work diligently on the wind repowering project to
33 deliver benefits to its customers. The Company has finished negotiating a master
34 retrofit contract with GE and a turbine supply contract with Vestas. The negotiated
35 contract provisions reduce the initial estimated cost of the repowering project, increase
36 the generation output, and reduce or eliminate various project risks. In addition, the
37 Company has now completed most of its siting and permitting work, clearing this
38 important project hurdle.

39 The DPU opposes Commission approval of the wind repowering resource
40 decision for various reasons, mostly related to project risk and process issues. My
41 testimony addresses each of the technical and commercial risks raised by the DPU. I
42 show that the Company has aggressively managed these risks and none outweigh the
43 customer benefits from repowering. I also demonstrate that the Company timely raised
44 wind repowering in its 2017 Integrated Resource Plan (“IRP”), and has appropriately
45 invoked the resource approval statute to obtain Commission review and approval of
46 wind repowering.

UPDATE ON CONTRACT STATUS

47

48 **Q. At the time you prepared your direct testimony, the Company was still negotiating**
49 **a turn-key agreement with GE for the wind repowering project employing GE**
50 **equipment. Has the Company now completed these negotiations?**

51 **A.** Yes, the Company has completed negotiating a master retrofit contract that commits
52 GE to perform turn-key supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of the
53 repowering turbines at a fixed price.

54 **Q. Does the fully negotiated GE retrofit contract reflect differences in pricing**
55 **compared to the previous estimate used in the Company's economic analysis?**

56 **A.** Yes, the negotiated contract reduces the pricing for those wind facilities that will be
57 repowered using GE turbines. [REDACTED]

58 [REDACTED]

59 [REDACTED]

60 [REDACTED]

61 **Q. Does this mean that the Company has committed to move forward with the wind**
62 **repowering project regardless of the Commission's determination in this case?**

63 **A.** No. The GE retrofit contract provides an off-ramp if the Company does not obtain
64 regulatory approval for the repowering project or any approval that includes conditions
65 that present a material concern to the Company in moving forward with the repowering
66 project.

67 **Q. Does the GE retrofit contract provide other off-ramps to address potential**
68 **changes in circumstances that may affect the economics of the wind repowering**
69 **project or the ability of the Company to execute the project as currently**
70 **anticipated?**

71 A. Yes. The GE retrofit contract allows the Company, before issuance of a retrofit work
72 order directing GE to repower a facility, to not move forward with the retrofit work for
73 a number of reasons. These include situations in which the Company was not able to
74 timely obtain any required permit, or if the terms and conditions imposed by a permit
75 are unacceptable to the Company; for technical reasons related to the suitability of the
76 new turbines for the site or existing foundations; the Company's determination that
77 changes in local, state, or federal law or corporate tax law create a material risk to the
78 project; or if the federal production tax credit ("PTC") law or Internal Revenue Service
79 ("IRS") guidance regarding PTCs (including the safe-harbor requirements or the 80/20
80 Rule) is adversely modified, amended, or changed.

81 **Q. When does the Company anticipate issuing its first retrofit work order to repower**
82 **a GE facility?**

83 A. The first retrofit work order is expected to be issued in [REDACTED] to allow turbine
84 delivery to begin in time to support repowering of facilities in 2019.

85 **Q. If a retrofit work order is issued to GE for a facility and tax law changes, new**
86 **permit requirements, or changes in PTC rules occur and those off-ramps are no**
87 **longer automatically available to the Company, what recourse would the**
88 **Company have?**

89 A. Following the issuance of a retrofit work order, the GE retrofit contract has provisions

90 that allow the Company to terminate the retrofit work order for convenience at known
91 costs that escalate from the date the retrofit work order is executed up to the date of the
92 first anticipated turbine delivery. Thus, the Company will still have the ability to
93 respond to potential changes in the legal framework that may impact the value of the
94 GE repowering facilities.

95 **Q. Has the Company also completed negotiations on a turbine supply contract with**
96 **Vestas?**

97 A. Yes. The Company has completed negotiations with Vestas and has fixed pricing for
98 turbines ordered [REDACTED]
99 [REDACTED].

100 **Q. Do the two contracts with the turbine suppliers provide for the costs of the**
101 **turbines (and installation in the case of GE) to be adjusted up or down for factors**
102 **such as inflation, currency indexes, or steel price indexes?**

103 A. No, the contracts provide that the prices are fixed and have no such adjustment
104 mechanisms for those common price indexes. Generally, the turbine suppliers can only
105 seek a change order for price relief as a result of changes in state and/or local law that
106 impacts their costs.

107 **UPDATE ON TURBINE SPECIFICATIONS AND ENERGY OUTPUT**

108 **Q. Please provide an update on the turbine equipment specified for use in the wind**
109 **repowering project.**

110 A. In my direct testimony, I noted that GE was developing a 91-meter rotor for repowering
111 at wind facilities, like the Company's, that currently have GE 1.5-77 SLE turbines
112 installed. GE finished developing this rotor and has completed the engineering and

113 design review on a [REDACTED] turbine, which the Company can use to repower its
114 [REDACTED]. The nameplate capacity of the generator of this turbine is
115 [REDACTED] megawatts greater than the [REDACTED] turbine previously specified.

116 **Q. Has GE evaluated this new turbine to ensure it can be used to repower the**
117 **Company's [REDACTED]?**

118 A. Yes, GE has completed a mechanical loads analysis for the new turbine type at each of
119 the Company's [REDACTED] sites. The mechanical loads analysis is an
120 engineering study to assess the site-specific climatic conditions and turbine loading to
121 verify that the turbine is suitable for use at the facility site with the existing towers.

122 **Q. Has the Company also verified that the existing foundations at these wind facilities**
123 **are suitable for use with the new turbine, which may have different loading due**
124 **to the larger rotors?**

125 A. Yes, the Company's consultant Black & Veatch reviewed the new foundation loading
126 at each facility site and determined that the existing foundations at the facilities can
127 support the new turbines.

128 **Q. Does the change in turbine specification for the wind facilities require**
129 **modification to the nacelles purchased to meet safe-harbor requirements?**

130 A. No, the existing nacelles the Company acquired from GE in December 2016 can be
131 operated as a [REDACTED] turbine.

132 **Q. What are the energy benefits of this new turbine type?**

133 A. The increase in rotor diameter allows the wind turbine to capture additional wind
134 energy, while the higher nameplate capacity allows the turbine to convert more of that
135 available wind energy into electrical energy at higher wind speeds. Previously the

136 Company expected the generation output of the wind facilities to be fitted with GE
 137 [REDACTED] wind turbines to increase by 13.3 percent. The new GE [REDACTED] wind turbine
 138 results in an increase of 22.4 percent. Confidential Exhibit RMP__(TJH-1R) provides
 139 an update on the energy estimates for the repowering project.

140 **Q. Does this new turbine selection for the wind facilities require additional**
 141 **modifications, like changes in the towers, substations, or the energy collector**
 142 **systems?**

143 A. No. If operated within the limits of the existing large generator interconnection
 144 agreements, the Company does not anticipate that any such modifications are
 145 necessary.

146 **Q. What is the net result of the changes in equipment specifications to the amount of**
 147 **additional energy expected to be produced as a result of repowering?**

148 A. Assuming the generation interconnection agreements of the projects are not modified,
 149 the repowering project is estimated to result in an additional 743 gigawatt-hours
 150 (“GWh”) of energy annually, or an overall increase of 25.9 percent. This compares to
 151 the 551 GWh and 19.2 percent increase in energy output estimated previously in the
 152 Company’s Application. If the generation interconnection agreements are modified to
 153 allow all of the turbines to operate at their full nameplate capability during periods of
 154 higher winds, the generation benefits increase to 862 GWh, or 30.0 percent.

155 **Q. Given the changes in turbine equipment that can generate additional energy, have**
 156 **the estimated costs of the repowering project increased?**

157 A. No. The Company has fixed pricing for the turbines from GE and Vestas and for
 158 installation of the GE project turbines. Costs for turbine supply at each facility have

159 either not changed from prior estimates or decreased. As a result, the total cost of the
160 repowering project is now \$1.083 billion—a reduction in cost of \$45 million.

161 **Q. If the generation interconnection agreements are modified, does the Company**
162 **expect there will be additional costs to realize that additional generation?**

163 A. Yes. Due to the higher nameplate capacity of the GE [REDACTED] turbines, enabling them
164 to operate at full capacity would require replacing the turbine pad-mount transformers,
165 upgrading some segments of the collector systems, and retrofitting or replacing certain
166 generator step-up transformers. The Company expects the total cost of these upgrades
167 to increase project costs by \$36 million, for a total cost of approximately \$1.119 billion.
168 In addition, ongoing transmission studies will determine the costs of interconnecting
169 the additional project capacity to the transmission system.

170 **Q. Are there other updates to the project since the Company filed its request for**
171 **resource approval?**

172 A. Yes. The Company has also negotiated [REDACTED]
173 [REDACTED]
174 [REDACTED]
175 [REDACTED]
176 [REDACTED]
177 [REDACTED]
178 [REDACTED]
179 [REDACTED]
180 [REDACTED].

181 [REDACTED]

182 [REDACTED]

183 [REDACTED]

184 [REDACTED]

185 [REDACTED]

186 [REDACTED]

187 [REDACTED]

188 [REDACTED]

189 **Q. Does the Company's updated economic analysis reflect the costs of this fully**
190 **negotiated contract?**

191 A. Yes. The Company's updated economic analysis reflects higher operations and
192 maintenance costs [REDACTED] and reduced capital expenditures at the projects
193 [REDACTED]. Capital expenditures are reduced for the [REDACTED]
194 [REDACTED]
195 [REDACTED].

196 **Q. Are all of these changes reflected in the economic analysis in the rebuttal**
197 **testimony of Company witness Mr. Rick T. Link?**

198 A. All of the costs associated with these changes are reflected in the updated economic
199 analysis described by Mr. Link. However, the Company did not receive verification
200 from GE that the [REDACTED] turbine was technically suitable for its repowering project
201 until October 6, 2017. As a result, Mr. Link's detailed analysis evaluates the energy
202 output assuming a GE [REDACTED] turbine is used on sites that will be repowered with GE
203 equipment instead of a GE [REDACTED] turbine—the difference being that the [REDACTED]

204 turbine has the same cost as the GE [REDACTED] turbine but higher energy output as a result
 205 of a greater generator capacity.

206 **REBUTTAL ON RISKS OF REPOWERING PROJECT**

207 **Q. DPU witnesses Dr. Joni Zenger and Mr. Daniel Peaco oppose Commission**
 208 **approval of the Company’s repowering resource decision on the basis that the**
 209 **project risks outweigh the potential benefits. (Zenger Direct, lines 55 - 60; Peaco**
 210 **Direct, lines 72 - 75.) Please respond.**

211 A. I strongly disagree with the DPU’s conclusion and rationale. Wind repowering has clear
 212 and immediate benefits to customers, and the Company has identified and managed
 213 project risks and will continue to successfully manage those risks. The DPU’s
 214 testimony does not properly account for the steps the Company has already taken to
 215 eliminate or mitigate the risks they identified. On each issue raised by the DPU, the
 216 Company can demonstrate that it has considered and prudently managed project risk,
 217 as set forth below.

218 **Q. When discussing risks related to the repowering project qualifying for PTCs, Mr.**
 219 **Peaco states that the Company’s 2016 safe harbor expenditures for four of the**
 220 **repowering facilities are less than 6.7 percent, and that these margins “do not**
 221 **leave a large room for error in compliance with the rule.” (Peaco Direct, lines 658**
 222 **- 662.) Do you believe that potential cost overruns pose a substantial risk to the**
 223 **ability of the project to qualify for the full value of PTCs?**

224 A. No. The wind repowering project has a great deal of cost certainty because it involves
 225 equipment replacement rather than new construction. Cost and scope uncertainties that
 226 can increase costs are largely absent from this project. This is because the repowering

227 project will not involve the construction of new roads, turbine foundations, substations
228 or operations and maintenance buildings—where changed site conditions or uncertain
229 geotechnical conditions can create cost uncertainty.

230 **Q. Why is there little risk of not meeting the safe harbor requirement in this case?**

231 A. The cost of the wind repowering project consists mainly of turbine supply costs which
232 are fixed and set forth in fully negotiated turbine supply contracts with both GE and
233 Vestas. In the case of the GE projects, the Company's fixed-price turn-key contract
234 also includes turbine installation. To put the risks Mr. Peaco raises in perspective,
235 Confidential Table 1 below shows the applicable project costs subject to the
236 five percent safe-harbor requirement for each facility, as well as the current safe-harbor
237 percentage for each facility given the Company's current cost estimates and allocation
238 of 2016 safe-harbor equipment. Confidential Table 1 also shows the amount and
239 percentage of each facility's costs that are now fixed under the Company's negotiated
240 contracts.

241 Under these contracts, cost overrun exposure is largely limited to the aspects of
242 the repowering scope that are not yet subject to negotiated, fixed-price contracts. As
243 shown in the table, the non-fixed project costs could escalate between 100 percent and
244 5,300 percent and each facility would still be able to comply with the five percent safe-
245 harbor requirement. In the worst case scenario, the Company's cost estimates, which
246 have been informed by budgetary quotes from wind energy construction companies
247 and reflect its experience constructing and maintaining these very same wind projects,
248 can be exceeded by 100 percent and still qualify under the five percent safe-harbor rule.

249

**Confidential Table 1
Cost Overrun Sensitivity of Repowering Facilities to Meet Five Percent Safe Harbor**

Wind Project	Total Project Cost Applicable to Five Percent Safe Harbor (\$000s)	Current Safe Harbor Percentage (%)	Cost that are Fixed with Turbine Suppliers (\$000s)	Turbine Supplier Fixed Costs (%)	Costs Not Yet Contractually Fixed (\$000s)	Amount that Non-Fixed Costs Can Increase and Meet 5% Safe Harbor (%)
McFadden Ridge						
Seven Mile Hill II						
High Plains						
Dunlap I						
Glenrock III						
Glenrock I						
Rolling Hills						
Seven Mile Hill I						
Marengo I						
Marengo II						
Leaning Juniper						
Goodnoe Hills						

250 **Q. The Company produced detailed construction cost estimates in discovery in this**
 251 **case. Has any party questioned specific aspects of the Company’s construction**
 252 **cost estimates or identified cost elements the Company has underestimated or**
 253 **overlooked?**

254 A. No.

255 **Q. Do you believe the contracting mechanisms the Company intends to use for the**
 256 **majority of the non-fixed costs shown in the table above create risk of potential**
 257 **cost overruns?**

258 A. No. The majority of the non-fixed costs are turbine installation costs not already
 259 covered by a contract. The Company—as it has traditionally done for its wind energy
 260 development construction projects—will execute fixed-price contracts for all turbine
 261 installations so that the costs are known in advance and not subject to variability except
 262 for standard provisions that allow the installer to seek price relief (e.g., force majeure,
 263 change in law).

264 **Q. Are there other actions the Company can take to mitigate the risk associated with**
265 **the five percent safe harbor?**

266 A. Yes. As discussed in the rebuttal testimony of Ms. Nikki L. Kobliha, the Company
267 could reallocate safe-harbor turbine components among facilities if a specific facility
268 is experiencing cost overruns. This would increase that facility's safe-harbor
269 percentage, ensuring it equals or exceeds five percent.

270 **Q. What if the Company determined, after the equipment was already installed, that**
271 **the five percent safe-harbor requirement was not met. Would that result in the**
272 **entire project losing its full PTC value?**

273 A. No. As described in Ms. Kobliha's rebuttal testimony, in such a case, the Company
274 would simply reduce the scope of its repowering project to exclude a specific turbine
275 or turbines, thereby reducing the overall project cost such that the allocated PTC
276 safe-harbor equipment is sufficient to satisfy the five percent requirement. This would
277 allow those turbines that remain within the defined project to qualify for the full value
278 of PTCs. As demonstrated by the fact that the Company will not be repowering 32
279 turbines at the Glenrock/Rolling Hills site because they would not meet the 80/20 test,
280 the Company is free to define the number of turbines at a facility site that it is including
281 within its wind repowering project.

282 **Q. Wouldn't that affect the economics of the project since individual turbines would**
283 **be left out of the project and not generate PTCs?**

284 A. Yes, but it would preserve full PTC qualification for nearly all of the wind repowering
285 project and thus does not materially affect the overall project economics.

286 **Q. When implementing projects like the wind repowering project, does the Company**
287 **have personnel and processes to track costs and ensure awareness of forecasted**
288 **and actual project spending throughout the project?**

289 A. Yes, for all capital projects of this scale, the Company has assigned project managers
290 who work with the Company's construction management, finance and accounting staff
291 to forecast and accrue project costs and track project invoices and contract payments
292 such that any cost changes are identified as they occur. The Company can use this
293 information to make any needed adjustments to manage the limited risk of potential
294 cost overruns.

295 **Q. For the wind facilities the Company has previously constructed, has the Company**
296 **ever had an issue in meeting the applicable IRS requirements such that the**
297 **projects did not qualify for PTCs?**

298 A. No.

299 **Q. Do you believe there are material risks that the 2016 safe-harbor purchases could**
300 **be inadequate?**

301 A. No. As shown in Confidential Table 1, the only realistic potential for cost overruns to
302 impact the adequacy of the 2016 safe-harbor purchases [REDACTED]

303 [REDACTED]

304 [REDACTED]

305 [REDACTED]

306 [REDACTED]. Thus, before committing to the project, the Company will have certainty that
307 cost overruns for those facilities pose no threat to the adequacy of the 2016 safe-harbor
308 equipment. Should there be a potential for the 2016 safe-harbor equipment to be

309 insufficient to cover anticipated project costs, the Company will have the ability to
310 address those risks as described above.

311 **Q. How do you respond to Mr. Peaco's testimony that the Company has not provided**
312 **any analysis of the risk of potential cost overruns causing the 2016 safe-harbor**
313 **expenditures to be insufficient? (Peaco Direct, line 667.)**

314 A. The Company has assessed and addressed the safe-harbor risk since the inception of
315 the project. For example, the Company acquired safe-harbor equipment sufficient to
316 achieve a six percent safe-harbor to ensure adequate coverage. The Company has also
317 taken the steps described above to ensure certainty around project costs and will
318 continue to monitor these costs. Because it is highly unlikely that the Company's cost
319 estimates will be off by 100 percent or more, an economic analysis or sensitivity around
320 these risks, as Mr. Peaco suggests, is not productive or necessary.

321 **Q. Has Mr. Peaco proposed a methodology the Company should use to assess these**
322 **risks?**

323 A. No.

324 **Q. Mr. Peaco also alleges that there is risk that the repowered facilities may not be**
325 **in service by the end of 2020 due to the possibility turbines, contractors or**
326 **equipment may not be available. (Peaco Direct, lines 697 - 699.) Do you believe**
327 **this is a significant risk to the project or its economics?**

328 A. No. As noted above, for the [REDACTED] wind facilities, the Company already has
329 a fully negotiated contract with GE to perform repowering on a turn-key basis and thus
330 has secured the equipment and resources to complete those projects. The Company has
331 also negotiated a turbine supply contract with Vestas and will be able to secure those

332 turbines. GE will be contractually obligated to complete repowering by guaranteed
 333 completion dates that will be specified by the Company. The Company plans to
 334 complete seven of the [REDACTED] facilities before the end of 2019—a year ahead of the
 335 required December 31, 2020 deadline for the repowered facilities to achieve
 336 commercial operation. Thus, there is little risk of those facilities not meeting the 2020
 337 deadline. The Dunlap facility is the only facility the Company is planning to repower
 338 in 2020 to avoid significantly truncating the existing PTCs from that facility.

339 **Q. Does the Company have any remedies if GE does not meet a guaranteed turbine-**
 340 **completion date for a wind facility?**

341 A. Yes. If the delay is not caused or otherwise agreed to by the Company or due to certain
 342 strictly limited “excusable delay” events, and the Company has met its contract
 343 requirements, GE will be required to pay liquidated damages to the Company of [REDACTED]
 344 per day for any turbine that is not completed by a guaranteed turbine-completion date,
 345 [REDACTED]. In
 346 addition, as discussed in more detail below, if there is any slip in the turbine-completion
 347 date beyond December 31, 2020, [REDACTED]
 348 [REDACTED]. These mechanisms in the GE contract
 349 create a powerful incentive for GE to maintain the contractual schedule.

350 **Q.** Mr. Peaco alleges that the Company has not “provided any mechanism for
351 damage recovery due to ‘lost’ PTC.” (Peaco Direct, lines 709 - 712.) Does the GE
352 contract provide any remedies to the Company if the repowered facilities (or
353 individual turbines within those facilities) fail to qualify for PTCs as a result of
354 not being placed in service by December 31, 2020?

355 **A.** Yes. Under the terms of the GE retrofit contract, [REDACTED]
356 [REDACTED]
357 [REDACTED]
358 [REDACTED]
359 [REDACTED]
360 [REDACTED]
361 [REDACTED]
362 [REDACTED]
363 [REDACTED]
364 [REDACTED]
365 [REDACTED]
366 [REDACTED]
367 [REDACTED]
368 [REDACTED]
369 [REDACTED]
370 [REDACTED]
371 [REDACTED]
372 [REDACTED]

373

[REDACTED]

374

[REDACTED]

375

[REDACTED]

376

[REDACTED]

377

[REDACTED]

378

[REDACTED]

379

[REDACTED]

380

[REDACTED]

381

[REDACTED]

382

[REDACTED]

383

[REDACTED]

384

[REDACTED]

385

[REDACTED]

386

[REDACTED]

387 **Q. Mr. Peaco also cites permitting and financing risks as having the potential to cause**
388 **a delay in repowering the facilities, threatening their ability to qualify for PTCs.**
389 **(Peaco Direct, lines 694 - 699.) Do you agree?**

390 **A.** No. The Company has now received notice from the Wyoming Industrial Siting
391 Division that no amendments to its existing operating permits for the Wyoming wind
392 facilities are necessary to complete the repowering project. Similarly, the Company has
393 received notice from Columbia County, Washington, that its conditional use permit for

[REDACTED]

394 the Marengo facility need not be modified and that no additional permits are needed to
395 repower the facility. The Company now has the major permit authorizations for 10 of
396 the 12 facilities proposed for repowering. I do not expect any issues in obtaining
397 required regulatory approvals for the remaining two facilities.

398 **Q. Mr. Peaco alleges that the Company has not assessed the risks related to potential**
399 **lost PTC revenue as a result of permitting delays. (Peaco Direct, lines 694 - 702.)**
400 **Please respond.**

401 A. The Company will not order further turbines (beyond those already procured to satisfy
402 the safe-harbor requirements) or otherwise move forward with the repowering project
403 until it has secured the necessary permits—a task that is near completion. For this
404 reason, permitting issues are not a material risk to achieving the benefits of the
405 repowering project.

406 **Q. What about the risk Mr. Peaco raises that repowering costs could be less than**
407 **anticipated such that the 80/20 rule is not met due to insufficient expenditures?**
408 **(Peaco Direct, lines 734 - 735.)**

409 A. Given the fixed-priced contracts that the Company has negotiated for turbine supply
410 and installation, there is very minimal risk that the Company could underspend on
411 repowering costs such that a turbine failed the 80/20 test. In Confidential Table 2
412 below, I show the preliminary Ernst & Young valuation for each turbine type that the
413 Company proposes to repower, based on a December 31, 2018 valuation date. Also
414 shown is the required spending necessary to meet the 80/20 Rule, the anticipated
415 spending per turbine, and the amount by which the anticipated spending is over the
416 80 percent threshold. As shown in the table, the turbines with the highest estimated fair

417 market value of the retained components still have spending [REDACTED]
418 [REDACTED]
419 [REDACTED]
420 [REDACTED]
421 [REDACTED]
422 [REDACTED]
423 [REDACTED]. I am confident that cost under-run risk does not pose a significant
424 threat to the ability of the projects to meet the 80/20 test. In addition, the turbines with
425 the lowest spending in excess of the 80/20 requirements are planned to be repowered
426 in the third quarter of 2019, and their fair market value at that time will likely be less
427 than at the end of 2018—creating additional margin above the 80/20 spending
428 requirement.

429

**Confidential Table 2
80/20 Rule Spending Requirements by Project**

Location Name	Turbine Foundation Type	# of Turbines	Ernst & Young Preliminary FMV of Retained Components Per Turbine 12/31/2018 (\$000s)	Minimum Threshold of New Turbine Costs Required (\$000s)	Qualifying Machine Head Costs Per Turbine (\$000s)	New Turbine Costs in Excess of Requirement (\$000s)
Goodnoe Hills	Standard	47				
Marengo I	Standard	78				
Glenrock I	Standard	58				
McFadden Ridge	Standard	19				
Rolling Hills	Standard	42				
Marengo II	Standard	39				
Leaning Juniper	Standard	67				
Seven Mile Hill I	Standard	57				
Seven Mile Hill I	Dynamic	9				
Glenrock III	Standard	13				
High Plains	Standard	66				
Seven Mile Hill II	Standard	13				
Dunlap	Standard	74				
Rolling Hills	Dynamic	6				
Glenrock III	Dynamic	7				

430 **Q. Dr. Zenger states that the Company previously experienced issues with deploying**
 431 **safe-harbor wind-turbine generator (“WTG”) equipment when technical analysis**
 432 **later determined that the equipment purchased was unsuitable for particular**
 433 **wind development sites, and suggests that the repowering project presents a**
 434 **similar risk. (Zenger Direct, lines 148 - 179.) Do you agree?**

435 **A.** No. The Company did not execute contracts to purchase the safe-harbor equipment
 436 acquired in December 2016 until it had completed technical analysis to verify the
 437 equipment was suitable for repowering. GE prepared this technical analysis in
 438 November 2016, which provided assurances that the GE nacelles could be deployed at
 439 237 turbine locations in Wyoming. Vestas completed similar technical analysis in late

440 December 2016, verifying that the Vestas nacelles were suitable for deployment at the
441 Marengo facility, with 117 turbine locations. GE subsequently completed mechanical
442 loads analyses for the Dunlap, High Plains, and McFadden Ridge wind facilities in
443 February and March 2017, providing assurance that repowering the entire Wyoming
444 wind fleet was technically feasible with the equipment acquired in December 2016. GE
445 completed technical analysis of the GE [REDACTED] turbine for use at all Company sites in
446 Wyoming on October 6, 2017. These technical evaluations—as well as the verification
447 by the Company’s consultant that the foundations are suitable to accommodate the
448 repowering turbines—fully address the risks identified by Dr. Zenger.

449 Dr. Zenger’s criticism of the Company’s prior acquisition of wind turbines
450 intended for an Idaho site, but ultimately used for the Rolling Hills wind facility, is also
451 misplaced. The Company determined that Rolling Hills was the best project in which
452 to cost-effectively use the turbines it had acquired. At the time, turbines were in short
453 supply and it would have been difficult for the Company to cost-effectively obtain
454 turbines for an alternative project or even obtain turbines at all had it not already
455 acquired the turbines. Moreover, to take advantage of the value of PTCs, which were
456 set to expire at the end of 2008,² the Company needed to act quickly so it could place
457 the resource in service by the end of 2008. In the end, the Company acted reasonably
458 and in customers’ interests, as indicated by the fact that the Commission did not find
459 the Company’s development of the Rolling Hills facility imprudent.

² The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-343) passed on October 3, 2008, subsequently extended PTC eligibility to wind projects constructed by December 31, 2010, effectively extending the earlier December 31, 2008 eligibility window.

460 **Q. Dr. Zenger also cites the Company's past experience in obtaining or extending**
461 **land leases for wind projects under development as a risk related to the**
462 **repowering project. (Zenger Direct, lines 182 - 187.) Has the Company verified**
463 **that it has the land rights to operate its wind turbines for the anticipated extended**
464 **life of the repowered wind facilities?**

465 A. Yes, the Company has reviewed the terms for all of the leases where its wind turbines
466 are located and has determined that, with two exceptions, the current lease expiration
467 dates either already cover the extended asset life of the repowered wind turbines or that
468 the Company has the unilateral ability to extend the duration of the land leases to cover
469 the extended asset life. The first exception is Leaning Juniper, where the Company has
470 the unilateral right to extend the lease term to January 2046. The second exception is
471 two turbines at Marengo I that are located on State of Washington lands, where the
472 current lease term runs through 2041. The Company has been in contact with both
473 landowners and will work with them to extend the lease terms to cover the remaining
474 additional years of project operations following repowering.

475 **Q. What if the Company is unable to extend the leases for those turbines?**

476 A. The Company would then re-evaluate the economics to determine if moving forward
477 with a shorter lease term—or alternatively, not repowering certain turbines in the case
478 of Marengo I—adversely impacts project economics. Because repowering the turbines
479 is priced on a per-turbine basis, reducing the number of turbines repowered while also
480 reducing the commensurate investment cost does not adversely impact project
481 economics. Alternatively, it may be more prudent to wait to renew the leases until the
482 lease expiration is closer at hand given the long time before the leases would need to

483 be extended.

484 **Q. Mr. Peaco alleges that the economic benefits of the repowering project are highly**
485 **sensitive to the amount of energy produced by the repowered facilities, as well as**
486 **the existing assets, and that there is risk to customer benefits because the**
487 **Company’s revenue estimates are “based entirely on assumed capacity factors.”**
488 **(Peaco Direct, lines 834 - 836.) Please respond.**

489 A. I strongly disagree, with respect to both the existing and the forecast post-repowering
490 generation from the facilities. The Company’s assessment of the existing generation
491 from the facilities, listed as Current Long Term Generation (MWh), Column 4 in
492 Confidential Exhibit RMP__(TJH-1R), is not based on assumed capacity factors. The
493 existing generation reflects the actual generation output from each facility since its first
494 full year of commercial operations. It is not based on expected generation increases
495 predicted by wind modeling nor based upon a P50 forecast of generation that may not
496 reflect a project’s actual generation history.

497 **Q. Do the generation estimates following repowering also consist simply of “assumed**
498 **capacity factors?”**

499 A. No. The post-repowering estimates of energy production upon which the Company’s
500 current economic analysis are based also reflect the actual operating history of the wind
501 facilities. The Company worked with its consultant, Black & Veatch, to use the
502 extensive data history from the Company’s facilities to derive precise estimates of the
503 energy production expected from repowering. This analysis used more than 160 million
504 data points from the operational record of the wind facilities and incorporated
505 additional modeled wake losses anticipated from the new equipment. The results reflect

506 as accurately as possible the energy production that would have occurred from the
 507 repowered turbines under the same operational conditions and availability as the
 508 existing equipment. Thus, the energy estimates do not rely upon assumptions about
 509 either the wind conditions that are expected to exist at the projects or improved
 510 availability as compared to the Company’s actual experience.

511 **Q. Do you believe these repowering energy estimates to be conservative?**

512 A. Yes. The estimates reflect the generation increase that is expected to occur solely based
 513 on the different equipment performance specifications of the newer equipment. As
 514 described above, the generation estimates do not reflect any improvements in the
 515 operational availability of the wind facilities from repowering. I expect that the
 516 availability of the wind turbines will improve after repowering given the additional
 517 sensors and condition monitoring systems in the repowered turbines that should allow
 518 for improved diagnostics and implementation of preventative maintenance measures
 519 that can reduce turbine down-time. Additionally, given the [REDACTED]
 520 [REDACTED], I anticipate the [REDACTED]
 521 availability of the projects may increase—resulting in more generation under similar
 522 wind conditions as compared to the past.

523 **Q. Mr. Peaco states that “[w]ind generation is highly variable, and there is definite**
 524 **potential that actual project generation could be less than assumed.” (Peaco**
 525 **Direct, lines 836 - 837.) Please respond.**

526 A. While I agree that wind generation is highly variable, I do not agree that there is a
 527 definite potential that actual project generation could be less than assumed. As
 528 described above, the Company’s estimates of existing energy production reflect the

529 actual average annual generation observed over the life of the facilities. As described
530 above, the repowering energy estimates are also derived from the actual operating
531 history of the projects and applied to that same average baseline generation history.
532 Thus, even with variability on a year-by-year basis, the long-term generation should
533 revert to the mean.

534 **Q. Does Mr. Peaco point to any specific factors in the Company's estimates of energy**
535 **production that would create a bias towards an overestimation of the generation**
536 **benefits from repowering?**

537 A. No. He suggests there is potential for generation benefits to be less than anticipated due
538 to the variable nature of wind generation, but he does not appear to ascribe a
539 commensurate likelihood that the generation benefits could be greater than anticipated
540 as a result of that same variability. Mr. Peaco does not provide any other rationale
541 supporting his claim that the Company's generation estimates could be less than
542 assumed.

543 **Q. Mr. Peaco states that assumptions on project life have significant impacts on the**
544 **customer benefits of the repowering projects and that these risks are borne by**
545 **customers. (Peaco Direct, lines 869 - 874.) Do you believe the project life**
546 **assumptions are biased in any way?**

547 A. No. The Company's assumptions regarding asset life reflect the current depreciation
548 lives of the wind facilities, as approved by the Commission. The Company's project
549 life assumption simply reflects the reasonable assumption that equipment that is new
550 will last 10 years longer than equipment that is already at least 10 years old.

551 **APPLICABILITY OF VOLUNTARY RESOURCE APPROVAL STATUTE**

552 **Q. Dr. Zenger opposes the Company’s request for approval of wind repowering**
 553 **because Utah’s resource approval statute (the “pre-approval statute”) does not**
 554 **contemplate approval of resource decisions that have “already been committed**
 555 **to.” (Zenger Direct, lines 103 - 105.) Is this a valid objection?**

556 **A.** No. As Mr. Jeffrey K. Larsen also explains in his rebuttal testimony, my understanding
 557 is that the pre-approval statute is designed to determine whether a resource decision is
 558 in the public interest before a utility implements its decision—which is the purpose of
 559 this docket. Although the Company made expenditures of [REDACTED] in 2016 to
 560 qualify for the full value of the PTC and preserve the option to repower the entirety of
 561 the wind fleet, the Company’s expenditures to date for the wind repowering project
 562 represent only seven percent of the currently anticipated total costs of repowering. The
 563 Company’s actions to date should not be interpreted as an absolute, unqualified
 564 commitment to proceed with the repowering project regardless of the outcome of this
 565 case. The Company is also not obligated contractually to either GE or Vestas to proceed
 566 with repowering or to purchase any additional equipment or services in support of the
 567 repowering project if the Commission denies the Company’s request. The Company
 568 has asked for the Commission’s review and approval of the repowering project—an
 569 option made economically feasible by the Company’s decision to purchase safe harbor
 570 equipment in 2016—on the basis that the project is beneficial to customers and in the
 571 public interest.

572

573 **Q. Dr. Zenger faults the Company for not including stakeholders in the planning**
574 **process, and specifically notes the lack of a Commission-approved IRP or Action**
575 **Plan identifying wind repowering as a factor relevant to the Commission’s public**
576 **interest determination. (Zenger Direct, lines 105 - 108, 222 - 227.) Could the**
577 **Company have raised the wind repowering project early in the Company’s 2017**
578 **IRP process?**

579 A. No. The technical analysis demonstrating that it was feasible to repower any of the
580 Company’s wind facilities was not completed until November 1, 2016. On that date,
581 GE completed a mechanical loads analysis of the Rolling Hills project (66 turbines)
582 and a portion of the Glenrock III project (13 turbines). Subsequent mechanical loads
583 analysis was completed for Glenrock I (66 turbines) and the remainder of Glenrock III
584 (13 turbines) on November 3, 2016, and for the Seven Mile Hill I and II projects on
585 November 7, 2016. Before this time, the Company did not know that repowering was
586 feasible and did not have the information (*i.e.*, turbine types suitable for use in
587 repowering, and their associated energy production) necessary to develop meaningful
588 scenarios in the IRP.

589 **Q. If the Company knew that repowering was technically feasible for at least a subset**
590 **of its Wyoming wind projects in early November 2016, why did it not develop a**
591 **proxy repowering scenario to include in the IRP process or state that it was**
592 **contemplating repowering its wind facilities during the Company’s November 17,**
593 **2016 IRP public meeting?**

594 A. Although the Company knew in November 2016 that it was technically feasible to
595 repower at least a portion of its Wyoming wind fleet, the Company had not completed

596 negotiations with GE regarding equipment pricing, and it remained uncertain whether
597 safe-harbor equipment was available—and to what extent—for delivery before the end
598 of 2016. The Company also did not yet know whether repowering wind facilities with
599 Vestas equipment was feasible since that technical analysis was not completed until
600 December 22, 2016.

601 **Q. Are there other factors that impacted the Company’s ability to publicize its**
602 **discussions with turbine suppliers at the end of 2016 or integrate repowering**
603 **scenarios earlier in the IRP process?**

604 A. Yes. First, only the original equipment manufacturers of the Company’s wind turbines
605 could complete the technical analysis validating whether repowering was technically
606 feasible in time to acquire safe-harbor equipment in 2016. Thus, analysis of repowering
607 projects within the IRP—had it been possible—would not have resulted in modeling
608 proxy resources but rather in identifying specific projects requiring equipment from
609 individual equipment suppliers. Public modeling of the economics of repowering—and
610 potentially individual projects—could have disadvantaged the Company’s negotiations
611 with suppliers.

612 Second, safe-harbor WTG equipment was in short supply in late 2016 because
613 it was the last year for wind projects to purchase equipment to qualify as having begun
614 construction in 2016 and thereby qualify for 100 percent of the PTC. Thus, the
615 Company was competing with other market participants to purchase limited
616 safe-harbor equipment. Public information that the Company was considering
617 repowering its wind fleet of known turbine types at known locations may have induced
618 other market participants to evaluate repowering their own projects and could have

619 resulted in greater competition for the limited safe-harbor equipment, increased prices,
620 or limited turbine availability. This could have limited the Company's options for wind
621 repowering and reduced customers' benefits.

622 **Q. OCS witnesses Messrs. Mangelson and Hayet argue that additional analysis of the**
623 **repowering project should be conducted over the next four to six months,**
624 **extending the current schedule for a Commission decision on the Company's**
625 **request for resource approval. (Magelson Direct, lines 56 - 59; Hayet Direct, lines**
626 **594 - 597.) Is this proposal reasonable?**

627 **A.** No. In Mr. Link's rebuttal testimony, the Company has provided additional analysis of
628 the type OCS requests, further documenting that the wind repowering project—and
629 each individual facility proposed to be repowered—is beneficial to customers.
630 Additionally, scheduling another four to six months to conduct more analysis and
631 delaying the Commission's decision on the Company's request would negatively affect
632 the viability of the repowering project. The delay would impact the ability of the
633 Company to execute contracts in early 2018, as required to maintain the construction
634 schedule described in my direct testimony. Given the negotiated rate of turbine
635 deliveries and project completion durations in the Company's negotiated contracts, this
636 would likely push projects scheduled for 2019 completion into 2020, potentially
637 increasing project costs as a result of the change in schedule and increasing risks related
638 to meeting the December 31, 2020 deadline.

639 **Q. Does this conclude your rebuttal testimony?**

640 **A.** Yes.

REDACTED

Rocky Mountain Power

Exhibit RMP___(TJH-1R)

Docket No. 17-035-39

Witness: Timothy J. Hemstreet

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF UTAH

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER

REDACTED

Exhibit Accompanying Rebuttal Testimony of Timothy J. Hemstreet

Repowering Project – Generation Increases

October 2017

**THIS EXHIBIT IS CONFIDENTIAL IN ITS
ENTIRETY AND IS PROVIDED UNDER
SEPARATE COVER**

REDACTED

Rocky Mountain Power

Docket No. 17-035-39

Witness: Rick T. Link

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF UTAH

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER

REDACTED

Rebuttal Testimony of Rick T. Link

October 2017

1 **Q. Are you the same Rick T. Link who previously provided direct testimony in this**
2 **case on behalf of Rocky Mountain Power (“Company”), a division of PacifiCorp?**

3 A. Yes.

4 **PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REBUTTAL TESTIMONY**

5 **Q. What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony?**

6 A. I summarize updates to the economic analysis that demonstrate increasing customer
7 benefits from the wind repowering project. I also rebut challenges to the Company’s
8 economic analysis raised in the direct testimonies of the Utah Division of Public
9 Utilities (“DPU”) witness Mr. Daniel Peaco; Office of Consumer Services (“OCS”)
10 witnesses Mr. Philip Hayet, Ms. Donna Ramas, and Mr. Gavin Mangelson; and the
11 Utah Association of Energy Users (“UAE”) witness Mr. Kevin C. Higgins.

12 **Q. Please summarize your rebuttal testimony.**

13 A. My rebuttal testimony summarizes updated and expanded economic analysis that
14 incorporates modeling updates and new sensitivity studies developed in response to
15 certain concerns raised by parties in this proceeding. My rebuttal testimony also
16 addresses criticisms of PacifiCorp’s modeling assumptions and methodologies. My
17 rebuttal demonstrates that:

- 18 • The updated economic analysis shows net customer benefits in all of the
19 scenarios analyzed.
- 20 • The wind repowering project will produce present-value net customer benefits,
21 based on updated economic analysis over the remaining life of the repowered
22 wind facilities, ranging between \$360 million to \$635 million.

- 23
- Present-value gross customer benefits calculated over the remaining life of the
- 24
- repowered wind facilities range between \$1.38 billion and \$1.65 billion, which
- 25
- compares to present-value project costs totaling \$1.02 billion.
- 26
- These net and gross customer benefits are conservative, as they do not account
- 27
- for additional incremental energy output that will be generated with the
- 28
- installation of equipment that only recently has been verified to be available for
- 29
- repowering of certain wind facilities.
- 30
- When measured over a 20-year period, the present value of net customer
- 31
- benefits from wind repowering range between \$90 million and \$214 million,
- 32
- which does not account for the value of incremental energy output that will
- 33
- increase significantly beyond 2036.
- 34
- Project-by-project analysis, developed in response to criticisms raised by
- 35
- certain parties, confirms that the proposed scope of the project, including just
- 36
- over 999 megawatts (“MW”) of existing wind resource capacity, is appropriate
- 37
- and will maximize customer benefits.
- 38
- Tax-policy sensitivity analysis, also developed in response to criticisms raised
- 39
- by certain parties, confirms that net customer benefits persist even with
- 40
- potential changes in the corporate federal income tax rate.
- 41
- The modeling tools and methodologies used to develop the economic analysis
- 42
- supporting the wind repowering project are robust.
- 43
- The wind repowering project will replace equipment at existing wind facilities
- 44
- with modern technology to improve efficiency, increase energy production,
- 45
- extend the operational life, reduce run-rate operating costs, reduce net power

46 costs, and deliver substantial federal production tax credit (“PTC”) benefits that
47 will be passed on to customers. The proposed wind repowering project is in the
48 public interest.

49 **MODELING UPDATES**

50 **Q. Did PacifiCorp update its economic analysis supporting the wind repowering**
51 **project?**

52 A. Yes. The economic analysis was updated to correct certain model inputs and to reflect
53 more current assumptions.

54 **Q. Please summarize these updates.**

55 A. The models were updated to: (1) implement a correction to certain transmission
56 assumptions; (2) reflect more current load-forecast assumptions; (3) reflect more
57 current forward-price-curve assumptions; and (4) to reflect more current cost-and-
58 performance assumptions for the repowered wind facilities.

59 **Q. Did you calculate how these updates impact the economic analysis that you**
60 **summarized in your direct testimony?**

61 A. Yes. PacifiCorp used the System Optimizer (“SO”) model and the Planning and Risk
62 model (“PaR”) to determine the impact of these modeling updates on the economic
63 analysis summarized in my direct testimony. These models were used to calculate how
64 the present-value revenue requirement differential (“PVRR(d)”) between a simulation
65 with and without the wind repowering project changes after applying the modeling
66 updates. The PVRR(d) calculated from the change in nominal revenue requirement due
67 to wind repowering through 2050 was also calculated.

68 **Q. What is the impact of these assumption changes in the economic analysis assuming**
69 **medium natural gas prices and medium carbon dioxide (“CO₂”) prices?**

70 A. Based on SO model results through 2036, the expected wind repowering PVRR(d)
71 benefits increase by \$116.6 million, from \$21.7 million as summarized in my direct
72 testimony (Link Direct, Table 2) to \$138.3 million. Based on stochastic-mean PaR
73 results through 2036, the wind repowering PVRR(d) benefits increase by \$101.8
74 million, from \$13.5 million (Link Direct, Table 2) to \$115.2 million. Based nominal
75 revenue requirement results through 2050, the PVRR(d) benefits of wind repowering
76 increase by \$112.5 million, from \$358.7 million (Link Direct, Table 3) to \$471.2
77 million. I describe each of these modeling updates in more detail below.

78 **Q. Please describe the correction to transmission assumptions applied in the updated**
79 **economic analysis.**

80 A. In my direct testimony, I described how PacifiCorp modeled de-rates to its Wyoming
81 230-kV transmission system (Link Direct, lines 344 - 359). Based on historical outage
82 data, the transfer capability from eastern Wyoming to the Aeolus area was reduced by
83 36.5 MW in simulations that included the wind repowering project. This same de-rate
84 was inadvertently not applied to the simulations that excluded the wind repowering
85 project. This was corrected by applying the 36.5 MW transmission de-rate to
86 simulations both with and without the wind repowering project.

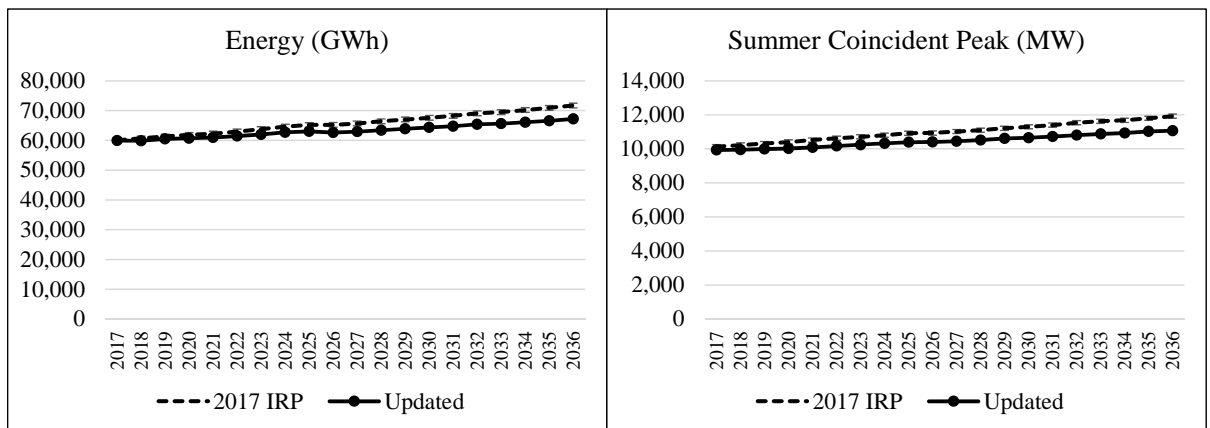
87 **Q. Please describe the new load forecast assumptions included in the updated**
88 **economic analysis.**

89 A. The load forecast used in the economic analysis summarized in my direct testimony is
90 the same load forecast used in PacifiCorp’s 2017 Integrated Resource Plan (“IRP”).

91 This 2017 IRP load forecast was finalized in December 2016. My updated analysis uses
92 the Company's new load forecast completed in the summer of 2017, after the Company
93 made its initial filing.

94 Figure 1 compares the load forecast from the 2017 IRP used in my original
95 economic analysis to the new load forecast. The updated system energy forecast is
96 down by 2.2 percent in 2021 and down by 6.3 percent in 2036 relative to the 2017 IRP
97 forecast. The updated coincident summer peak forecast is down by 4.1 percent in 2021
98 and down by 7.2 percent in 2036 relative to the 2017 IRP forecast.

99 **Figure 1. Comparison of the 2017 IRP and Updated Load Forecast Assumption**



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Changes in the load forecast are primarily driven by: (1) a reduction in Utah and Wyoming industrial loads principally due to reduced usage projections for a number of large customers; (2) increases in the growth of customer generation from 2017 to 2018, contributing to reductions in Utah residential customer usage; and (3) updated appliance saturation and efficiency assumptions with refinements to miscellaneous device sales data (i.e., televisions, pool heaters, personal computers, and other plug-in devices), contributing to reductions in Utah residential customer usage.

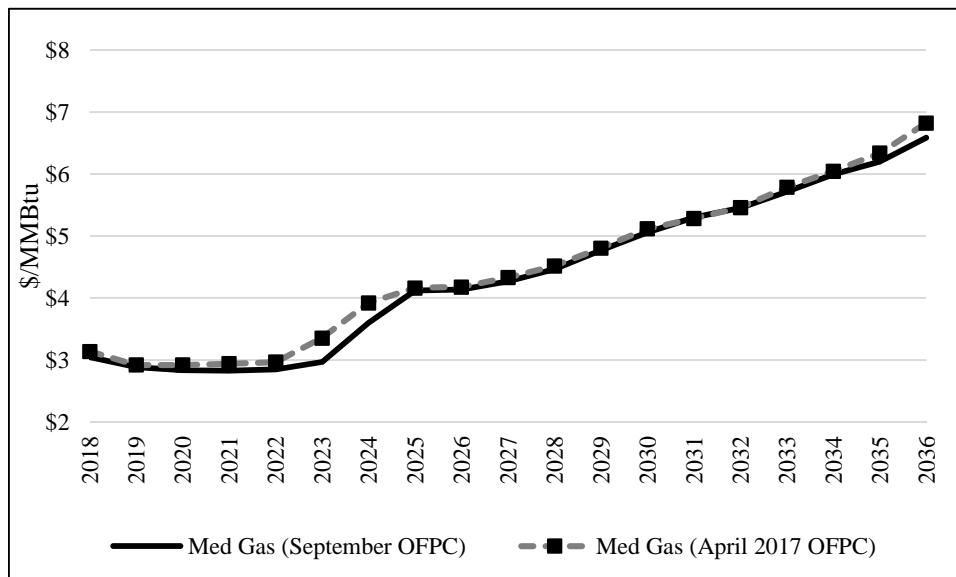
108 **Q. Please describe the new price forecast included in the updated economic analysis.**

109 A. In my direct testimony, I described nine price-policy scenarios, developed by pairing
110 three natural-gas price forecasts (low, medium, and high) with three CO₂ price forecasts
111 (zero, medium, and high). (Link Direct, lines 515 - 572.) The medium natural-gas price
112 assumptions are derived from PacifiCorp's official forward price curve ("OFPC"). In
113 the economic analysis summarized in my direct testimony, PacifiCorp used its April
114 26, 2017 OFPC.

115 PacifiCorp's most recent OFPC is dated September 30, 2017, which reflects
116 more current market forwards and an updated forecast from [REDACTED]. Figure 2
117 compares Henry Hub natural-gas prices from the April 26, 2017 OFPC, as used to
118 support the economic analysis in my direct testimony, with Henry Hub natural-gas
119 prices from the updated September 30, 2017 OFPC. Over the period 2018 through
120 2036, the nominal levelized price for Henry Hub natural-gas prices has dropped by
121 approximately 2.6 percent from \$4.07/MMBtu to \$3.97/MMBtu. The reduction in
122 levelized prices is primarily driven by reductions in the 2023 to 2024 time frame.

123

Figure 2. Comparison of the April 2017 and September 2017 OFPC Henry Hub Natural-Gas Price Forecasts



124

The updated OFPC reflects market forwards as of September 30, 2017, through October 2023. Prices in the updated market fundamentals forecast from [REDACTED], which are used exclusively in the OFPC beyond October 2024, track closely with those assumed in the April 2017 OFPC. PacifiCorp continues to blend market forwards from month 61 (November 2022) through month 72 (October 2023) with the fundamentals-based forecast from month 85 (November 2024) through month 96 (October 2025) to establish prices in month 73 (November 2023) through month 84 (October 2024).

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Q. Mr. Peaco compares the Company’s natural-gas price forecasts with NYMEX Henry Hub natural-gas futures through 2029 as of September 11, 2017, and concludes that this comparison demonstrates current market expectations most closely align with the Company’s low natural-gas forecast. (Peaco Direct, lines 585 - 598.) How do you respond?

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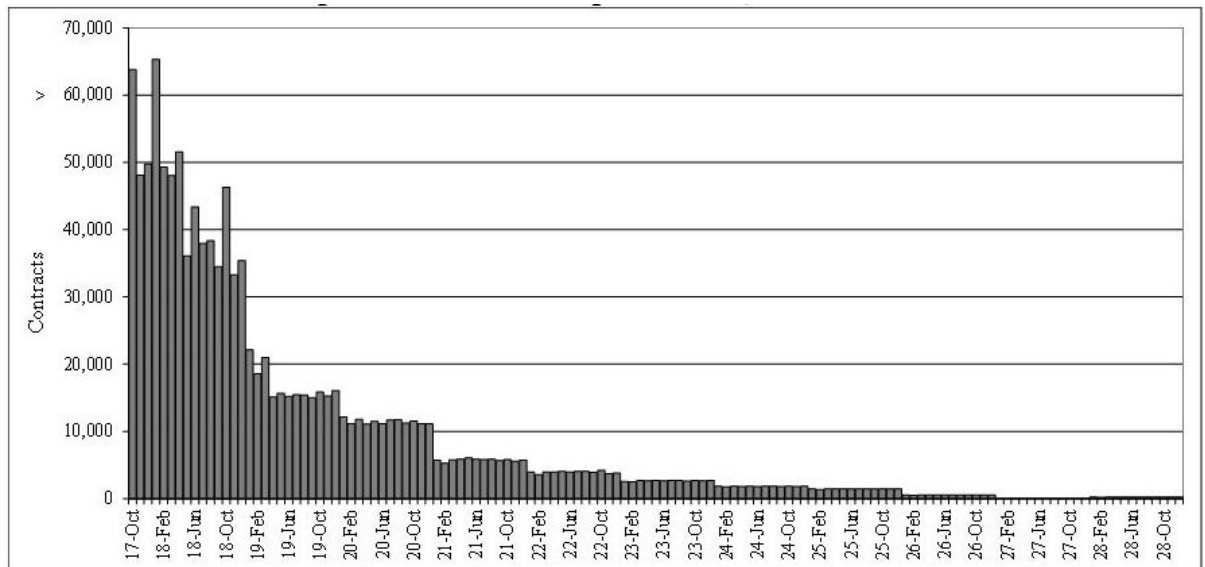
A. Mr. Peaco’s conclusion is misguided because it relies solely on NYMEX Henry Hub natural-gas futures after 2022, which do not accurately capture market expectations for

137

138 long-term natural-gas prices. Mr. Peaco fails to consider the open interest in NYMEX
139 Henry Hub futures contracts, which quickly falls for futures contracts further out in
140 time. The sparsity of open interest in the out period makes these futures contracts an
141 unreliable indicator of market expectations for long-term natural-gas prices.

142 Each futures trade represents the creation of a new contract and is indicative of
143 new capital being committed to the market. Figure 3 shows NYMEX Henry Hub
144 natural-gas open interest as of September 11, 2017—the same quote date used by Mr.
145 Peaco to compare NYMEX futures prices to the Company’s Henry Hub natural-gas
146 price forecast.

147 **Figure 3. NYMEX Henry Hub Natural Gas Futures
Open Interest as of September 11, 2017**



148 This figure shows that open interest is greater in the near term and significantly
149 lower in the long term. For instance, in 2018 open contracts average over 43,200. By
150 2023, open contracts average just over 2,600—approximately six percent of the open
151 interest observed for 2018 contracts. The concentration in the earlier futures indicates

152 the market is deeper and stronger in the near term because fewer market participants
153 are willing to commit capital required to enter and maintain long-term contracts.

154 There are very few contracts supporting NYMEX Henry Hub natural-gas-
155 futures prices over the period in which Mr. Peaco claims the market outlook most
156 closely aligns with the Company's low natural-gas price forecast (*i.e.*, beyond 2022).
157 Contracts with greater open interest more accurately represent a market consensus of
158 where spot prices are likely to trade. Long-term prices are shaped by a handful of
159 participants who are lightly committed. These participants are basing their decisions on
160 highly imperfect data. Short-term prices are shaped by a large field of market
161 participants, who commit far more capital because there is more transparency around
162 the conditions and variables that can impact prices.

163 **Q. Did PacifiCorp update the low and high natural-gas price scenarios used in the**
164 **economic analysis presented in your direct testimony?**

165 A. No. Current low and high natural-gas price scenarios produced by third-party
166 forecasters are not materially different than those used to support the economic analysis
167 in my direct testimony. Similarly, there are no material changes in third-party forecasts
168 for CO₂ price assumptions. Consequently, the low and high natural-gas price
169 assumptions and the medium and high CO₂ price assumptions used in the economic
170 analysis summarized in my direct testimony remain valid for testing how these
171 variables impact the overall economics of the wind repowering project.

172 **Q. Please describe the updated cost-and-performance assumptions for the repowered**
173 **wind facilities.**

174 A. As described in the rebuttal testimony of Company witness Mr. Timothy J. Hemstreet,

175 General Electric (“GE”) finished developing a 91-meter rotor for use in repowering
176 wind facilities and has completed engineering and design review on a [REDACTED]
177 [REDACTED] turbine. Assuming the repowered wind facilities continue to operate
178 within the limits specified in their large-generator interconnection agreements
179 (“LGIAs”), the updated expected incremental energy output from wind repowering,
180 accounting for use of the [REDACTED] turbines on GE sites (all but Marengo 1, Marengo 2,
181 and Goodnoe Hills), is 25.9 percent (743 GWh per year)—up from the 19.2 percent
182 (551 GWh per year) increase assumed in my original economic analysis. Mr. Hemstreet
183 also explains that the Company has fixed pricing for the wind repowering turbines
184 supporting updated capital costs. The updated total up-front capital investment is
185 \$1.083 billion—a \$45 million reduction from the cost assumed in my original economic
186 analysis.

187 As noted by Mr. Hemstreet, the Company did not receive verification that the
188 [REDACTED] turbine was technically suitable for GE sites within the scope of the repowering
189 project until October 6, 2017. At this time, the Company had already begun updating
190 its analysis assuming the use of a [REDACTED] turbine at GE sites. The
191 longer blade length also improves expected incremental annual energy output relative
192 to the [REDACTED] turbine equipment assumed in my original analysis.
193 Assuming use of the [REDACTED] turbines, the updated incremental energy output is 24.9
194 percent (714 GWh per year)—up from the 19.2 percent (551 GWh per year) increase
195 assumed in my original economic analysis. The updated total up-front capital
196 investment assuming the use of [REDACTED] turbines on GE sites is \$1.083 billion—identical

197 to the up-front capital investment required assuming the use of [REDACTED] turbines on GE
198 sites.

199 Because the Company did not receive verification that the [REDACTED] turbine was
200 technically suitable for GE sites until after the updated economic analysis had been
201 initiated, the bulk of my updated economic analysis assumes the use of [REDACTED] turbines
202 on GE sites. However, now that the Company has received verification that the [REDACTED]
203 [REDACTED] turbines can be deployed on GE sites, I summarize the results of a sensitivity study
204 that quantifies the incremental benefits from the use of this equipment later in my
205 rebuttal testimony.

206 **UPDATED SYSTEM-MODELING PRICE-POLICY RESULTS**

207 **Q. Did PacifiCorp update its system modeling among different price-policy scenarios**
208 **to reflect the modeling updates described above?**

209 A. Yes. Using the same system methodology described in my direct testimony, PacifiCorp
210 updated the economic analysis for the wind repowering project, incorporating the
211 modeling updates described earlier in my rebuttal testimony, including the assumed use
212 of [REDACTED] turbines on GE sites. This updated analysis was performed using the SO
213 model and PaR among nine different price-policy scenarios.

214 **Q. Please summarize the updated PVRR(d) results calculated from the SO model and**
215 **PaR through 2036.**

216 A. Table 1 summarizes the updated PVRR(d) results for each price-policy scenario. The
217 PVRR(d) between cases with and without wind repowering are shown for the SO model
218 and for PaR, which was used to calculate both the stochastic-mean PVRR(d) and the

219 risk-adjusted PVRR(d). The data used to calculate the PVRR(d) results shown in the
 220 table are provided as Exhibit RMP____(RTL-R2).

221 **Table 1. Updated SO Model and PaR PVRR(d)
 (Benefit)/Cost of Wind Repowering (\$ million)**

Price-Policy Scenario	SO Model PVRR(d)	PaR Stochastic-Mean PVRR(d)	PaR Risk-Adjusted PVRR(d)
Low Gas, Zero CO ₂	(\$110)	(\$90)	(\$95)
Low Gas, Medium CO ₂	(\$125)	(\$108)	(\$113)
Low Gas, High CO ₂	(\$133)	(\$114)	(\$119)
Medium Gas, Zero CO ₂	(\$137)	(\$116)	(\$122)
Medium Gas, Medium	(\$138)	(\$115)	(\$121)
Medium Gas, High CO ₂	(\$157)	(\$131)	(\$137)
High Gas, Zero CO ₂	(\$196)	(\$152)	(\$160)
High Gas, Medium CO ₂	(\$204)	(\$167)	(\$175)
High Gas, High CO ₂	(\$214)	(\$167)	(\$176)

222 Over a 20-year period, before accounting for the increase in incremental energy
 223 output beyond 2036, the wind repowering project reduces customer costs in all nine
 224 price-policy scenarios. This outcome is consistent in both the SO model and PaR
 225 results. Under the central price-policy scenario, assuming medium natural-gas prices
 226 and medium CO₂ prices, the PVRR(d) benefits range between \$115 million, when
 227 derived from PaR stochastic-mean results, and \$138 million, when derived from SO
 228 model results.

229 **Q. What trends do you observe in the modeling results across the different price-**
 230 **policy scenarios?**

231 A. Projected system costs increase with high natural-gas price assumptions, and similarly,
 232 increase with high CO₂ price assumptions. Conversely, system costs decline when low
 233 natural-gas prices and low CO₂ prices are assumed. This trend holds true when looking

234 at the results from the two simulations used to calculate the PVRR(d) for all nine of the
235 price-policy scenarios. Generally, this same trend applies when looking at the change
236 in system costs between simulations with and without wind repowering. There are,
237 however, a few exceptions. For example, in the medium natural-gas price scenarios
238 where a change from a zero CO₂ price assumption to a medium CO₂ price assumption
239 has a very marginal impact on the PVRR(d) benefits from repowering. In this price-
240 policy scenario, the increase to system costs from PaR caused by the introduction of a
241 CO₂ price assumption is slightly greater in the simulation without wind repowering
242 than it is in the simulation with wind repowering.

243 These slight variations from expected trends can be explained by the difference
244 in functionality between the SO model and PaR. Relative to the SO model, PaR
245 provides additional granularity on how wind repowering is projected to affect system
246 operations. However, in its optimization to minimize system costs, PaR cannot modify
247 the resource portfolio, which is based on SO model results. This can contribute to
248 variation in the trends observed between the two models as price-policy assumptions
249 change across the scenarios. Importantly, both models, each having its own strengths,
250 show that the wind repowering benefits are robust across a range of price-policy
251 assumptions.

252 **Q. Mr. Peaco claims that the Company’s modeling has “methodological issues”**
253 **because the results have “several anomalies,” e.g., the benefits do not increase in**
254 **every scenario where the gas price increases. (Peaco Direct, line 375-390.) Please**
255 **respond.**

256 **A.** As I just discussed, the impact of natural-gas price and CO₂ price assumptions follows

257 the expected trends in the simulations with and without wind repowering that are used
 258 to calculate the PVRR(d) results for each price-policy scenario. In some instances, the
 259 relative impact of natural-gas price and CO₂ price assumption changes can be greater
 260 on the simulation with repowering or greater on the simulation without repowering.
 261 Any perceived anomalies in the PVRR(d) results among price-policy scenarios can be
 262 explained by examining the model results for each of these simulations in detail, and
 263 accounting for changes to resource mix and system dispatch.

264 **Q. Did you update the potential upside to these PVRR(d) results associated with**
 265 **renewable energy credit (“REC”) revenues?**

266 A. Yes. Consistent with my direct testimony, the PVRR(d) results presented in Table 1 do
 267 not reflect the potential value of RECs generated by the incremental energy output from
 268 the repowered facilities. Accounting for the updated performance assuming use of ■■■
 269 ■■■ turbines on GE sites, customer benefits for all price-policy scenarios would improve
 270 by approximately \$6 million for every dollar assigned to the incremental RECs that
 271 will be generated from the repowered wind facilities through 2036 (up from \$4 million
 272 in my original analysis).

273 **Q. OCS witness Ms. Ramos recommends that the Commission ignore any repowering**
 274 **benefit related to the possibility of future REC revenues (Ramos Direct, lines 668-**
 275 **691.) How do you respond?**

276 A. PacifiCorp is not relying on potential incremental REC revenues in its economic
 277 analysis of the wind repowering project, as evidenced by the fact REC revenues are not
 278 included in the PVRR(d) results summarized in Table 1. While Ms. Ramos correctly
 279 notes that the REC market is illiquid and lacks transparency, PacifiCorp is active in this

280 market and routinely engages in REC sales and purchases. Quantifying the potential
281 upside associated with incremental REC revenues is intended to simply communicate
282 that the net benefits of wind repowering *could* improve *if* the incremental RECs can be
283 monetized in the market.

284 **Q. Is there additional upside to these PVRR(d) results?**

285 A. Yes. The PVRR(d) results in Table 1 assume that [REDACTED] turbines are deployed on GE
286 sites, not the [REDACTED] turbines now secured for these sites, which will deliver additional
287 incremental energy output without any increase in cost. As described later in my
288 rebuttal testimony, sensitivity analysis developed off of the medium natural-gas price
289 and medium CO₂ price scenario that assumes the use of the [REDACTED] turbines improves
290 the PVRR(d) benefits of wind repowering by \$11 million to \$13 million if these
291 facilities continue operating within the limits specified in their LGIAs. If the LGIAs
292 are modified to accommodate additional energy output, the incremental benefits of
293 wind repowering increase by between \$37 million to \$48 million.

294 **UPDATED REVENUE REQUIREMENT MODELING PRICE-POLICY RESULTS**

295 **Q. Did PacifiCorp update its revenue requirement modeling among different price-**
296 **policy scenarios to reflect the modeling updates described above?**

297 A. Yes. Using the same annual revenue requirement modeling methodology described in
298 my direct testimony, PacifiCorp updated its forecast of the change in nominal annual
299 revenue requirement due to the wind repowering project, incorporating the modeling
300 updates described earlier my rebuttal testimony, including the assumed use of [REDACTED]
301 turbines on GE sites.

302 **Q. Please summarize the updated PVRR(d) results calculated from the change in**
303 **annual revenue requirement through 2050.**

304 A. Table 2 summarizes the updated PVRR(d) results for each price-policy scenario
305 calculated off of the change in annual nominal revenue requirement through 2050. The
306 annual data over the period 2017 through 2050 that was used to calculate the PVRR(d)
307 results shown in the table are provided as Exhibit RMP__(RTL-R3).

308 **Table 2. Updated Nominal Revenue Requirement PVRR(d)**
(Benefit)/Cost of Wind Repowering (\$ million)

Price-Policy Scenario	Annual Revenue Requirement PVRR(d)
Low Gas, Zero CO ₂	(\$360)
Low Gas, Medium CO ₂	(\$480)
Low Gas, High CO ₂	(\$473)
Medium Gas, Zero CO ₂	(\$483)
Medium Gas, Medium CO ₂	(\$471)
Medium Gas, High CO ₂	(\$534)
High Gas, Zero CO ₂	(\$555)
High Gas, Medium CO ₂	(\$635)
High Gas, High CO ₂	(\$619)

309 When system costs and benefits from the wind repowering project are extended
310 out through 2050, covering the full depreciable life of the repowered wind facilities,
311 the wind repowering project reduces customer costs in all nine price-policy scenarios.
312 The PVRR(d) benefits range from \$360 million in the low natural gas, zero CO₂
313 scenario to \$635 million in the high natural gas, medium CO₂ scenario. Under the
314 central price-policy scenario, assuming medium natural-gas prices and medium CO₂
315 prices, the PVRR(d) benefits of wind repowering are \$471 million.

316 **Q. Is there potential upside to these PVRR(d) results associated with REC revenues?**

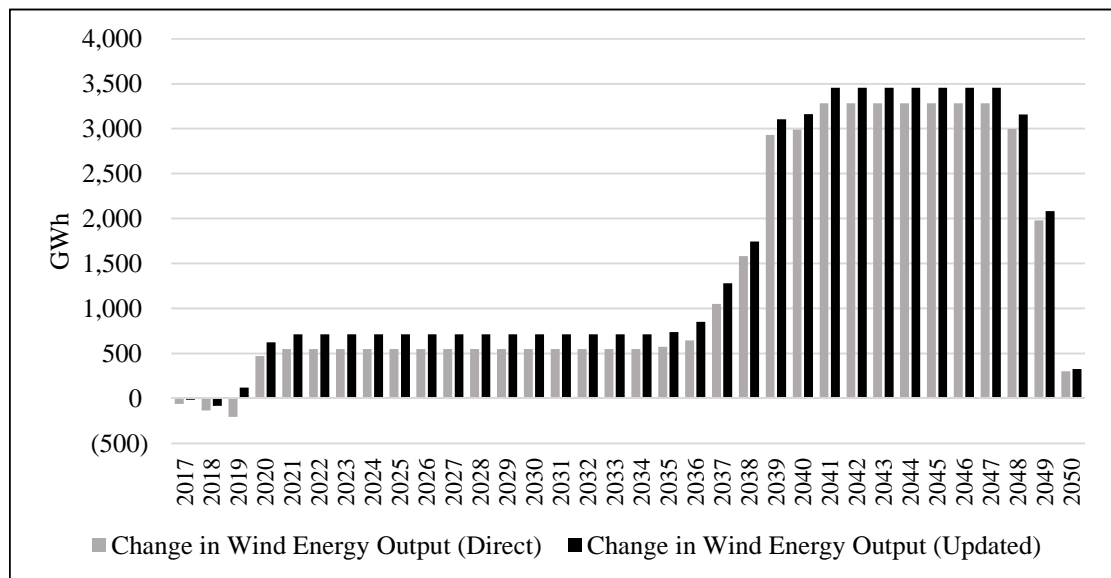
317 A. Yes. Consistent with my direct testimony, the PVRR(d) results presented in Table 2 do
 318 not reflect the potential value of RECs generated by the incremental energy output from
 319 the repowered facilities. Accounting for the updated performance assuming use of [REDACTED]
 320 [REDACTED] turbines on GE sites, customer benefits for all price-policy scenarios would improve
 321 by approximately \$13 million for every dollar assigned to the incremental RECs that
 322 will be generated from the repowered wind facilities through 2050 (up from \$11 million
 323 in my original analysis). As noted earlier, quantifying the potential upside associated
 324 with incremental REC revenues is intended to simply communicate that the net benefits
 325 of wind repowering *could improve if* the incremental RECs can be monetized in the
 326 market.

327 **Q. What causes the increase in PVRR(d) results when calculated off of the change in
 328 nominal revenue requirement through 2050 relative to the system modeling results
 329 calculated off of the change in system costs through 2036?**

330 A. In my direct testimony, I explain that the extended analysis picks up the sizable increase
 331 in incremental wind energy output beyond the 20-year period analyzed with the SO
 332 model and PaR. (Link Direct, lines 675 - 694.) This same rationale applies to the
 333 economic analysis that has been refreshed to incorporate the modeling updates
 334 described earlier in my rebuttal testimony. In fact, with the increase in expected
 335 incremental energy output from the wind facilities, the change in incremental wind
 336 energy output is higher than what was assumed in the economic analysis summarized
 337 in my direct testimony.

338 Figure 4 shows the updated incremental change in wind energy output resulting
 339 from the repowering project alongside the same assumptions used in the economic
 340 analysis summarized in my direct testimony. The updated assumptions continue to
 341 show progressively higher levels of incremental energy output from 2036 through
 342 2040, as wind facilities originally placed in service between 2006 and 2010 would have
 343 otherwise reached the end of their lives. Based on the updated assumptions, the average
 344 incremental increase in wind energy output is approximately 714 GWh. Beyond 2040,
 345 and before the new equipment reaches the end of its depreciable life, the average annual
 346 incremental increase in wind energy output is 3,454 GWh.

347 **Figure 4. Comparison of the Updated Change in Incremental Wind Energy Output Due to Wind Repowering**



348 **Q. Mr. Hayet provides analysis showing that if the useful lives of the wind turbines**
349 **are extended for an additional 10 years, then the benefits of repowering decrease.**
350 **(Hayet Direct, lines 479-98.) Mr. Higgins and Mr. Peaco make similar points.**
351 **(Higgins Direct, lines 158-171; Peaco Direct, lines 53-56.) How do you respond to**
352 **this concern?**

353 A. PacifiCorp's annual revenue requirement analysis, which extends the economic
354 analysis beyond the 2036 time frame, captures the upside of increased incremental
355 energy output beyond the period in which the repowered wind facilities would have
356 otherwise reached the end of their depreciable lives. This analysis reasonably assumes
357 that these facilities would be retired at the end of their current depreciable lives.

358 If one were to assume that the wind facilities would continue to operate for
359 some period beyond their current depreciable lives if not repowered, it is reasonable to
360 assume that the repowered wind facilities would also operate for some comparable
361 period of time beyond their 30-year life initiated upon repowering.

362 The effect of this assumption would be to defer, but not eliminate, the value of
363 the sizable increase in expected incremental energy beyond the assumed operable life
364 of the wind facilities. Consequently, this would defer the associated incremental
365 benefits beyond the assumed operable life of the wind facilities, which would be more
366 heavily discounted in the present-value calculation. For this reason, it is no surprise
367 that the PVRR(d) is reduced if one were to assume the existing wind facilities and the
368 repowered wind facilities both continue to operate beyond their depreciable lives.

369 Mr. Hayet's analysis estimating the impact on the PVRR(d) results assuming
370 the existing wind facilities, if not repowered, and the repowered wind facilities operate

371 for 10 years beyond their depreciable life is presented over two different time frames—
372 one where the PVRR(d) is calculated from annual data through 2060 and one where
373 the PVRR(d) is calculated from annual data through 2050.

374 The results based on the PVRR(d) calculated from annual data through 2060
375 are directionally consistent with the expectations I describe above. Mr Hayet’s analysis
376 shows that benefits are reduced, but importantly, this analysis shows that the wind
377 repowering project still has sizable economic benefits in eight out of nine price-policy
378 scenarios. Moreover, Mr. Hayet's analysis was performed without accounting for the
379 modeling updates described earlier in my rebuttal testimony, which significantly
380 increase the expected benefits of the wind repowering project.

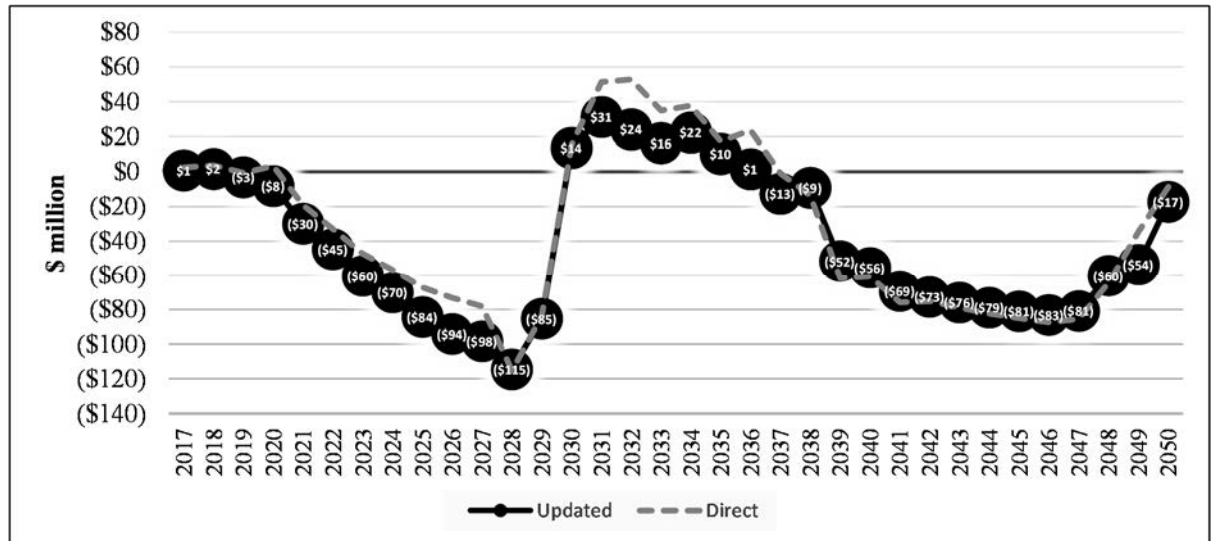
381 Mr. Hayet’s results calculated from annual data through 2050 are misleading
382 and should be dismissed. By assuming a 10-year extension to the operable life and
383 truncating the present-value calculation to eliminate the last 10 years of the assumed
384 asset lives, this analysis erroneously eliminates the sizable increase in incremental
385 energy from the repowered wind facilities from 2051 through 2060.

386 **Q. Please describe the change in annual nominal revenue requirement from the wind**
387 **repowering project.**

388 A. Figure 5 shows the updated change in nominal revenue requirement due to wind
389 repowering for the medium natural gas, medium CO₂ price-policy scenario on a total-
390 system basis. The change in nominal revenue requirement shown in the figure reflects
391 updated project costs, including capital revenue requirement (i.e., depreciation, return,
392 income taxes, and property taxes), operations and maintenance expenses, the Wyoming
393 wind-production tax, and PTCs. The project costs are netted against updated system

394 impacts from wind repowering, reflecting the change in NPC, emissions, non-NPC
 395 variable costs, and system fixed costs that are affected by, but not directly associated
 396 with, the wind repowering project.

397 **Figure 5. Updated Total-System Annual Revenue Requirement
 With Wind Repowering (\$ million)**



398 This figure has the same basic profile as Figure 5 from my direct testimony.
 399 This profile shows substantial near-term benefits associated with the PTCs, a period
 400 over which the change in annual revenue requirement increases after the PTCs expire,
 401 and a period over the long term where the change in annual revenue requirement is
 402 reduced based on substantial and progressively growing increases to incremental
 403 energy output between 2036 through 2041. The PVRR(d) benefits from the wind
 404 repowering project calculated off of this stream of data is \$471 million—the same
 405 figure shown in Table 2 for the medium natural gas, medium CO₂ price-policy scenario.

406 **Q. Did parties in this proceeding raise concerns with the methodology used in**
407 **PacifiCorp’s economic analysis to calculate customer benefits from 2037 through**
408 **2050?**

409 A. Yes. Mr. Hayet claims that the extended results to 2050 are questionable and that
410 customers would have to wait 20 years before significant benefits could be achieved.
411 (Hayet Direct, lines 269-272.) Similarly, Mr. Peaco criticizes the extrapolation
412 methodology, stating that extrapolation of results beyond 2036 is problematic. (Peaco
413 Direct, lines 539-540.)

414 **Q. How do you respond?**

415 A. As described in my direct testimony, the methodology used to extrapolate system
416 benefits from wind repowering from 2037 through 2050 is based on the aggregate
417 system benefits derived from the SO model and PaR over the period 2028 through
418 2036. (Link Direct, lines 455 - 501.) These data, based on how the wind repowering
419 project affects forecasted system costs, are a reasonable proxy for projected long-term
420 benefits associated with the wind repowering project.

421 Regardless of the methodology used to extrapolate the system benefits of wind
422 repowering to 2050, the point of extrapolating results is to capture the benefits from
423 the significant increase in the expected annual energy output from the repowered wind
424 facilities beyond the period in which the existing wind facilities would have otherwise
425 hit the end of their lives. While the methodology used in my analysis is valid, the value
426 of this incremental energy can be evaluated in different ways.

427 Table 3 summarizes how the PVRR(d) results through 2050 would change if
428 flat market prices at the Palo Verde (“PV”) market from the September OFPC were

429 used as the basis to evaluate the value of incremental energy from wind repowering
 430 over the 2037 to 2050 time frame. Recognizing there is both upside and downside price
 431 risk to the value of this energy, I assume different levels of PV prices—70 percent of
 432 the PV forward curve, 100 percent of the PV forward curve, and 130 percent of the PV
 433 forward curve. PacifiCorp’s September OFPC includes forward prices through 2042.
 434 Conservatively, I assume no escalation in PV prices beyond 2042 for each of these
 435 scenarios. I also calculate the PVRR(d) through 2050 assuming the incremental energy
 436 from the project from 2037 through 2050 is worth nothing. Each of these scenarios is
 437 shown alongside the \$471 million PVRR(d) benefit when incremental energy from
 438 repowering beyond 2036 is calculated from system modeling results over the 2028
 439 through 2036 time frame.

440 **Table 3. Long-Term Benefit Sensitivity**

Source of 2037-2050 Benefits	Nominal Levelized Benefit from 2037 – 2050 (\$/MWh)	Annual Revenue Requirement PVRR(d) (Benefit)/Cost (\$ million)
2028-2036 System Modeling	\$57.82	(\$471)
70% of PV Flat OFPC	\$45.30	(\$385)
100% of PV Flat OFPC	\$64.71	(\$522)
130% of PV Flat OFPC	\$84.12	(\$658)
No Value	\$0.00	(\$66)

441 This analysis demonstrates that regardless of the methodology used to extend
 442 wind repowering benefits to 2050, the PVRR(d) result shows significant customer
 443 savings in all scenarios. If the incremental energy is valued at the PV forward curve,
 444 the PVRR(d) benefits of repowering are \$522 million, which is \$51 million higher than
 445 the methodology used in my analysis. Even if the incremental energy beyond 2036 is

446 assumed to have no value at all, which is an unimaginable scenario, the wind
447 repowering project delivers \$66 million in PVRR(d) benefits.

448 **Q. Mr. Peaco argues that the Company’s extrapolation method for the extended**
449 **period is unreasonable because of the year-to-year volatility in system costs from**
450 **2028 to 2036. (Peaco Direct, lines 494-510.) Is this a fair criticism of the**
451 **extrapolation?**

452 A. No. Mr. Peaco’s assessment of the volatility in system modeling benefits is misguided
453 because he focuses solely on changes to system *fixed* costs between simulations with
454 and without repowering and ignores contemporaneous changes to system *variable*
455 costs. When the SO model identifies a least-cost resource portfolio, it evaluates all fixed
456 and variable system costs to arrive at an optimized least-cost solution—it does not
457 separately optimize system fixed costs nor does it separately optimize system variable
458 costs. It is not uncommon for there to be volatility in system fixed costs as resources in
459 the portfolio change in response to changes in input assumptions (*i.e.*, when wind
460 repowering is factored in the SO model’s determination of the optimal resource mix).
461 Generally, there are offsetting changes to system variable costs that coincide with
462 spikes or dips in the change to system fixed costs between two simulations. Mr. Peaco’s
463 observations of model results is explained by not considering changes to all of the
464 system costs (fixed and variable costs) between simulations with and without wind
465 repowering and do not indicate that there are model errors or model limitations.

466 Mr. Peaco further observed that the SO model evaluates resource alternatives
467 as discrete choices. (Peaco Direct, lines 475-477.) This observation is correct. For
468 instance, the SO model is not configured to be able to choose a percentage of a new

469 combined cycle unit (for example, the model cannot choose to add a two MW combined
470 cycle plant), because this is unrealistic. This does not mean that the model is not well-
471 suited to analyze benefits from the wind repowering project. In fact, it is critical to
472 understand how the wind repowering project might influence projected system costs
473 that account for discrete changes in the resource portfolio.

474 **Q. Both Mr. Peaco and Mr. Hayet argue that the expected customer benefits are**
475 **modest relative to the overall project costs and that there is very little certainty**
476 **that customers will see significant, if any, cost savings. (Peaco Direct, lines 227 -**
477 **234; Hayet Direct, lines 263 - 274.) Is this a fair criticism?**

478 A. No. Mr. Peaco and Mr. Hayet both mischaracterize the relationship between the cost
479 and benefits of the wind repowering project by comparing the up-front investment cost
480 to the *net* benefits of the project. This artificially makes it appear that customer benefits
481 are relatively small in relation to the investment required to deliver those benefits, when
482 in fact, the gross benefits from the project are actually greater than total project costs.

483 For instance, in the updated economic analysis, the PVRR(d) results calculated
484 from the change in system costs through 2050 assuming medium natural gas and
485 medium CO₂ prices show a \$471 million net customer benefit from wind repowering.
486 This is based on present-value project costs, including changes to run-rate operating
487 costs, totaling \$1.02 billion. The present value of customer benefits, including federal
488 PTC benefits, for this price-policy scenario is \$1.49 billion, which is \$472 million
489 greater than the present value of project costs. In fact, the present value of customer
490 benefits among all nine price-policy scenarios ranges between \$1.38 billion and \$1.65

491 billion. In all scenarios, the present value of customer benefits far exceed the present
492 value of customer costs.

493 **PROJECT-BY-PROJECT ANALYSIS**

494 **Q. Did parties in this proceeding raise concerns with the scope of the proposed wind**
495 **repowering project?**

496 A. Yes. OCS witness Mr. Hayet faults PacifiCorp for modeling repowering as a single, all-
497 or-nothing project, instead of modeling each facility individually, and claims that some
498 of the individual wind facilities are not economic. (Hayet Direct, lines 295-308, 389-
499 390.) DPU witness Mr. Peaco similarly criticizes PacifiCorp's modeling for not
500 performing a project-by-project assessment. (Peaco Direct, lines 258-272.)

501 **Q. Is Mr. Hayet correct that some of the individual facilities are not economic to**
502 **repower?**

503 A. No. Mr. Hayet attempts to calculate the PVRR(d) for each wind facility, but does so
504 incorrectly. He first calculates the net levelized cost of each facility by netting the PTC
505 benefits against the capital and run-rate operating cost of each facility. This part of his
506 calculation is reasonable. Mr. Hayet then allocates PacifiCorp's forecast of system
507 benefits, having a present value of approximately \$150 million, to each wind facility
508 based on its share of the total incremental wind energy output expected after
509 repowering. This allocation methodology is not appropriate.

510 Resource-portfolio and system-benefit results from the full scope of the wind
511 repowering project reflect system interactions that cannot be reasonably allocated to
512 individual wind facilities. Consequently, a spreadsheet analysis that begins with
513 aggregate system optimization results that attempts to back into individual resource

514 contributions neglects to consider how these wind facilities interact within the broader
515 system and will therefore yield arbitrary results.

516 In response to the concerns raised by Messrs. Hayet and Peaco, PacifiCorp
517 developed a series of studies using the SO model and PaR to analyze the net benefits
518 of each individual wind facility included in the proposed scope of the wind repowering
519 project. This is a more robust analytical approach that accounts for how each repowered
520 wind facility interacts with the broader system.

521 **Q. Please describe how you developed this project-by-project analysis.**

522 A. The methodology used to develop the project-by-project analysis is similar to the
523 methodology used to perform the economic analysis for the proposed wind repowering
524 project. Assuming medium natural gas and medium CO₂ price-policy assumptions,
525 PacifiCorp ran two SO model simulations for each of the 12 wind facilities within the
526 scope of the proposed wind repowering project—one simulation in which all 12
527 facilities within the proposed scope are repowered and one simulation that assumes one
528 of the 12 wind facilities is not repowered. For each simulation, the difference in
529 projected system costs from the SO model, accounting for any changes to the resource
530 mix over a 20-year forecast period, are used to calculate the marginal PVRR(d) for each
531 wind facility.

532 Using the resource portfolios from the SO model simulations, this same
533 approach was used to calculate PVRR(d) for each wind facility using projected system
534 costs from PaR over a 20-year forecast period. Finally, the SO model and PaR model
535 results are used to estimate the change in nominal annual revenue requirement for each
536 wind facility by extending the system modeling results to 2050. The methodology used

537 to estimate the change in nominal annual revenue requirement through 2050 is identical
 538 to the methodology used to analyze the full scope of the wind repowering project.

539 **Q. Please summarize the project-by-project PVRR(d) results calculated from the SO**
 540 **model and PaR through 2036.**

541 A. Table 4 summarizes the PVRR(d) results for each wind facility within the scope of the
 542 wind repowering project. The PVRR(d) between cases with and without wind
 543 repowering are shown for each wind facility based on system modeling results from
 544 the SO model and for PaR, before accounting for the substantial increase in incremental
 545 energy beyond the 2036 time frame. Each of the wind facilities within the scope of the
 546 proposed repowering project show net benefits with repowering.

547 **Table 4. Project-by-Project SO Model and PaR PVRR(d)**
(Benefit)/Cost of Wind Repowering (\$ million)

Wind Facility	SO Model PVRR(d)	PaR Stochastic-Mean PVRR(d)	PaR Risk-Adjusted PVRR(d)
Glenrock 1	(\$17)	(\$14)	(\$14)
Glenrock 3	(\$5)	(\$3)	(\$4)
Seven Mile Hill 1	(\$23)	(\$20)	(\$21)
Seven Mile Hill 2	(\$5)	(\$5)	(\$5)
High Plains	(\$4)	(\$1)	(\$1)
McFadden Ridge	(\$1)	(\$0.20)	(\$0.20)
Dunlap Ranch	(\$14)	(\$11)	(\$11)
Rolling Hills	(\$5)	(\$3)	(\$3)
Leaning Juniper	(\$3)	(\$3)	(\$4)
Marengo 1	(\$28)	(\$26)	(\$27)
Marengo 2	(\$10)	(\$9)	(\$10)
Goodnoe Hills	(\$21)	(\$21)	(\$22)
Total	(\$138)	(\$117)	(\$122)

548 **Q. Please summarize the project-by-project PVRR(d) results calculated from the**
549 **change in annual revenue requirement through 2050.**

550 A. Table 5 summarizes the PVRR(d) results for each wind facility calculated off of the
551 change in annual nominal revenue requirement through 2050. Unlike the results
552 summarized in Table 4, these results account for the substantial increase in incremental
553 energy beyond the 2036 time frame. Each of the wind facilities within the scope of the
554 proposed repowering project show net benefits with repowering.

555 **Table 5. Project-by-Project Nominal Revenue Requirement PVRR(d)**
(Benefit)/Cost of Wind Repowering (\$ million)

Wind Facility	Annual Revenue Requirement PVRR(d)
Glenrock 1	(\$50)
Glenrock 3	(\$15)
Seven Mile Hill 1	(\$65)
Seven Mile Hill 2	(\$17)
High Plains	(\$37)
McFadden Ridge	(\$11)
Dunlap Ranch	(\$60)
Rolling Hills	(\$30)
Leaning Juniper	(\$34)
Marengo 1	(\$77)
Marengo 2	(\$30)
Goodnoe Hills	(\$50)
Total	(\$477)

556 **Q. Why is the sum of the project-by-project PVRR(d) results summarized in Tables**
557 **4 and 5 not precisely equal to the comparable scenario results shown in Tables 1**
558 **and 2 of your rebuttal testimony?**

559 A. The scope of the wind repowering project is similar, yet unique, for each of the studies
560 summarized in these tables. Eliminating one of the wind facilities from the scope of

561 repowering project affects how the remaining repowered facilities contribute to the
562 forecasted system costs and benefits of repowering. The impact on system costs that
563 results from altering the scope of the repowering project varies depending upon the
564 specific characteristics of the wind facility being studied. For this reason, it is
565 reasonable to expect that the sum of the project-by-project results in Tables 4 and 5 are
566 not precisely equal to the comparable scenario results in Tables 1 and 2.

567 **Q. The project-by-project results vary by wind facility, and some wind facilities**
568 **appear to show relatively small PVRR(d) benefits. Do these results support**
569 **eliminating those or any other facility from the scope of the wind repowering**
570 **project?**

571 A. No. The magnitude of the PVRR(d) results must be considered in relation to the specific
572 attributes of the repowered wind facility, including the size of the facility, the expected
573 cost to repower the facility, and the level of annual energy output expected after the
574 new equipment is installed. For example, the PVRR(d) for McFadden Ridge shows an
575 \$11 million benefit when repowered—the lowest PVRR(d) among all of the project-
576 by-project results. The PVRR(d) benefit for McFadden Ridge is 14 percent of the \$77
577 million benefit for Marengo I, which yields the highest PVRR(d) among all of the
578 project-by-project results. However, current capacity of McFadden Ridge (28.5 MW)
579 is approximately 20 percent of the current capacity for Marengo 1 (140.4 MW).
580 Similarly, the expected energy output after repowering for McFadden Ridge
581 (approximately 108 GWh per year) is approximately 22 percent of the expected energy
582 output after repowering for Marengo 1 (approximately 408 GWh per year).

583 A reasonable metric to evaluate the relative benefits among the wind facilities
584 that captures the specific attributes of each facility is the nominal levelized net benefit
585 per incremental MWh expected after the facility is repowered. This metric captures the
586 specific repowering cost for each facility net of the specific benefits of each facility per
587 incremental MWh of energy expected after the facility is repowered. Table 6 shows the
588 nominal levelized net benefit of repowering per MWh of expected incremental energy
589 output after repowering for each wind facility. The table shows the Seven Mile Hill 2
590 facility produces the largest net benefit per incremental MWh and Leaning Juniper
591 produces the smallest net benefit per incremental MWh. All facilities produce net
592 benefits equal to or greater than \$27/MWh of incremental energy output after
593 repowering.

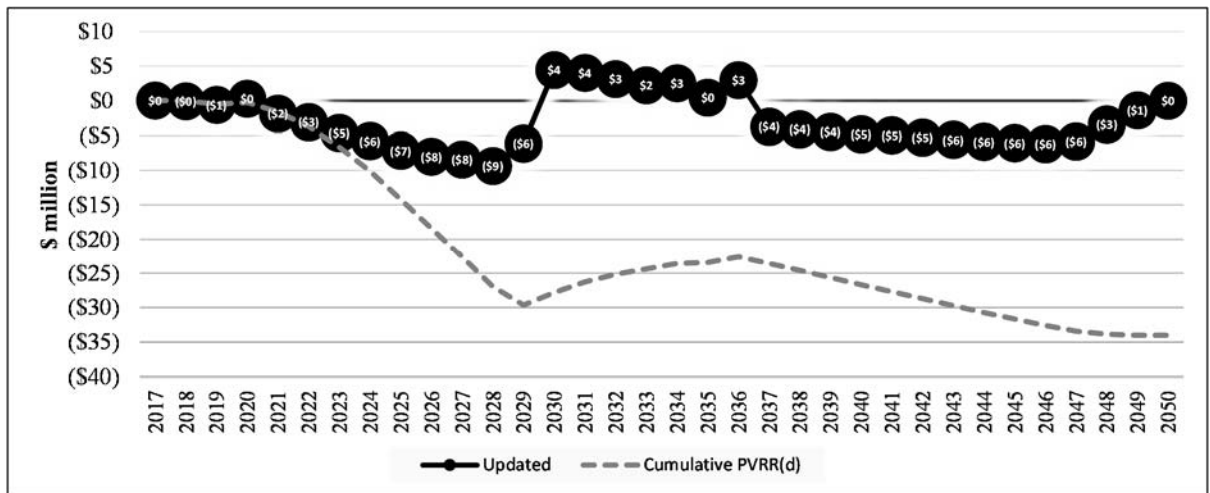
594 **Table 6. Nominal Levelized Net Benefit per MWh of Incremental
Energy Output after Repowering (\$/MWh)**

Wind Facility	Nominal Levelized Net Benefit
Glenrock 1	\$43/MWh
Glenrock 3	\$39/MWh
Seven Mile Hill 1	\$46/MWh
Seven Mile Hill 2	\$58/MWh
High Plains	\$29/MWh
McFadden Ridge	\$28/MWh
Dunlap Ranch	\$42/MWh
Rolling Hills	\$36/MWh
Leaning Juniper	\$27/MWh
Marengo 1	\$37/MWh
Marengo 2	\$31/MWh
Goodnoe Hills	\$47/MWh

595 **Q. Have you reviewed the change in annual nominal revenue requirement due to**
 596 **wind repowering from the Leaning Juniper facility, which yields the lowest net**
 597 **benefits per MWh of incremental energy output among all facilities within the**
 598 **proposed scope of repowering project?**

599 **A. Yes.** Figure 6 shows the change in nominal revenue requirement due to wind
 600 repowering for the Leaning Juniper wind facility. The figure also shows the cumulative
 601 PVRR(d) for Leaning Juniper through 2050. The cumulative PVRR(d) for any given
 602 year reflects the present value net benefits from prior years that are associated with
 603 repowering Leaning Juniper. For instance, the cumulative PVRR(d) shown for 2020
 604 represents the present value of the net benefits for repowering over the period 2017
 605 through 2020. Consequently, the cumulative PVRR(d) in 2050 captures the net benefits
 606 of repowering the Leaning Juniper wind facility through its expected useful life (*i.e.*,
 607 \$34 million of net benefit as reported in Table 5).

608 **Figure 6. Total-System Annual Revenue Requirement for
 Leaning Juniper with Wind Repowering (\$ million)**



609 As is the case with the projected change in nominal revenue requirement for the
 610 all projects in the wind repowering scope presented in Figure 5, this figure shows that

611 repowering Leaning Juniper will produce substantial near-term customer benefits,
612 followed by a period in which the change in annual revenue requirement exhibits a
613 moderate increase after the PTCs expire. In 2037 and beyond, the change in annual
614 revenue requirement is reduced due to the substantial increase in incremental energy
615 output beyond the period in which Leaning Juniper would have otherwise reached the
616 end of its useful life (*i.e.*, increasing from approximately 70 GWh before 2037 to just
617 under 304 GWh beyond 2037).

618 Importantly, with the substantial cost savings associated with the PTCs over the
619 first 10 years after repowering, the cumulative PVRR(d) reaches \$30 million by 2029—
620 approximately 87 percent of the PVRR(d) benefits calculated off the change in nominal
621 system costs through 2050. The cumulative PVRR(d) benefits decline after the PTCs
622 expire, but when Leaning Juniper would have otherwise reached the end of its useful
623 life in 2036, wind repowering still yields cumulative PVRR(d) benefits totaling \$23
624 million. Even if one were to assume that there is *no* net incremental benefit associated
625 with the incremental energy output expected from Leaning Juniper beyond 2036, the
626 net benefits of repowering this facility, which yields the lowest nominal levelized net
627 benefit per MWh of incremental energy among all of the wind facilities within the
628 scope of the repowering project, would still generate net customer benefits totaling \$23
629 million on a present-value basis.

630 **Q. What do you conclude from this project-by-project analysis?**

631 A. The project-by-project analysis demonstrates that the proposed scope of the wind
632 repowering project, which includes repowering 12 wind facilities with a current
633 capacity totaling just over 999 MW is appropriate and will maximize customer benefits.

634 This is a conservative analysis because the project-by-project analysis evaluates the GE
635 projects using lower generation output from [REDACTED] turbines, not the higher output
636 expected from the [REDACTED] turbines the Company has now secured.

637 **TAX POLICY SENSITIVITY**

638 **Q. Several witnesses argue that the economic value of the repowering project may be**
639 **adversely impacted if the federal corporate income tax decreases. (Mangelson**
640 **Direct, lines 31 - 33; Hayet Direct, 49 - 50; Ramas Direct, 570 - 572; Higgins Direct**
641 **315 - 316.) Please respond.**

642 A. The potential changes, if any, to the federal corporate income tax rate are highly
643 uncertain. For this reason, I did not include a sensitivity in my original analysis to
644 account for speculative tax rate changes. While this issue remains uncertain, to respond
645 to the parties' concerns, I have performed a sensitivity analysis that assumes a lower
646 federal corporate tax rate to determine how that lower rate impacts the economic
647 benefits from the wind repowering project.

648 **Q. Please describe the corporate tax rate assumption used for this sensitivity analysis.**

649 A. For purposes of the tax policy sensitivity, PacifiCorp assumes the current federal
650 income tax rate is decreased from 35 percent to 25 percent. The basis for this assumed
651 reduction is provided in the rebuttal testimony of Company witness Ms. Nikki L.
652 Koblaha. Assuming a marginal state income tax rate of 4.54 percent less a federal
653 deductibility benefit of 1.135 percent, the assumed net state tax rate is 3.405 percent.
654 Based on these inputs, the effective combined federal and state income tax rate assumed
655 for this sensitivity is 28.405 percent.

656 **Q. Please describe how the effective combined federal and state income tax rate**
657 **assumption is applied in the SO model and PaR for this sensitivity.**

658 A. The effective combined federal and state income tax rate affects PacifiCorp's post-tax
659 weighted average cost of capital ("post-tax WACC"), which is used as the discount rate
660 in the SO model and PaR. Assuming no change to the corporate tax rate, the discount
661 rate assumed in the benchmark economic analysis is 6.57 percent. Assuming a drop in
662 effective combined federal income tax rate from 37.951 percent to 28.405 percent for
663 purposes of this sensitivity increases the discount rate to 6.81 percent. This modified
664 discount rate assumption is used in both the SO model and PaR for each simulation of
665 PacifiCorp's system—simulations with and without wind repowering.

666 The modified income tax rate assumed for this sensitivity also affects the capital
667 revenue requirement for all new resource options available for selection in the SO
668 model. As described in my direct testimony, capital revenue requirement is levelized in
669 the SO and PaR models to avoid potential distortions in the economic analysis of
670 capital-intensive assets that have different lives and in-service dates. (Link Direct, lines
671 412-431). This is achieved through annual capital recovery factors, which are expressed
672 as a percentage of the initial capital investment for any given resource alternative in
673 any given year. Capital recovery factors, which are based on the revenue requirement
674 for a specific types of assets, are differentiated by each asset's assumed life, book
675 depreciation rates, and tax depreciation rates. Because capital revenue requirement
676 accounts for the impact of income taxes on rate-based assets, the capital recovery
677 factors applied to new resource costs in the SO model were updated for each simulation
678 of PacifiCorp's system—simulations with and without wind repowering.

679 Finally, the modified income tax rate assumption affects the tax gross-up of all
680 PTC-eligible resources. As noted in my direct testimony, the current value of federal
681 PTCs is \$24/MWh, which equates to a \$38.68/MWh reduction in revenue requirement
682 assuming an effective combined federal and state income tax rate of 37.95 percent.
683 (Link Direct, lines 99-102). If the effective combined federal and state income tax rate
684 were reduced to 28.405 percent, the reduction in revenue requirement associated with
685 federal PTCs would drop from \$38.68/MWh to \$33.52/MWh, adjusted for inflation
686 over time. The impact of the modified income tax rate assumptions were applied to all
687 PTC-eligible resource alternatives available in the SO model in the simulations with
688 and without wind repowering. The adjustment to the reduction in revenue requirement
689 associated with federal PTCs was also applied to repowered wind facilities in the
690 simulation with repowering.

691 **Q. Please summarize the results of the tax policy sensitivity.**

692 A. Table 7 summarizes the results of the sensitivity that assumes the corporate federal
693 income tax rate is reduced from 35 percent to 25 percent. To assess the potential impact
694 of a change in the federal corporate tax rate, the PVRR(d) results were calculated
695 through 2036 based on SO model and PaR results and are presented alongside the
696 comparable benchmark study in which it is assumed the federal corporate income tax
697 rate is not changed. The sensitivity results reflect medium natural gas and medium CO₂
698 price-policy assumptions.

699

**Table 7. Tax Policy Sensitivity
(Benefit)/Cost of Wind Repowering (\$ million)**

Model	Sensitivity PVRR(d)	Benchmark PVRR(d)	Change in PVRR(d)
SO Model	(\$45)	(\$138)	\$93
PaR Stochastic Mean	(\$23)	(\$115)	\$93
PaR Risk Adjusted	(\$24)	(\$121)	\$97

700 **Q. What do you conclude from the tax policy sensitivity results?**

701 A. Although the overall benefit of the wind repowering project is reduced by between \$93
702 million to \$97 million, the wind repowering project still produces net economic benefits
703 for customers.

704 **Q. Messrs. Peaco and Hayet suggest that if the federal corporate income tax rate were
705 reduced to 15 percent, the repowering project may be uneconomic. (Peaco Direct,
706 lines 766 - 767; Hayet Direct, lines 369 -370.) Is their assumption reasonable?**

707 A. No. As described in Ms. Kobliha’s rebuttal testimony, any reduction to the corporate
708 federal income tax rate remains speculative at this point. Given the many potential
709 impediments to any such change, it is unreasonable to assume that the federal income
710 tax rate will decrease to 15 percent, a reduction of more than 50 percent from current
711 levels.

PROJECT EQUIPMENT SENSITIVITY

713 **Q. Did you perform a sensitivity study to evaluate the upside benefits of the wind
714 repowering project assuming use of the [REDACTED] turbines on repowering sites that
715 will use GE equipment?**

716 A. Yes. As described earlier in my rebuttal testimony, after initiating the updated analysis
717 assuming use of [REDACTED] turbines, PacifiCorp received verification that the [REDACTED]
718 turbines are technically feasible for wind repowering at wind repowering sites that will

719 use GE equipment. Assuming repowered wind facilities continue to operate within the
 720 limits of their LGIAs, this will increase incremental annual energy output for the wind
 721 repowering project by 25.9 percent (743 GWh per year)—up from the 24.9 percent
 722 (714 GWh per year) assumed in my updated economic analysis. This equipment can be
 723 deployed without any incremental cost.

724 **Q. Please summarize the results of this sensitivity.**

725 A. Table 8 summarizes the results of the sensitivity that assumes [REDACTED] turbines are
 726 deployed on wind repowering sites that will use GE equipment. To assess the potential
 727 impact of deploying this equipment, the PVRR(d) was calculated through 2036 based
 728 on the SO model and PaR, and these results are presented alongside the comparable
 729 benchmark study which assumed use of [REDACTED] turbines. The sensitivity reflects
 730 medium natural gas and medium CO₂ price-policy assumptions and shows that the
 731 benefits of deploying the [REDACTED] turbines range between \$11 million to \$13 million
 732 before accounting for the sizable increase to incremental energy output from the
 733 repowered wind projects beyond 2036.

734 **Table 8. LGIA-Limited Equipment Sensitivity
 (Benefit)/Cost of Wind Repowering (\$ million)**

Model	Sensitivity PVRR(d)	Benchmark PVRR(d)	Change in PVRR(d)
SO Model	(\$152)	(\$138)	(\$13)
PaR Stochastic Mean	(\$127)	(\$115)	(\$11)
PaR Risk Adjusted	(\$132)	(\$121)	(\$11)

735 **Q. Did you also analyze the upside benefits based on the [REDACTED] turbines assuming**
 736 **the LGIAs for the repowered wind facilities can be modified to accommodate**
 737 **additional output from the wind repowering project?**

738 A. Yes. If the LGIAs can be modified to allow all of the turbines to operate up to their full
 739 nameplate capability, the incremental annual energy output from repowered wind
 740 facilities will increase by 30.0 percent (862 GWh per year)—up from the 24.9 percent
 741 (714 GWh per year) assumed in my updated economic analysis. As explained in the
 742 rebuttal testimony of Mr. Hemstreet, this scenario would require replacing turbine pad-
 743 mount transformers, upgrading some segments of collector systems, and retrofitting or
 744 replacing certain generator step-up transformers for an incremental combined cost of
 745 \$36 million.

746 **Q. Please summarize the results of this sensitivity.**

747 A. Table 9 summarizes the results of the sensitivity that assumes use of [REDACTED] turbines
 748 with modified LGIAs. To assess the potential impact of deploying this equipment, the
 749 PVRR(d) was calculated through 2036 based on the SO model and PaR, and these
 750 results are presented alongside the comparable benchmark study which assumed use of
 751 [REDACTED] turbines. The sensitivity reflects medium natural gas and medium CO₂ price-
 752 policy assumptions and shows that the benefits of deploying the [REDACTED] turbines with
 753 modified LGIAs range between \$37 million to \$48 million before accounting for the
 754 sizable increase to incremental energy output from the repowered wind projects beyond
 755 2036.

756

**Table 9. LGIA-Modified Equipment Sensitivity
(Benefit)/Cost of Wind Repowering (\$ million)**

Model	Sensitivity PVRR(d)	Benchmark PVRR(d)	Change in PVRR(d)
SO Model	(\$186)	(\$138)	(\$48)
PaR Stochastic Mean	(\$153)	(\$115)	(\$37)
PaR Risk Adjusted	(\$160)	(\$121)	(\$39)

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GENERAL MODELING ASSUMPTIONS

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Q. Mr. Hayet claims that the Company’s economic analysis assumes that each of the nine price-policy scenarios studied (e.g., high gas/high CO₂, medium gas/medium CO₂, low gas/low CO₂) are all equally likely to occur. (Hayet Direct, lines 165-72.)

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Is this a correct understanding of the Company’s analysis?

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A. No. Mr. Hayet’s claim implies that, without an explicit weighting for each price-policy scenario, each scenario is equally likely to occur. While application of a weighting factor to each price-policy scenario could as a matter of convenience be used to produce a single, probability-weighted PVRR(d) outcome, it is problematic because there is no way to develop empirically derived probability assumptions. Rather, assigning probability assumptions would be a highly subjective exercise largely informed by individual opinion.

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The price-policy scenario assuming medium natural-gas prices and medium CO₂ prices represents the central forecast, around which the impact of lower or higher price assumptions can be evaluated. The PVRR(d) net benefit of wind repowering in the updated economic analysis derived from the central price-policy scenario is \$471 million when calculated off of the forecasted change in annual revenue requirement through 2050. This outcome indicates that when central price-policy assumptions are

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775 used, there is a reasonably sized cushion in the PVRR(d) results allowing for some
776 erosion of the favorable economics should long-term natural-gas prices and CO₂ prices
777 end up lower than what is assumed in this scenario. The other price-policy scenarios
778 are useful in quantifying how sensitive the PVRR(d) results are to these key
779 assumptions and provide a foundation for judging risk. In the updated economic
780 analysis, customer benefits from the wind repowering project increase relative to the
781 results from my original analysis and remain substantial in low natural-gas price and
782 low CO₂ price scenarios, and there is significant upside to the projected customer
783 benefits if these price assumptions are higher than in the central price-policy scenario.

784 **Q. Mr. Peaco alleges that because there is no current price on carbon emissions, the**
785 **scenarios with zero carbon price may be the most likely outcome. (Peaco Direct,**
786 **lines 600-606.) Do you agree?**

787 A. No. It is simply not reasonable to conclude that today's policy environment is the best
788 indicator of the policy environment we can expect over the next three decades. It is
789 even more unreasonable to dismiss the results of scenarios developed to quantify the
790 economic impact of potential environmental policy outcomes that could impute a
791 financial cost on CO₂ emissions at some point over the next three decades. While it is
792 *possible* that no such policy will materialize, as contemplated in certain price-policy
793 scenarios, it does not mean that given the current policy environment, it is the *most*
794 *likely* scenario.

795 **Q. Mr. Peaco also points out that relatively small changes in assumptions, for**
796 **example, a one-percent reduction in generation, can have a significant impact on**
797 **customer benefits. (Peaco Direct, lines 830-831.) How do you respond?**

798 A. Mr. Peaco calculates the potential impact on the PVRR(d) value of federal PTC benefits
799 assuming a one-percent reduction in generation from the repowered wind facilities.
800 PacifiCorp's wind generation forecast for the repowered wind facilities is derived by
801 applying the incremental increase in energy output calculated from actual operating
802 data to the actual historical wind generation from each wind facility since it was
803 originally placed in service. Because this forecast is tied to actual generation and actual
804 turbine output data resulting from the actual experienced wind conditions at the existing
805 wind facilities, I have a high degree of confidence in the generation forecasts used in
806 the economic analysis.

807 Mr. Peaco does not testify that PacifiCorp's wind generation forecasts are
808 invalid. He simply asserts that there is potential risk to the overall economics of the
809 wind generation output were reduced by one percent. This one-sided risk assessment
810 fails to quantify the potential upside benefits if wind generation exceeds the assumed
811 forecast used in the economic analysis by one percent. Using Mr. Peaco's calculations,
812 the PVRR(d) benefits calculated from the change in system costs through 2050
813 assuming medium natural-gas price and medium CO₂ price-policy assumptions would
814 be reduced from \$471 million to \$462 million if wind generation data were one percent
815 lower than assumed and be increased from \$471 million to \$480 million if wind
816 generation data were one percent higher than assumed.

817 **Q. Mr. Hayet claims that the repowering project will provide little additional value if**
818 **the Company also acquires the new wind facilities and constructs the new**
819 **transmission facilities that are also contemplated in the 2017 IRP. (Hayet Direct,**
820 **lines 532 - 535.) Is this a fair criticism?**

821 A. No. Mr. Hayet misinterprets the sensitivity analysis summarized in my direct testimony
822 that reports the PVRR(d) benefits of wind repowering if implemented along with
823 PacifiCorp's proposed new wind resources and new transmission line. This sensitivity
824 showed that when both projects are implemented together, the PVRR(d) benefits of all
825 projects (wind repowering, new wind, and new transmission) are between \$219 million
826 and \$230 million higher when calculated from system costs through 2036, than the
827 benefits of wind repowering as a stand-alone project.

828 I present the same sensitivity study in the economic analysis of the new wind
829 and transmission projects in Docket No. 17-035-40; however, the economic impact of
830 all projects (wind repowering, new wind, and new transmission) is compared to the
831 PVRR(d) results of the new wind and transmission investments as a stand-alone
832 project. This sensitivity shows a modest reduction in the PVRR(d) benefits of all of the
833 projects relative to the new wind and transmission investments as a stand-alone project
834 when calculated from PaR results through 2036. Results from the SO model based on
835 projections through 2036 show increased benefits from when all projects are added to
836 the system. Most importantly, the results do not capture *any* of the incremental benefits
837 from wind repowering beyond 2036, and therefore do not include any of the
838 incremental benefits associated with the significant increase in the expected annual

839 energy output from the repowered wind facilities beyond the period in which the
840 existing wind facilities would have otherwise reached the end of their lives.

841 **CONCLUSION**

842 **Q. Please summarize the conclusions of your rebuttal testimony.**

843 A. The updated economic analysis summarized in my rebuttal testimony supports
844 repowering just over 999 MW of existing wind resource capacity located in Wyoming,
845 Oregon, and Washington. The updated economic analysis shows significant net
846 customer benefits in all of the scenarios analyzed. The wind repowering project will
847 replace equipment at existing wind facilities with modern technology to improve
848 efficiency, increase energy production, extend the operational life, reduce run-rate
849 operating costs, reduce net power costs, and deliver substantial federal PTC benefits
850 that will be passed on to customers. The proposed wind repowering project is in the
851 public interest.

852 **Q. Does this conclude your rebuttal testimony?**

853 A. Yes.

REDACTED

Rocky Mountain Power
Exhibit RMP___(RTL-1R)
Docket No. 17-035-39
Witness: Rick T. Link

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF UTAH

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER

REDACTED

Exhibit Accompanying Rebuttal Testimony of Rick T. Link

Wind-Facility Data

October 2017

Existing Wind Prior to Repowering

	LGIA Limited		Energy (MWh)	Capacity Factor	Repower Capital Investment (\$m)	Date PTC Ends	End-of-Life Date	Repower Date
	Capacity (MW)	Capacity (MW)						
Glenrock 1	99.0	99.0	303,723	35.0%	n/a	12/30/2018	12/31/2038	n/a
Glenrock 3	39.0	39.0	113,438	33.2%	n/a	1/16/2019	12/31/2038	n/a
Seven Mile Hill 1	99.0	99.0	339,195	39.1%	n/a	12/30/2018	12/31/2038	n/a
Seven Mile Hill 2	19.5	19.5	71,224	41.7%	n/a	12/30/2018	12/31/2038	n/a
High Plains	99.0	99.0	306,145	35.3%	n/a	9/12/2019	12/31/2038	n/a
McFadden Ridge	28.5	28.5	93,101	37.3%	n/a	9/28/2019	12/31/2038	n/a
Dunlap Ranch	111.0	111.0	389,045	40.0%	n/a	9/30/2020	10/1/2040	n/a
Rolling Hills	99.0	99.0	271,635	31.3%	n/a	1/16/2019	12/31/2038	n/a
Leaning Juniper	100.5	100.5	233,592	26.5%	n/a	9/13/2016	9/14/2086	n/a
Marengo 1	140.4	140.4	360,279	29.3%	n/a	8/2/2017	8/1/2037	n/a
Marengo 2	70.2	70.2	166,742	27.1%	n/a	6/25/2018	6/1/2038	n/a
Goodnoe Hills	94.0	94.0	220,898	26.8%	n/a	5/31/2018	12/31/2038	n/a
Total	999.1	999.1	2,869,016	32.8%				

Repowered Wind

	LGIA Limited		Energy (MWh)	Capacity Factor	Repower Capital Investment (\$m)	Date PTC Ends	End-of-Life Date	Repower Date
	Capacity (MW)	Capacity (MW)						
Glenrock 1	107.8	99.0	367,560	42.4%		9/30/2029	10/1/2049	10/1/2019
Glenrock 3	42.2	39.0	134,332	39.3%		9/30/2029	10/1/2049	10/1/2019
Seven Mile Hill 1	108.6	99.0	413,496	47.7%		6/30/2029	7/1/2049	7/1/2019
Seven Mile Hill 2	21.4	19.5	86,826	50.8%		6/30/2029	7/1/2049	7/1/2019
High Plains	108.6	99.0	375,709	43.3%		10/31/2029	11/1/2049	11/1/2019
McFadden Ridge	31.3	28.5	114,486	45.9%		10/31/2029	11/1/2049	11/1/2019
Dunlap Ranch	121.7	111.0	473,533	48.7%		11/30/2030	12/1/2050	12/1/2020
Rolling Hills	106.8	99.0	316,417	36.5%		9/30/2029	10/1/2049	10/1/2019
Leaning Juniper	120.6	100.5	303,761	34.5%		9/30/2029	10/1/2049	10/1/2019
Marengo 1	156.0	140.4	484,612	39.4%		10/31/2029	11/1/2049	11/1/2019
Marengo 2	78.0	70.2	228,704	37.2%		10/31/2029	11/1/2049	11/1/2019
Goodnoe Hills	103.4	94.0	283,696	34.5%		9/30/2029	10/1/2049	10/1/2019
Total	1,106.2	999.1	3,583,132	37.0%	\$1,083			

Run-Rate Capital

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
All Repowered Projects	(\$9.8)	(\$14.7)	(\$19.6)	(\$20.5)	(\$19.8)	(\$18.0)	(\$17.9)	(\$15.2)	(\$13.2)	(\$11.4)	(\$9.6)	(\$9.9)
All Repowered Projects	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040
	(\$8.7)	(\$4.4)	(\$2.3)	(\$1.8)	(\$1.8)	(\$1.8)	(\$1.9)	(\$1.0)	\$1.0	\$9.2	\$16.5	\$17.0
All Repowered Projects	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050		
	\$18.6	\$19.0	\$19.4	\$19.9	\$20.3	\$20.8	\$21.3	\$21.8	\$12.5	\$1.4		

Run-Rate Operations and Maintenance Expense

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
All Repowered Projects	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$3.9	\$12.1	\$12.8	\$9.6	\$9.5	\$9.3	\$9.2	\$9.1	\$8.9	\$8.8
All Repowered Projects	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040
	\$5.9	\$2.2	\$1.1	\$1.1	\$1.2	\$1.2	\$1.2	\$2.0	\$5.5	\$13.7	\$28.1	\$29.5
All Repowered Projects	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050		
	\$32.3	\$33.0	\$33.8	\$34.6	\$35.4	\$36.2	\$37.0	\$37.9	\$29.9	\$2.6		

Rocky Mountain Power
Exhibit RMP__(RTL-2R)
Docket No. 17-035-39
Witness: Rick T. Link

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF UTAH

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER

Exhibit Accompanying Rebuttal Testimony of Rick T. Link

SO Model Annual Results

October 2017

Rocky Mountain Power
Exhibit RMP__(RTL-3R)
Docket No. 17-035-39
Witness: Rick T. Link

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF UTAH

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER

Exhibit Accompanying Rebuttal Testimony of Rick T. Link

Estimated Annual Revenue Requirement Results

October 2017

Rocky Mountain Power
Docket No. 17-035-39
Witness: Jeffrey K. Larsen

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF UTAH

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER

Rebuttal Testimony of Jeffrey K. Larsen

October 2017

1 **Q. Are you the same Jeffrey K. Larsen who previously provided direct testimony in**
2 **this case on behalf of Rocky Mountain Power (“Company”), a division of**
3 **PacifiCorp?**

4 A. Yes.

5 **PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REBUTTAL TESTIMONY**

6 **Q. What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony?**

7 A. In support of the Company’s request that the Public Service Commission of Utah
8 (“Commission”) approve its energy resource decision for wind repowering, I respond
9 to regulatory policy issues raised in the direct testimonies of Division of Public Utilities
10 (“DPU”) witnesses Dr. Joni S. Zenger, Charles Peterson and David Thomson, Office
11 of Consumer Services witness Donna Ramas, and the Utah Association of Energy Users
12 witness Kevin C. Higgins. I also provide an update to several of my original direct
13 testimony exhibits as a result of the updated economic analysis prepared by Company
14 witness Mr. Rick T. Link.

15 **Q. What are the key issues you address in your rebuttal testimony?**

16 A. I address the following key issues:

- 17 • The appropriateness of the Commission’s review of the wind repowering
18 resource decision under Utah Code Ann. § 54-17-402;
- 19 • Why the full recovery of the Company’s costs of repowering, including
20 undepreciated investment in replaced equipment and a return on investment, is
21 reasonable given the benefits of the repowering project;
- 22 • The advantages of the Company’s proposed Resource Tracking Mechanism
23 (“RTM”) for customers, and the reasonableness of its design; and

24 • The consistency of the Company’s treatment of the costs and benefits of wind
25 repowering with principles of intergenerational equity.

26 **Q. Please summarize your testimony.**

27 A. The Company’s request for approval of its resource decision to repower its wind
28 facilities is timely and proper. The Company has carefully developed and refined the
29 wind repowering project. The Company has forecasted the costs and benefits of the
30 project, and addressed the manner in which project risks have been eliminated or
31 mitigated. At the same time, the Company’s investment and commitment to the wind
32 repowering project remains limited. This is the right window for meaningful review of
33 the repowering project under Utah Code Ann. § 54-17-402.

34 The Company proposes to provide all benefits of the wind repowering project
35 to customers. The only “benefit” to the Company is the opportunity to recover its
36 reasonable and prudent costs, like any other resource investment. Unlike most resource
37 investments, however, repowering will result in rate reductions to customers net of the
38 Company’s costs, which include undepreciated investment in replaced equipment and
39 a return on the investment. The Company’s updated economic analysis for years 2019
40 through 2022 estimates a Utah customer net benefit in each year, with net benefits of
41 up to \$12.4 million by 2022.¹

42 The RTM is carefully designed to deliver repowering benefits to customers in
43 a prompt and straightforward manner. The individual components of the RTM are
44 reasonable, and it is a better tool for tracking the costs and benefits of repowering than
45 traditional ratemaking or an accounting order. The Company’s overall approach to

¹ See Exhibit RMP__(JKL-2R), line 25 for Utah’s allocated share of 2022 Net Customer Benefits of \$12.4 million.

46 tracking the costs and benefits of repowering does not violate the principles of
47 intergenerational equity.

48 **THE COMPANY'S REQUEST IS TIMELY AND PROPER**

49 **Q. DPU witness Dr. Zenger questions the appropriateness of the Company's request**
50 **for preapproval under Utah Code Ann. § 54-17-402 given that, in her estimation,**
51 **the resource decision has "already been committed to." (Zenger Direct, lines**
52 **101 - 105.) Does the Company's request comply with the requirements for**
53 **preapproval, even considering the repowering project expenditures that occurred**
54 **in December 2016?**

55 A. Yes. As described in more detail in Mr. Timothy J. Hemstreet's rebuttal testimony, the
56 Company has not unequivocally committed to the wind repowering project. Instead,
57 the Company has prudently negotiated the ability to either not execute contracts or to
58 terminate its future obligations with suppliers and contractors if the resource decision
59 is not approved or economic conditions change such that the project, or a portion of the
60 project, is no longer beneficial to customers.

61 **Q. Dr. Zenger also claims that the Company appears to have made the decision to**
62 **repower its wind facilities without sufficient public and stakeholder input. (Zenger**
63 **Direct, 101-125) How do you respond?**

64 A. Contrary to Dr. Zenger's claims, PacifiCorp has not made its decision to repower its
65 wind facilities without sufficient public and stakeholder input. This very proceeding
66 provides a venue for the public and stakeholders to review and provide input on the
67 proposed repowering project. PacifiCorp purchased safe-harbor equipment in
68 December 2016 to secure the *option* to repower its fleet of owned resources and deliver

69 substantial benefits for retail customers. PacifiCorp's request is seeking approval of the
70 proposed wind repowering project, which will require additional incremental
71 investments beyond the safe-harbor equipment purchases made at the end of last year.
72 PacifiCorp's request is not seeking approval of these safe-harbor equipment purchases
73 as standalone investments. Therefore, and contrary to Dr. Zenger's claims, PacifiCorp
74 is not seeking absolution for risk it has already incurred.

75 **Q. Has the Company made similar filings in the past for resource decisions the**
76 **Company had made, subject to regulatory approval?**

77 A. Yes. The Company has made several resource approval filings under the Energy
78 Resource Procurement Act in Title 54, Chapter 17, including the Deer Creek mine
79 closure, acquisition of Lake Side 2 and Chehalis plants, and approval to install selective
80 catalytic reduction systems at Jim Bridger Units 3 and 4. Each was reviewed and
81 approved by management prior to filing but subject to the regulatory approval process.
82 The suggestion that the Company's contingent review and approval of the repowering
83 project, including purchasing turbines to preserve the opportunity and the benefits of
84 the project, disqualifies the Company from filing for resource approval is contrary to
85 normal business practices and previous resource approval filings.

86 **Q. Dr. Zenger suggests that the repowering project is not a candidate for preapproval**
87 **because, in essence, it is "fully baked," and parties do not have any real**
88 **opportunity to collaboratively plan the project. (Zenger Direct, lines 116 - 125.)**
89 **Does this assertion comport with your understanding of the project's status?**

90 A. No. First, I disagree with Dr. Zenger's contention that parties should be involved in the
91 planning of the project. Parties, and the public generally, are involved in the

92 development of the Company’s integrated resource plan, but that is very different from
93 planning the implementation of a project like repowering.

94 Second, the Company has not unequivocally committed to the repowering
95 project, and will continue to monitor the economics of the project, as reflected in the
96 updated analysis provided by Mr. Link.

97 Third, the fact the Company is bringing forward a well-developed project
98 should not be viewed as a flaw. As described by Mr. Hemstreet, many of the risks
99 identified by the parties have been mitigated, to a large extent, by the process of
100 negotiating contracts to implement repowering and completing most siting and
101 permitting reviews. If the Company had brought this project to the Commission for
102 preapproval before performing its due diligence and risk mitigation, it would have been
103 more difficult to clearly demonstrate the benefits of the project.

104 **THE CUSTOMER BENEFITS OF REPOWERING JUSTIFY FULL COST**
105 **RECOVERY**

106 **Q. Mr. Peterson recommends that the Company recover the costs of equipment that**
107 **is replaced as part of the repowering project. But Mr. Peterson also suggests that**
108 **the Commission “may wish to condition all or part of the recovery for the legacy**
109 **plant on ratepayer benefits.” (Peterson Direct, lines 158 - 165) Is this a reasonable**
110 **recommendation?**

111 **A.** No. Mr. Peterson suggests that the Commission limit a portion of the recovery on the
112 legacy plant as a hedge against customer risk. If the Commission determines that the
113 wind repowering project provides customer benefits, there is no basis to limit recovery
114 of costs associated with the project.

115 The Company included cost recovery of the legacy plant in its economic

116 analysis that demonstrated repowering is lower cost than other alternatives. To reduce
117 the return on the legacy assets would penalize the Company for making the prudent
118 resource selection. It would be analogous to arbitrarily taking a portion of rate base and
119 applying a different rate of return if another resource were selected.

120 In any forecast of the future, it is unlikely that all assumptions will be
121 completely accurate, especially when looking 30 years into the future. Some
122 assumptions will be low and some will be high. Because of these variances, the
123 Company's modeling includes a range of assumptions that can be used to assess the
124 impact if a particular variable differs from the baseline. This preapproval process is
125 intended to verify the reasonableness of the Company's assumptions and determine that
126 customers will benefit as a result of repowering. If approved, the Company should
127 recover its full cost of service related to the project because it delivers substantial
128 benefits to customers.

129 **Q. Has the Commission previously addressed the replacement of assets with lower**
130 **cost alternatives?**

131 A. Yes. The Commission has allowed cost recovery of replaced or upgraded assets related
132 to the Powerdale facility, the Deer Creek Mine, and the Carbon coal-fired power plant.
133 In all three cases, the Commission determined that early retirement of these facilities
134 was in the best interest of customers, *i.e.*, retirement provided net savings to customers
135 as compared to continued operation.

136 **Q. Did the Commission penalize the Company in any of these transactions by**
137 **allowing a lower rate of return on the retired assets?**

138 A. No. In each case, the Commission decided the transaction was a net benefit to

139 customers and allowed the Company its full return on the retired plant. Although there
140 were customer risks associated with the resource decision made in each case, the
141 Commission allowed full recovery.

142 **Q. What do you conclude from these cases?**

143 A. Consistent with this precedent, if the Commission determines that repowering provides
144 customer benefits, based on what is known today, then it should allow full recovery of
145 the costs associated with the upgraded equipment.

146 **Q. Messrs. Peaco and Higgins argue that the repowering project is inequitable**
147 **because the Company's shareholders will receive substantially more benefits than**
148 **customers. (Peaco Direct, lines 202 - 215; Higgins Direct, lines 293 - 308.) Do you**
149 **agree with this characterization?**

150 A. No. The purported shareholder benefit they claim is the capital cost incurred to fund
151 the repowering project. A basic premise of ratemaking, however, is that "a capital-
152 attracting rate of profit is here considered a part of the necessary cost of service."² The
153 cost of capital is no different than any other prudent cost recoverable in rates if incurred
154 to provide utility service. It is inaccurate to say that shareholders are receiving a greater
155 benefit than customers based on the fact that shareholders recover the costs incurred to
156 provide utility service.

157 The Company has demonstrated it can deliver additional generation to
158 customers at a lower cost than the alternatives, resulting in a net benefit to customers.

159 The customer benefits assume that shareholders recover the full cost of the repowering
160 investment, including capital costs.

² James C. Bonbright, Albert L. Danielsen, & David R. Kamerschen, *Principles of Public Utility Rates*, 112 (2d ed. Public Utilities Reports 1988).

161 Moreover, in the near term, the Company’s proposed RTM only recovers total
162 project costs to the extent that there are net benefits. After the next rate case, the costs
163 and benefits of repowering will be included in the Company’s full revenue requirement.
164 However, there is no guarantee that the Company will recover its full cost of service
165 related to the repowering investment. The Company must prudently manage its costs
166 to achieve the full return allowed by the Commission.

167 **Q. Mr. Higgins recommends that the return on the upgraded equipment should be**
168 **reduced by 200 basis point to increase customer benefits and decrease Company**
169 **“benefits.” (Higgins Direct, lines 386 – 389.) Is this a reasonable recommendation?**

170 A. No. As discussed above, this proposal incorrectly assumes that cost recovery is a
171 “benefit” to the Company that should be compared to the benefits received by
172 customers. As discussed above, there is no precedent for limiting the Company’s
173 recovery of costs when equipment is upgraded or replaced if the upgrade is in
174 customers’ interests.

175 **Q. Would the Company “benefit” be any different if another generation resource**
176 **were selected?**

177 A. Conceptually, no. If the Company invested in any other resource, it would also recover
178 its capital costs, which would be calculated the same way.

179 **RESOURCE TRACKING MECHANISM**

180 **Q. Ms. Ramas asserts that the proposed RTM is unnecessary because the Company**
181 **added rate base in 2015 and 2016 and still earned at or above its authorized rate**
182 **of return. (Ramas Direct, lines 86 - 108.) Do you agree?**

183 A. No. The RTM is designed to more appropriately match costs and benefits of the wind

184 repowering project than under traditional ratemaking, while ensuring that the project
185 does not impose any additional costs on customers in the near term.

186 **Q. Please explain the impact that the RTM has on earnings.**

187 A. The RTM is a tool to capture the costs and benefits of the wind repowering project and
188 fairly treat shareholders and customers, with the protection of a proposed cap. To the
189 extent costs exceed benefits in any given year until the project is fully reflected in rates,
190 the Company bears the risk. In other words, the RTM is asymmetrical in customers'
191 favor and would credit customers with the net benefits of the project annually until the
192 next general rate case. This would have downward pressure on the Company's
193 earnings, to the extent costs exceed the benefits in any given year.

194 **Q. If the RTM is the point of contention in the proceeding, would the Company be**
195 **willing to move forward with the wind repowering project without an RTM?**

196 A. Yes, if there is a proper matching of the costs of the project with the benefits so that
197 shareholders are not penalized for making a prudent decision that delivers customer
198 benefits over the long term. If there is no RTM (and therefore no accounting for the
199 incremental costs and production tax credits ("PTCs")), an additional adjustment would
200 be required to remove the zero-cost energy from the Energy Balancing Account
201 ("EBA") and replace the energy at market cost. Under this scenario, the result of
202 repowering would be captured in semi-annual results of operation reports provided to
203 the Commission, and the impact to earnings would be a matter of routine review by the
204 regulatory agencies for reasonableness.

205 **Deferral vs. Accounting Order**

206 **Q. What is your position on Mr. Thomson’s proposal that the Commission issue an**
207 **accounting order to defer the costs and benefits of repowering until the next rate**
208 **case, rather than approve the RTM? (Thomson Direct, lines 169 - 173.)**

209 A. The Company opposes this proposal because it would unreasonably delay recovery of
210 the repowering costs. Under Mr. Thomson’s proposal, the Commission would calculate
211 the deferral in the same way as the RTM, other than the carrying charge discussed later
212 in my testimony. Thus, the deferral of the incremental costs and benefits of repowering
213 would be similar and the accounting treatment would essentially be the same as the
214 RTM. However, the delay in the collections from deferring the costs of repowering,
215 rather than implementing an annual true-up mechanism, creates several problems.

216 **Q. Please describe the problems associated with using a deferral instead of the RTM**
217 **to track repowering costs and benefits.**

218 A. First, the RTM ensures that costs and benefits are properly matched in the interim until
219 the next rate case. The RTM will end when repowering costs are reflected in base rates
220 (except for the tracking of the variability of PTCs). A deferral, on the other hand, would
221 result in an amortization built into base rates that would not be removed until a future
222 rate case.

223 Second, the RTM matches the costs and benefits so that the customers receiving
224 the benefits are also paying the costs that generate the benefits. If the investment costs
225 and PTCs are deferred, but the power cost benefits flow through the EBA, a mismatch
226 occurs and customers receive a windfall in the near term. This violates the matching
227 principle for costs and benefits. Because Mr. Thompson’s deferral results in matching

228 and intergenerational issues, I recommend using the RTM, which produces essentially
229 the same result and avoids these issues. If Mr. Thomson’s deferral approach is used, the
230 net power cost benefits of the zero-cost energy must be pulled out of the EBA and
231 deferred as well.

232 Third, generally accepted accounting principles do not allow for the deferral of
233 a return on investment that would be collected at some undetermined time in the future.
234 With the RTM, the collection of the return component happens annually as part of the
235 RTM’s regular true-up process. The deferral approach would have the same total
236 overall impact on customers; however, it would lead to complicated separate
237 accounting, increased difficulty in auditing, and delayed inclusion of cost/benefit
238 impacts for both customers and the Company.

239 For these reasons, the RTM as proposed provides greater benefits to customers
240 than the method described by Mr. Thomson.

241 **Carrying Charge**

242 **Q. Mr. Thomson claims that the “Company has not provided support for using a 6%
243 carrying charge rather than the Commission approved carrying charge method.”
244 (Thomson Direct, lines 156 - 157.) Why is the Company proposing a six percent
245 carrying charge on the RTM during the deferral and collection period?**

246 **A.** The repowered assets will provide customer benefits in two ways—by generating
247 revenue through the PTCs and by reducing net power costs (“NPC”) through zero-cost
248 energy. The benefits of the reduced NPC will flow through the EBA, which includes a
249 six percent carrying charge. To match the carrying charge used for the NPC benefits,
250 the Company proposes that the same six percent carrying charge apply to the RTM.

251 **Q. Mr. Thomson recommends that the Commission use an accounting order “without**
252 **the interest carrying charges or sur-credits.” (Thomson Direct, lines 171 - 172.) Is**
253 **this a reasonable recommendation?**

254 A. No. Mr. Thomson’s recommendation is contrary to the carrying charge applied in the
255 EBA and it is contrary to the carrying charge method he implies should be used for
256 deferrals. Mr. Thomson does not explain the rationale for his proposal or justify its
257 departure from established Commission precedent.

258 The use of no carrying charge, as proposed by Mr. Thomson, is unjustified given
259 the customer benefits resulting from repowering. It is appropriate to apply a carrying
260 charge to the balance of the RTM similar to the treatment afforded the EBA. As long
261 as the Commission approves a reasonable carrying charge, however, the Commission
262 could deviate from the carrying charge used for the EBA.

263 **Operation and Maintenance (“O&M”)**

264 **Q. Why is it necessary to include O&M expenses in the RTM?**

265 A. The Company believes that, as part of the RTM, there needs to be a true-up of wind
266 O&M associated with repowering. The Company has included O&M costs in its
267 economic analysis supporting the decision to repower. O&M costs associated with the
268 repowered wind turbines include increased wind lease payments and costs associated
269 with Full Service Agreements from turbine vendors following repowering.

270 **Q. What is the Company’s position on using total wind O&M versus using non-labor**
271 **O&M?**

272 A. Ms. Ramas expressed concerns with tracking labor O&M expenses associated with the
273 repowered assets. (Ramas Direct, lines 409 - 445.) The Company’s proposal is a true-

274 up of the total O&M associated with the wind facilities for simplicity and transparency.
275 Because the increased O&M associated with wind repowering will mainly be
276 associated with non-labor costs, however, the Company is not opposed to truing-up
277 only the non-labor portion.

278 **Q. Ms. Ramas is concerned about the Company's proposal to use a four-year**
279 **historical average O&M expense, rather than the amount from the last rate case,**
280 **to calculate the incremental O&M in the RTM. (Ramas Direct, lines 409 - 445.)**
281 **Why did the Company propose a four-year historical average?**

282 A. The intent of the RTM is to isolate the incremental costs of repowering and to match
283 costs and benefits. To determine the incremental O&M costs, the Company used a pre-
284 repowering four-year average expense as the baseline to determine the average O&M
285 expense. To smooth annual fluctuations in O&M expenditures, a four-year average will
286 minimize any anomalies.

287 **Q. Is the Company changing the proposal for O&M as part of rebuttal?**

288 A. No. The Company believes its original approach is the appropriate measurement of
289 O&M for the RTM. However, the Company does not oppose using non-labor O&M in
290 the RTM.

291 **Production Tax Credits**

292 **Q. Why should the Commission approve the use of a mechanism to recover PTCs**
293 **now, rather than in a future rate case as proposed by Ms. Ramas? (Ramas Direct,**
294 **lines 361 - 363.)**

295 A. Allowing recovery of the PTCs through the RTM better matches costs and benefits and
296 ensures customers receive the benefits of repowering. The current PTCs included in

297 base rates have already begun expiring, and the Company is not proposing to modify
298 base rates to remove expiring PTCs. The Company is proposing to pass through
299 100 percent of the new PTC benefits through the RTM.

300 PTC benefits are tied to the output of the wind turbines. As the annual wind
301 output varies, this results in changes to EBA-related NPC and PTCs associated with
302 the wind production. The energy impact of wind production is captured in the EBA;
303 therefore, the Company is proposing to capture the offsetting impact on PTCs in the
304 RTM. This will match the benefits and costs associated with varying wind production.
305 Also, as previously mentioned, customers will receive all of the PTC benefits
306 associated with repowering.

307 **Property Taxes**

308 **Q. Ms. Ramas criticizes the Company's proposal to use an average property tax rate**
309 **from the past rate case in the RTM because it is inconsistent with projections of**
310 **O&M expense from the last rate case. (Ramas Direct, lines 480 - 485.) Why did**
311 **the Company propose using the average property tax rate from the last rate case?**

312 A. The RTM measures the incremental costs and benefits associated with repowering
313 assets. The baseline costs and benefits are set forth in Exhibit RMP____(JKL-1). For
314 most items, the incremental impact can be measured using data outside of the last
315 general rate case, *e.g.*, the incremental O&M expense discussed above. However, for
316 purposes of quantifying the incremental impact on property taxes, the Company
317 determined that using the average rate from the last rate case provided a verifiable and
318 auditable measurement of the total-company property taxes included in rates. The
319 property taxes are calculated assuming an incremental increase in property taxes

320 resulting from an incremental increase in net rate base.

321 **Q. Ms. Ramas is also critical of the Company’s proposal to track only the incremental**
322 **increase in property taxes, without accounting for the reduction associated with**
323 **existing assets. (Ramas Direct, lines 504 - 508.) What is the Company’s response**
324 **to Ms. Ramas’ assertion that the Company’s proposal overstates property tax**
325 **expense?**

326 A. The Company’s operating property is valued on a centralized basis in each of its states.
327 Assessed values are a function of the Company’s investment in operating property and
328 the amount of earnings derived from the operation of such property. Even though a
329 portion of the plant is being replaced, this will not directly reduce the Company’s
330 property tax expense. The method the Company is proposing is a reasonable method
331 for estimating the property tax impact using the average rate from the last general rate
332 case.

333 INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY

334 **Q. Mr. Peterson argues that the Company’s proposal creates an intergenerational**
335 **equity issue. (Peterson Direct, lines 177 - 178.) Do you agree?**

336 A. No. Mr. Peterson focuses on what he describes as a “tipping point,” after which
337 customers will be burdened with the cost of the legacy equipment without any
338 associated PTC benefits. This argument incorrectly suggests that PTC benefits are the
339 sole benefits associated with repowering. Another significant benefit of repowering is
340 incremental generation and extended asset life. This is covered in the netting of costs
341 and benefits contemplated in the proposed RTM. This incremental generation is now
342 anticipated to be approximately 743 gigawatt-hour (“GWhs”) in each of the first

343 20 years and approximately 3,612 GWhs in each of the final 10 years. Thus, while the
344 benefits of the PTCs will accrue to customers during the first 10 years, the repowered
345 facilities will continue to provide customer benefits for their entire operating life, and
346 will provide substantial value to customers in later years as a result of the increased
347 generation associated with life extension.

348 **Q. Are you suggesting that the NPC benefit of 743 GWhs of incremental generation**
349 **during the 12-year period starting in 2028 will be commensurate with the costs**
350 **projected to be borne by customers during the same period?**

351 A. I am not. I think it is fair to highlight that there is a period during which customers will
352 be subject to greater costs than benefits. The Company has been transparent on that
353 point – although Mr. Link’s exhibit RMP__(RTL-R3) shows the period lasting not 12,
354 but five-to-six years in high natural gas price scenarios, six-to-seven years in medium
355 natural gas price scenarios, and seven-to-nine years in low natural gas price scenarios.
356 But the fact is that customers will receive *some* NPC benefit stemming from the
357 replacement of the legacy equipment in every year of the repowered projects’ lives.
358 While that benefit may not exceed the associated costs in a given year, few regulators
359 would suggest that a project may go forward only if it will produce benefits in excess
360 of costs every single year of its decades-long life.

361 Throughout the lives of the repowered facilities, the replacement of the legacy
362 equipment will create value through PTC benefits, incremental generation, or both.
363 Therefore, it is inaccurate to claim that the Company’s approach to cost recovery
364 produces intergenerational inequity. As noted earlier in my testimony, however, DPU’s
365 proposal to defer the impacts of repowering rather than use the RTM does create

366 intergenerational inequities because NPC benefits will immediately flow through the
367 EBA, while the other costs and benefits would be deferred.

368 **Q. Does it matter that the value of incremental generation may not exactly match the**
369 **costs borne by future customers?**

370 A. No. There will always be some fluctuation in the exact alignment of costs and benefits.
371 As Dr. Bonbright notes, it is important to use a principled and standard approach to
372 depreciation that does not shift or revise annual expense according to the exact value
373 derived from a facility in a given year:

374 [S]ince cost apportionments must be made ex ante, subject only to a
375 minimum of midstream revisions, any correlation between the resulting
376 annual charges imposed on consumers for capital costs (depreciation
377 plus fair return plus taxes) and the relative benefits derived by
378 consumers from the use of older assets as compared to newer assets,
379 must be extremely rough. Hence, the choice of any given method of
380 depreciation accounting must not be premised on any assumption of a
381 close adherence to a relative-benefit standard.³

382 **Q. What is the Company's position on the remedies identified by Mr. Peterson?**

383 A. Mr. Peterson proposes two potential remedies: (1) accelerating the depreciation of the
384 legacy equipment to match the 10-year PTC period; or (2) amortizing the PTC benefits
385 over the full life of the legacy equipment. I agree with Mr. Peterson's estimation that
386 either of these remedies *could* have the effect of reducing the project's overall benefits
387 to customers. If parties, and ultimately the Commission, see merit in either approach,
388 the Company does not necessarily object. The Company's support for such a change
389 would be contingent upon the lifting of the RTM cap, however, as the number of years
390 in which the RTM would produce a net cost to customers would certainly rise.

³ James C. Bonbright, *Principles of Public Utility Rates*, 204 (Columbia University Press, 1961).

391 **Q. What is your conclusion on the intergenerational equity argument?**

392 A. While perfect matching of costs and benefits is ideal, it is only one of many
393 considerations in the regulatory world. The Commission must also balance it with rate
394 impacts on customers, simplicity in the regulatory accounting, and the unknown future
395 of what might impact the cost of operating a specific asset. Based on this, I recommend
396 the Commission amortize the PTCs over the period they are generated.

397 **UPDATED RESULTS AND EXHIBITS**

398 **Q. As a result of the updates completed by Mr. Link and presented in his testimony,**
399 **have you updated your exhibits from your direct testimony?**

400 A. Yes.

401 **Q. Please provide a summary of the updated results in the revised exhibits.**

402 A. The revised exhibits incorporate modeling changes found in Mr. Link's updated
403 analysis and rebuttal testimony. The revisions include Utah's allocated share of the
404 updated wind construction cost, return, depreciation, PTCs, taxes, and operating costs
405 and benefits. The updated net power cost changes associated with an updated load
406 forecast, system dispatch and revised wind generation projections have been included
407 in the EBA pass-through calculation. Figure 1 is a summary of the estimated
408 repowering revenue requirement benefits found in the revised exhibits and shows a
409 projected net customer benefit in each of the first four years, with net benefits of up to
410 \$12.4 million by 2022.

Figure 1

Repowering Estimated Revenue Requirement Cost (Benefit)				
\$thousands				
	2019	2020	2021	2022
1 Total Company	(2,671)	(1,701)	(17,407)	(29,195)
2 Utah Allocated	(1,138)	(737)	(7,433)	(12,458)
3 Utah EBA	393	(4,661)	(5,306)	(5,530)
4 Utah Deferral	(1,531)	3,924	(2,127)	(6,928)
5 Net Customer Benefit	(1,138)	(737)	(7,433)	(12,458)

412 My original exhibits have been updated and are presented as RMP__(JKL-1R),⁴
 413 RMP__(JKL-2R), Exhibit RMP__(JKL-3R) and Exhibit RMP__(JKL-4R). These
 414 exhibits are revised with Mr. Link's updated economic analysis. They are in the same
 415 format to calculate the monthly and annual revenue requirements and RTM results as
 416 the exhibits presented in my direct testimony.

417 **Q. What do the updated exhibits indicate regarding customer benefits and the RTM?**

418 A. Exhibit RMP__(JKL-2R) shows that the wind repowering project provides estimated
 419 benefits each year. It also shows that the RTM passes these benefits on to customers
 420 each year, while allowing the Company to recover repowering project costs. Although
 421 the Company is proposing to cap⁵ the RTM through the next general rate case, these
 422 updated results show a sufficient level of estimated repowering benefit that use of the
 423 RTM cap may not be necessary.

⁴ Exhibit RMP__(JKL-1R), which provides a revenue requirement overview of the RTM, is changed to reference Mr. Hemstreet's revised exhibit, Confidential Exhibit RMP__(TJH-1R) in the NPC Savings Base calculation.

⁵ The Company is proposing to cap the RTM until the next general rate case so that, after taking into account the wind repowering benefits that will flow through the Company's EBA, it will not operate to surcharge customers.

424 Exhibit RMP__(JKL-3R) shows the monthly calculations that roll-up to the
425 annual results in Exhibit RMP__(JKL-2R). Exhibit RMP__(JKL-4R)⁶ values have not
426 changed from my direct testimony, but is included here to facilitate the referencing to
427 key financial and allocation data used in the other exhibits.

428 **Q. Does this conclude your rebuttal testimony?**

429 A. Yes.

⁶ The reference to Confidential Exhibit RMP__TJH-3, page 2 of 2 has been updated to reflect that it has been replaced by Mr. Hemstreet's Confidential Exhibit RMP__TJH-1R.

Rocky Mountain Power
Exhibit RMP__(JKL-1R)
Docket No. 17-035-39
Witness: Jeffrey K. Larsen

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF UTAH

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER

Exhibit Accompanying Rebuttal Testimony of Jeffrey K. Larsen

Revenue Requirement Overview – Wind Repowering

October 2017

Resource Tracking Mechanism

Revenue Requirement Overview – Wind Repowering

Category	Base	New	Deferral
Capital Investment	Zero until the next general rate case. After rate case, the base will be the amount included in the test period, beginning on the rate effective date of that case.	Actual monthly plant in-service balances associated with wind repowering, beginning with first repowering assets placed in service.	The difference between the base and new columns will be included in the mechanism calculation until the amounts are fully included in a general rate case, at which time this will end.
Accumulated Depreciation Reserve	Same as capital investment.	Monthly depreciation reserve of repowered assets.	
Accumulated Deferred Income Tax	Same as capital investment.	Actual accumulated deferred income tax balances associated with the repowering investment.	
Operation & Maintenance Expense	Four-year average O&M expense for wind projects from 2014 to 2017, (2018-2019 are excluded to avoid any changes in O&M related to repowering).	Actual O&M expense for wind projects.	
Depreciation Expense	Zero.	Actual monthly plant in-service balances associated with wind repowering less the base multiplied by current depreciation rates. The plant in service amounts used will be reduced by the replaced assets until the next depreciation study.	
Property Taxes	Zero.	Capital Investment deferral less the Depreciation Reserve deferral multiplied by the average property tax rate from the last rate case.	
Wind Tax	Zero.	Incremental energy production MWh associated with repowering multiplied by the wind tax rate.	
NPC Savings	The EBA tracks and captures any incremental changes to wind production between NPC in base rates and actual NPC. The base energy production = Actual energy produced by wind projects divided by (1 + percent of generation increase from Confidential Exhibit RMP__(TJH-1R)).	The EBA has a 100% pass through of the difference between base NPC and actual NPC. The RTM will capture any savings not included in the EBA related to incremental energy production associated with repowering, and pass these savings back to customers.	
PTC	Zero until next general rate case. After a rate case, the base will be the amount included in the test period, starting on the rate effective date, associated with repowering projects.	Actual MWh eligible for PTC produced by repowered wind plants multiplied by the production tax rate.	
RTM Cap	N/A	The Company is proposing to cap the RTM until the next general rate case so that, after taking into account the wind repowering benefits that will flow through the Company's EBA, it will not operate to surcharge customers.	

Rocky Mountain Power
Exhibit RMP__(JKL-2R)
Docket No. 17-035-39
Witness: Jeffrey K. Larsen

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF UTAH

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER

Exhibit Accompanying Rebuttal Testimony of Jeffrey K. Larsen
Example Annual RTM Deferral Calculation - Revenue Requirement

October 2017

Rocky Mountain Power
Exhibit RMP__(JKL-3R)
Docket No. 17-035-39
Witness: Jeffrey K. Larsen

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF UTAH

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER

Exhibit Accompanying Rebuttal Testimony of Jeffrey K. Larsen
Example Monthly RTM Deferral Calculation - Revenue Requirement

October 2017

PacifiCorp
 Utah
 Wind Repowering - Example Monthly RTM Deferral Calculation
 Revenue Requirement

Line No.	Reference	2019 January	2019 February	2019 March	2019 April	2019 May	2019 June	2019 July	2019 August	2019 September	2019 October	2019 November	2019 December
Total Company													
Plant Revenue Requirement													
1	Capital Investment	-	-	-	-	-	-	145,625	145,625	145,625	587,127	949,528	949,528
2	Depreciation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	(405)	(809)	(1,214)	(2,844)	(5,482)	(8,120)
3	Accumulated DIT Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	(11,912)	(17,868)	(23,824)	(30,780)	(37,736)	(44,692)
4	Net Rate Base	-	-	-	-	-	-	133,309	132,904	126,544	73,171	825,156	782,869
	sum of lines 1-3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Pre-Tax Rate of Return	10.649%	10.649%	10.649%	10.649%	10.649%	10.649%	10.649%	10.649%	10.649%	10.649%	10.649%	10.649%
6	Pre-Tax Return on Rate Base	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,183	1,179	1,179	1,123	4,536	7,323
	Footnote 1												
7	Wholesale Wheeling Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Operation & Maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	-	324	621	713	754	716	748
9	Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-	405	405	405	1,631	2,638	2,638
10	Property Taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	Wind Tax	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	15	17	18	17	18
12	Total Plant Revenue Requirement	-	-	-	-	-	-	736	2,223	2,314	3,526	7,907	10,726
	sum of lines 6-11												
13	Net Power Cost	-	-	-	-	-	-	77	147	170	179	170	178
	See Exhibit JKL-4												
	PTC Benefit	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,608)	(3,083)	(3,544)	(3,745)	(3,557)	(3,714)
14	PTC Benefit	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,608)	(3,083)	(3,544)	(3,745)	(3,557)	(3,714)
15	PTC Benefit in Base Rates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	Net PTC	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,608)	(3,083)	(3,544)	(3,745)	(3,557)	(3,714)
17	Gross-up for taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-	(983)	(1,896)	(2,167)	(2,290)	(2,175)	(2,271)
18	PTC Revenue Requirement	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,591)	(4,969)	(5,711)	(6,035)	(5,732)	(5,985)
	sum of lines 12, 13 and 18												
19	Rev. Requirement	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,778)	(2,598)	(3,227)	(2,330)	2,345	4,918
	sum of lines 12, 13 and 18												
	Adjustment for EBA Pass-through	-	-	-	-	-	-	77	147	170	179	170	178
20	NPC Incremental Savings	-	-	-	-	-	-	77	147	170	179	170	178
21	Percentage included in EBA (100%)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
22	EBA Pass-through	-	-	-	-	-	-	77	147	170	179	170	178
23	Rev. Reqt after EBA Pass-through	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,855)	(2,746)	(3,397)	(2,509)	2,175	4,741
	line 19 - line 22												
	Utah Allocated	-	-	-	-	-	-	(791)	(1,170)	(1,448)	(1,070)	927	2,021
24	Total Deferral - UT Share	-	-	-	-	-	-	(791)	(1,170)	(1,448)	(1,070)	927	2,021
	Footnote 4												
25	Net Customer Benefit	-	-	-	-	-	-	(758)	(1,108)	(1,376)	(993)	1,000	2,097
	line 22 * line 36 + line 24												
	Deferral Balance - UT Share	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26	Beginning Deferral Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27	Monthly Deferral	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(793)	(1,970)	(3,432)	(4,521)	(3,614)
28	Deferral Collection	-	-	-	-	-	-	(791)	(1,170)	(1,448)	(1,070)	927	2,021
29	Carrying Charge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	Ending Deferral Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2)	(7)	(13)	(20)	(20)	(13)
	sum of lines 26-29												
31	Federal/State Combined Tax Rate	37.951%						(793)	(1,970)	(3,432)	(4,521)	(3,614)	(1,606)
32	Netto Gross Bump up Factor = (1/(1-tax rate))	1.6116											
33	Deferred Balance Carrying Charge	6.00%											
34	Pre-tax Return	10.649%											
35	Property Tax Rate	0.77%											
36	Utah SG Factor	42.6283%											
37	Utah GPS Factor	42.4704%											

Footnotes:
 1) Pre-tax Return, line 6, is calculated as the rate of return (line 5) multiplied by the ending net rate base of the prior month (line 4) divided by 12
 2) Not Applicable for Repowering
 3) For illustrative purposes, collection of RTM until the next general rate case so that, after taking into account the wind repowering benefits that will flow through the Company's EBA, it will not operate to surcharge customers
 4) The Company is proposing to cap the RTM until the next general rate case so that, after taking into account the wind repowering benefits that will flow through the Company's EBA, it will not operate to surcharge customers
 5) As stated in testimony, actual depreciation expense will be adjusted by the impact of the retired assets until the next depreciation study

Total Plant Revenue Requirement (Lines 1 - 12, 34):

Exhibit JKL-3R shows the calculation of the RTM revenue requirement deferral described in my testimony. The calculation starts with total Company amounts on lines 1 - 23 to calculate the Utah specific amounts on lines 24 - 30. To calculate the return on rate base associated with the wind repowering investment, net rate base associated with the repowered wind resources is calculated on a monthly basis. The net rate base balance on line 4 includes the investment in repowered wind resources, along with the associated impacts on the depreciation reserve and accumulated DIT Balance. The monthly beginning net rate base (the final amount from the prior month) is then multiplied by the pre-tax Weighted Average Cost of Capital ("WACC") from the last Utah general rate case on line 5 to determine the Company's pre-tax return on rate base on line 6. The example uses the pre-tax WACC from Docket No. 09-035-15. The total plant revenue requirement is calculated by taking the return on rate base shown on line 6 and adding the O&M expense, depreciation expense, property taxes and wind tax on lines 8 - 11 to determine the total plant revenue requirement on line 12. Wholesale wheeling revenue on line 7 is not used for wind repowering, but is needed for a similar calculation for the Gateway transmission and wind expansion project.

Net Power Costs (Line 13):

The total company incremental NPC savings associated with repowered wind resources is shown on line 13. The incremental NPC savings associated with the repowered wind projects are multiplied by one hundred percent on line 21 to determine the amount of the NPC savings that will be returned to customers through the sharing band of the EBA. The calculation of NPC savings is described in Exhibit JKL-4R.

PTC Benefits (Lines 14-18, 31, 32):

Lines 14-18 show the calculation of the PTC benefits associated with the repowered wind resources. The actual PTC sales are grossed-up for taxes using the net-to-gross bump-up factor from the Company's last general rate case (shown on line 32) to derive the PTC revenue requirement on line 18. The tax gross-up is necessary for customers to get the full revenue requirement benefit of the PTCs and is calculated using the federal and state combined tax rate shown on line 31, which was also included in the last general rate case.

Deferral Balance (Lines 19 - 30):

The Utah share of the net deferral begins by calculating the total repowering project revenue requirement on line 19, which is the sum of Total Plant Revenue Requirement on line 12, NPC Incremental Savings on line 13, and PTC Revenue Requirement on line 18. The EBA pass-through on line 22 is subtracted to provide the Revenue Requirement after EBA Pass-through on line 23. Utah's share of the Total Deferral is dependent upon the amount of revenue requirement cost or benefit that is determined in a particular year. If the Revenue Requirement after EBA Pass-through for any year on line 23 is negative, which means that the repowering project provides a revenue requirement benefit greater than the benefit being passed through the EBA, then that year's deferral is equal to the additional benefit found on line 23. If the Revenue Requirement after EBA Pass-through for any year on line 23 is positive, the Company is proposing to cap the RTM until the next general rate case so that, after taking into account the wind repowering benefits that will flow through the Company's EBA, it will not operate to surcharge customers. The Net Customer Benefit (line 25) is the sum of the EBA Pass-through (line 22) and the Total Deferral - Utah Share (line 24). The carrying charge, shown on line 29 is calculated using the Commission-authorized rate on line 33 and is consistent with the calculations used in the Company's other mechanisms such as the EBA. As described earlier, each month the total-Company RTM revenue requirement will be calculated as illustrated on Exhibit JKL-3 to align with the resources included in the EBA. Once per year on a calendar-year basis, the Company will sum the monthly RTM revenue requirement entries to prepare the annual RTM application for filing with the Commission on March 15, with an interim rate effective date that corresponds with the EBA application, May 1.

Rocky Mountain Power
Exhibit RMP__(JKL-4R)
Docket No. 17-035-39
Witness: Jeffrey K. Larsen

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF UTAH

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER

Exhibit Accompanying Rebuttal Testimony of Jeffrey K. Larsen
Capital Structure, Property Tax Rate and Net Power Cost Description

October 2017

**PacifiCorp
 Utah**

Wind Repowering - Capital Structure, Property Tax and Net Power Cost Description
 Capital Structure and Property Tax Rate

**13-035-184 Capital Structure & Cost
 Effective 9/1/2014**

Line no.	Capital Structure	Capital Structure	Capital Cost	Weighted Cost	Pre-Tax Cost
1	Debt	48.556%	5.200%	2.525%	2.525%
2	Preferred	0.016%	6.753%	0.001%	0.002%
3	Common	51.428%	9.800%	5.040%	8.123%
4			TOTAL	7.566%	10.649%
5	Consolidated Tax Rate		37.951%		
6	Tax Gross-up factor for PTC = (1/(1 - tax rate))		1.6116		
Property Tax Calculation as filed in Docket Number 13-035-184					
7	Total Company				134,961,526
8	Utah GPS Factor				42.4704%
9	Utah Property Taxes				57,318,700
10	Utah Gross EPIS				10,912,081,614
11	Utah Accum. Depr.				(3,234,910,020)
12	Utah Accum. Amort.				(221,249,967)
13	Utah Net EPIS				7,455,921,626
14	Estimated Utah Property Tax Rate				0.769%
15	Utah SG Factor - Docket No. 13-035-184				42.6283%
16	Utah GPS Factor - Docket No. 13-035-184				42.4704%

Net Power Cost Incremental Savings Calculation and Definitions

Incremental Generation = Wind Plant Generation MWh – Base Wind Plant Generation MWh

Base Wind Plant Generation = Wind Plant Generation MWh / (1 + Project Generation Increase %)

NPC Incremental Savings

$$= [\text{Incremental Gen}_{HLH} \times (\text{Monthly Market Price}_{HLH} - \text{Integration Costs})] + [\text{Incremental Gen}_{LLH} \times (\text{Monthly Market Price}_{LLH} - \text{Integration Costs})]$$

RTM NPC Benefit = NPC Incremental Savings × ECAM Sharing Band

Where:

Incremental Generation = The increase in generation at the wind plant due to repowering

Project Generation Increase % = The percentage change in energy at the wind plant due to repowering (See Confidential Exhibit RMP_TJH-1R)

Incremental Gen_{HLH} = The increase in generation at the wind plant due to repowering during heavy load hours

Incremental Gen_{LLH} = The increase in generation at the wind plant due to repowering during light load hours

Monthly Market Price_{HLH} = Heavy load hour monthly market price

Monthly Market Price_{LLH} = Light load hour monthly market price

Integration Costs = Wind integration costs from the most recent IRP

RTM NPC Benefit = The NPC repowering benefit absorbed by the Company in the ECAM as a result of the sharing band

Rocky Mountain Power
Docket No. 17-035-39
Witness: Nikki L. Kobliha

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF UTAH

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER

Rebuttal Testimony of Nikki L. Kobliha

October 2017

1 **Q. Please state your name, business address, and present position with PacifiCorp.**

2 A. My name is Nikki L. Kobliha and my business address is 825 NE Multnomah Street,
3 Suite 2000, Portland, Oregon 97232. My present position is Vice President, Chief
4 Financial Officer and Treasurer for PacifiCorp. I am testifying on behalf of Rocky
5 Mountain Power (“Company”), a division of PacifiCorp.

6 **QUALIFICATIONS**

7 **Q. Briefly describe your educational and professional background.**

8 A. I received a Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting
9 from the University of Portland in 1994. I became a certified public accountant in 1996.
10 I joined the Company in 1997 and have taken on roles of increasing responsibility
11 before being appointed Chief Financial Officer in 2015.

12 **Q. What are your responsibilities as Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and
13 Treasurer?**

14 A. I am responsible for all aspects of the Company’s finance, accounting, income tax,
15 internal audit, Securities and Exchange Commission reporting, treasury, credit risk
16 management, pension, and other investment management activities.

17 **PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REBUTTAL TESTIMONY**

18 **Q. What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony in this proceeding?**

19 A. In support of the Company's request that the Public Service Commission of Utah
20 (“Commission”) approve its energy resource decision for wind repowering, my
21 testimony responds to the tax issues raised in the direct testimonies of Division of
22 Public Utilities (“DPU”) witness Mr. Daniel Peaco, Office of Consumer Services
23 (“OCS”) witnesses Mr. Gavin Mangelson, Mr. Philip Hayet, and Ms. Donna Ramas,

24 and Utah Association of Energy Users (“UAE”) witness Mr. Kevin C. Higgins.

25 I provide a brief summary of the requirements that the Company must satisfy for
26 the repowered wind facilities to qualify for 100 percent of the federal production tax
27 credits (“PTCs”). I respond to specific issues raised by DPU, OCS, and UAE, and I
28 demonstrate that the Company has carefully managed the PTC-related risks associated
29 with the wind repowering project to ensure that the facilities qualify for 100 percent of
30 the PTC value. Specifically, I address the following:

- 31 • How the Company’s safe-harbor wind-turbine components purchased in 2016
32 are sufficient to qualify the wind repowering project for 100 percent of the value
33 of available PTCs under the five-percent safe-harbor test;
- 34 • How the Company will meet the continuous construction requirement; and
- 35 • How the Company will meet the 80/20 test for repowered wind facilities.

36 In addition, I describe the Company’s current high-level view of the likelihood of tax
37 reform, which provides the basis for Company witness Mr. Rick T. Link's tax-related
38 sensitivity analysis. This analysis shows that the wind repowering project still provides
39 a significant benefit to customers even with a major reduction in the corporate tax rate.

40 **Q. Please summarize your testimony.**

41 A. The customer benefits of the wind repowering project are demonstrated in the
42 economic analysis presented by Mr. Link. Because the project economics rely heavily
43 on tax benefits, the Company’s due diligence involves thorough consideration of all the
44 tax-related risks associated with repowering.

45 The Company took a number of steps to ensure that the safe-harbor equipment
46 purchased in 2016 was sufficient to qualify the repowered facilities for 100 percent of

47 the PTC benefits. The Company can further mitigate any risks associated with the safe-
48 harbor purchases by transferring safe-harbor equipment among facilities and affiliates
49 to ensure that the customer benefits are maximized.

50 To minimize risks associated with the 80/20 test, which requires that the new
51 equipment installed represent at least 80 percent of the overall facility costs, the
52 Company has reasonably engaged a third-party expert firm to value the retained
53 equipment. Based on that valuation, and the fact that the value of the new equipment
54 will be known, the Company has largely mitigated the risk that the new projects will
55 not meet the 80/20 rule.

56 Finally, at this point, a change in the federal corporate income tax rate is highly
57 uncertain and, under the most likely compromise outcome, the change is unlikely to
58 eliminate the customer benefits. Moreover, any tax rate change will likely be known by
59 early 2018, before the Company moves forward with the wind repowering project.
60 Thus, the Company will evaluate changes in tax law as part of its overall reassessment
61 of the project economics before committing to repowering.

62 **BACKGROUND**

63 **Q. Please describe how a PTC is generated.**

64 A. The Internal Revenue Code (“IRC”) provides that a wind facility will generate a PTC
65 equal to an inflation-adjusted 1.5 cents per kilowatt hour of electricity that is produced
66 and sold to a third-party for a period of 10 years commencing with the date the facility
67 is placed in service for income tax purposes. The current inflation-adjusted PTC rate
68 for electricity generated in 2017 is 2.4 cents per kilowatt hour.

69 **Q. Under current income tax law, the PTC is being phased out. Please explain the**
70 **phase-out process.**

71 A. The Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015 (“PATH Act”) was signed into
72 law on December 18, 2015, and retroactively extended and phased out the PTC for
73 wind facilities that began construction before January 1, 2020. For a wind facility that
74 began construction before January 1, 2017, the credit generated by the wind facility is
75 a full 100 percent of the PTC. For a wind facility that begins construction in 2017, the
76 credit is reduced by 20 percent (*i.e.*, the facility receives 80 percent of the full PTC).
77 For a wind facility that begins construction in 2018, the credit is reduced by 40 percent
78 (*i.e.*, the facility receives 60 percent of the full PTC). For a wind facility that begins
79 construction in 2019, the credit is reduced by 60 percent (*i.e.*, the facility receives 40
80 percent of the full PTC). For a wind facility that begins construction after December
81 31, 2019, there is no PTC available.

82 **Q. When does “construction” begin for a wind facility?**

83 A. Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) Notice 2013-29 provides a taxpayer with two
84 methods to establish that construction of a wind facility has begun. First, the taxpayer
85 can begin physical work of a significant nature. Physical work can include both on-site
86 and off-site work, either performed by the taxpayer or by another person subject to a
87 binding contract.

88 Second, a taxpayer can pay or incur five percent or more of the eventual total
89 cost of the qualified wind facility. This is known as the five-percent safe harbor. The
90 Company is using this five-percent safe-harbor method to qualify for 100 percent of
91 the PTC. The Company purchased and took delivery and title to sufficient wind turbine

92 components in December 2016 to meet the five-percent safe harbor and to show that
93 physical construction of the wind facilities that will be repowered began before
94 January 1, 2017, and thus qualify the repowered facilities for 100 percent of the PTC.

95 In addition to the requirement that the wind facility begin construction before
96 January 1, 2017, to qualify for 100 percent of the PTC, the wind facility must also
97 satisfy the continuity-of-construction requirement.

98 **Q. Please explain the continuity-of-construction requirement.**

99 A. The wind facility must be under continuous construction from the time physical
100 construction begins until the wind facility is placed in service. Whether a taxpayer
101 satisfies the continuity-of-construction requirement is determined based on the relevant
102 facts and circumstances surrounding the timing of the physical work to be performed
103 on the wind facility. The IRS has issued limited guidance on what facts and
104 circumstances might be considered to meet this requirement. For example, the IRS has
105 provided a list of non-exclusive “excusable” disruptions and delays deemed to be
106 beyond the control of the taxpayer and therefore acceptable reasons that would support
107 the taxpayer’s contention that it has maintained a continuous program of construction.
108 These acceptable delays include weather-caused delays, permit delays outside of the
109 control of the taxpayer, and supply shortages, among others.

110 The IRS has, however, also created a continuity-of-construction safe harbor (the
111 “calendar safe harbor”). If a taxpayer places a facility in service by the end of a calendar
112 year that is not more than four calendar years after the calendar year during which
113 construction of the wind facility began, the facility will satisfy the continuous-
114 construction requirement by virtue of the calendar safe harbor. Accordingly, if

115 construction of a wind facility began in December 2016, as long as the facility is placed
116 in service by December 31, 2020, the facility will meet the continuity-of-construction
117 requirement.

118 The Company will have all repowered wind facilities placed in service by
119 December 31, 2020, and therefore will qualify for the 100 percent PTC under the four-
120 year calendar safe harbor.

121 **Q. Are there other requirements that must be met for the repowered wind facilities**
122 **to qualify for PTCs?**

123 A. Yes. The repowered wind facilities must meet the IRS 80/20 test to qualify for PTCs.

124 **Q. What is the IRS “80/20” test?**

125 A. A repowered wind facility may qualify as a new asset and originally placed in service
126 for purposes of starting a new 10-year PTC-production period even if it contains some
127 used property, provided the fair market value of the used property is no more than 20
128 percent of the facility’s total value (the cost of the new property plus the value of the
129 used property).

130 PTC RISK CONSIDERATIONS

131 **Q. DPU witness Mr. Peaco raises the concern that for some of the Company’s**
132 **facilities being repowered, the Company may have purchased insufficient**
133 **equipment to qualify under the five-percent safe harbor if there are cost overruns.**
134 **(Peaco Direct, lines 653 - 667.) Do you believe that this is a material risk?**

135 A. No. As described in the rebuttal testimony of Company witness Mr. Timothy J.
136 Hemstreet, the Company’s due diligence included extensive analysis to ensure that the
137 Company will meet the five-percent safe-harbor test at each facility.

138 In addition, IRS rules allow the Company to purchase and transfer 2016 safe-
139 harbor equipment from one of its Berkshire Hathaway Energy affiliates—
140 MidAmerican Energy Company or Berkshire Hathaway Energy Renewables. Transfer
141 of PTC safe-harbor equipment among the affiliates within a consolidated taxpayer is
142 allowed, and the transferred equipment retains the ability to be used as safe-harbor
143 equipment for PTC qualification.

144 Finally, the five-percent safe-harbor test is not an all-or-nothing test. Qualifying
145 five-percent safe-harbor wind-turbine components (“PTC Components”) can be used
146 to meet the five-percent safe-harbor test for individual turbines until they are exhausted
147 when the total project costs of those individual repowered turbines exceeds 20 times
148 the safe-harbor amount. For example, if, as a result of cost overruns, the Company only
149 has enough PTC Components available to qualify 65 out of 66 turbines at a repowered
150 wind facility, instead of all 66, the Company would allocate the PTC Components as
151 necessary to cover the costs of 65 of the turbines and would use newly acquired
152 equipment to repower the remaining turbine. The Company would then have 65
153 repowered turbines that qualify for 100 percent PTC and only one that does not.

154 **Q. Mr. Peaco also cites permitting and financing risks that could delay these project**
155 **and threaten their ability to qualify for PTCs. (Peaco Direct, lines 692 - 695.) Are**
156 **these risks material?**

157 A. No. As discussed in Mr. Hemstreet’s rebuttal testimony, there is no material risk due to
158 any permitting delay because most of the facilities to be repowered are already
159 approved and the others are expected to have no issues.

160 Regarding financing risks, the Company credit rating is more than sufficient to
161 provide financing at commercially reasonable terms, and neither General Electric
162 International, Inc. (“GE”) nor Vestas-American Wind Technology, Inc. (“Vestas”) have
163 raised any issues about the Company’s ability to financially perform under the
164 contracts.

165 **Q. Turning to the 80/20 test, Mr. Peaco argues that the Company has not performed**
166 **any analysis of the risks of not meeting this requirement. (Peaco Direct, lines 738**
167 **- 741.) Is this a fair criticism?**

168 A. No. Mr. Peaco identifies two types of risk related to qualifying under the 80/20 test: the
169 risk that “the Company’s interpretation of the fair market value of the retained
170 components is not accepted by the IRS;” and the risk that “if the costs of the repowering
171 are less than expected, the new equipment might not comprise 80% of the value of the
172 facility.” (Peaco Direct, lines 732 - 735.)

173 To address the first risk, the Company engaged Ernst and Young LLP to provide
174 an independent determination of the fair market value (“FMV”) of the retained
175 components (*e.g.*, the tower and foundation of the wind turbine generator (“WTG”)) at
176 each wind facility that will remain in place and be reused in connection with the
177 repowering initiative. Ernst and Young LLP is a qualified independent appraiser who
178 will apply Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (“USPAP”) in
179 measuring the FMV of the retained components. Ernst and Young LLP has indicated
180 that rate base amount (*i.e.*, the net book value of the retained components reduced by
181 the accumulated deferred income taxes) can be a key determinant of the FMV for
182 property owned by a regulated enterprise, a conclusion with which the Company

183 agrees, based on the experiences of its affiliates in dealing with the IRS on other
184 valuations of public utility property.

185 Ernst and Young LLP has provided preliminary values, which will be finalized
186 in the final valuation reports that will be issued contemporaneously with the in-service
187 date of the repowered equipment.

188 Regarding the second risk, Mr. Hemstreet demonstrates in his rebuttal
189 testimony that there is no risk regarding the value of the new components that are to be
190 provided under the repowering contracts because the Company is using actual costs—
191 which are largely subject to fixed price contracts—to measure the 80-percent value. Mr.
192 Hemstreet also addresses how the Company has assessed the risk that the final costs
193 are less than expected.

194 **Q. Does any other DPU witness address the Company’s ability to meet the 80/20 test?**

195 A. Yes. DPU witness Mr. David Thomson also addresses this issue and concludes, in
196 contrast to Mr. Peaco, that the “Company will generally be able to meet the provisions
197 of the IRS 80/20 rule.” (Thomson Direct, lines 88 - 89.)

198 **CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO FEDERAL CORPORATE INCOME TAX**
199 **REFORM**

200 **Q. Mr. Peaco, along with OCS witnesses Mr. Mangelson, Mr. Hayet, and Ms. Ramas,**
201 **and UAE witness Mr. Higgins, argue that the economic value of the wind**
202 **repowering project may be adversely impacted if the federal corporate income tax**
203 **rate decreases. How do you respond to this concern?**

204 A. There is currently a great deal of discussion about the possibility of federal tax reform,
205 but very little certainty over whether Congress will act. Various frameworks are
206 circulating, including President Trump’s brief outline for tax reform, the GOP Tax

207 Reform 2016 blueprint, and a tax reform framework developed by administration and
208 Congressional leaders. To be clear, Congress is not currently considering specific
209 legislative proposals because no bills have been introduced, only broad concepts, and
210 it appears that Republicans in Congress are not united in their view of the essential
211 components of tax reform.

212 In addition, there are deep divisions between Republicans and Democrats in
213 Congress regarding the goals of tax reform. Republicans will likely need to use budget
214 reconciliation to pass any tax reform bill in the Senate, which requires only a simple
215 majority of votes when associated with temporary budget measures rather than the 60
216 votes required for permanent tax law changes. Normally, 60 Senators are required to
217 end debate in the Senate. This generally means that 60 votes are required to pass
218 legislation in the Senate versus a bare majority of 51 votes (50 in case of a tie with the
219 Vice President casting the deciding vote). However, under the Senate Rules, the
220 reconciliation process can be used to pass budgetary legislation, like tax reform, with a
221 bare majority of the Senate. An important caveat is that the budget-reconciliation
222 process cannot be used if the legislation creates an increase in the deficit after 10 years.
223 Preliminary analysis of the various proposals indicates that the framework proposals
224 are likely to increase the deficit unless high economic growth rates are achieved. This
225 may make it impossible to use the reconciliation process to enact tax reform, creating
226 further uncertainty as to the potential for tax reform to be enacted. In addition,
227 controversy exists between and within the two political parties about how items such
228 as the deduction for state and local taxes should be addressed.

229 Based on the deep political divisions between the two parties on the goals of
230 tax reform and the large economic impact surrounding all the major areas of tax reform,
231 the Company believes that at this time it is pure speculation to try to determine the
232 ultimate outcome of tax reform in 2017. Therefore, for purposes of modeling a tax
233 sensitivity for repowering, the Company assumed a congressional compromise on the
234 corporate income tax rate, reducing the rate to 25 percent versus the current 35 percent
235 corporate income tax rate.

236 **Q. Messrs. Peaco and Hayet perform economic analysis of the repowering project**
237 **assuming a 15 percent federal corporate income tax rate. (Peaco Direct, lines 761**
238 **- 771; Hayet Direct, lines 365 - 379.) Is a 15 percent tax rate a reasonable**
239 **assumption?**

240 A. No. Based on the current political dynamics, the Company does not believe that the
241 federal corporate income tax rate will be reduced to 15 percent, which is more than a
242 50 percent reduction from the current tax rate.

243 **Q. Under the most likely schedule for tax reform legislation, will the Company have**
244 **time to assess tax changes before irrevocably committing to the wind repowering**
245 **project?**

246 A. Yes. The Company believes that the window for Congress to enact tax reform
247 legislation is likely to close by early 2018 given the run-up to the mid-term
248 Congressional elections. Thus, in early 2018, the Company will likely know the
249 outcome of potential legislative changes that might impact corporate tax rates and
250 impact the customer value of the repowering project. Because the Company does not
251 expect to execute a turbine supply contract with Vestas until early 2018 nor issue a

252 retrofit work order under the GE contract until after that time, the Company will not be
253 committed to the repowering project before knowing the outcome of the ongoing
254 discussions on tax reform.

255 As discussed further in Mr. Hemstreet's testimony, the Company negotiated terms
256 in the GE master retrofit agreement that provide an off-ramp in the contract before
257 issuance of a retrofit work order if tax law changes diminish the value of the projects.
258 Thus, the Company does not expect to make irrevocable contractual commitments to
259 the wind repowering project until the likely outcome of legislative tax reform proposals
260 are known.

261 **Q. Does the Company believe that tax reform will impact the phase-out of the PTCs?**

262 A. No. Even if tax reform is passed, the Company does not believe it will impact the
263 existing phase-out of the PTC previously enacted by the PATH Act.

264 **Q. Has the Company accounted for the possibility of a lower 25 percent federal
265 income tax rate in its updated economic assessment of the wind repowering
266 project?**

267 A. Yes. As discussed by Mr. Link in his rebuttal testimony, the Company has evaluated
268 the wind repowering project under a scenario that reflects a potential adjustment to the
269 corporate tax rates and found that the project still provides customer benefits.

270 **Q. Does this conclude your rebuttal testimony?**

271 A. Yes.