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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

**In the Matter of Rocky Mountain Power's
Application to Establish Export Credits for
Customer Generated Electricity**

DOCKET NO. 17-035-61

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF KATE BOWMAN

ON BEHALF OF

UTAH CLEAN ENERGY

DATED this 22nd day of March, 2018

Kate Bowman

Kate Bowman
Utah Clean Energy

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1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

3 A. My name is Kate Bowman. My business address is 1014 2nd Ave, Salt Lake City, Utah
4 84103.

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

6 A. I am the Solar Project Coordinator for Utah Clean Energy, a non-profit and non-partisan
7 public interest organization whose mission is to lead and accelerate the clean energy
8 transformation with vision and expertise. We work to stop energy waste, create clean
9 energy solutions, and build a smart energy future.

10 **Q. On whose behalf are you testifying?**

11 A. I am testifying on behalf of Utah Clean Energy.

12 **Q. Please review your professional experience and qualifications.**

13 A. I have worked for Utah Clean Energy for six years as a project coordinator with a focus
14 on the development and implementation of programs that provide education about,
15 expand access to, and facilitate the installation of solar photovoltaic energy. I hold a
16 bachelor's degree in government with a focus on environmental policy from Dartmouth
17 College.

18 **Q. Have you previously filed testimony with this Commission?**

19 A. Yes. I, have filed testimony in Docket No. 17-035-40, in the matter of Rocky Mountain
20 Power's Application for Approval of a Significant Energy Resource Decision and
21 Request to Construct Wind Resource and Transmission Facilities; in Docket No. 17-035-
22 37/T07, in the matter of Rocky Mountain Power's 2017 Avoided Cost Input Changes
23 Quarterly Compliance Filing; and in Phase II of Docket No. 16-035-36, in the matter of

24 Rocky Mountain Power’s STEP Act Initiatives. I have also participated in and filed
25 comments in dockets relating to Rocky Mountain Power’s clean energy programs,
26 including the 2016 Blue Sky annual report (Docket No. 17-035-19), the 2014, 2015, and
27 2016 Solar Incentive Program annual reports (Dockets No. 14-035-71, 15-035-57 and 16-
28 035-21), and the Subscriber Solar program, tariff, and annual report (Dockets No. 15-
29 035-61, 16-035-T04).

30 **II. PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

31 **Q. What is the purpose of your direct testimony?**

32 A. I will address and make recommendations regarding the Company’s proposed Utah
33 Customer Generator Load Research and Analysis Plan and direct testimony of Kenneth
34 Lee Elder, Jr. on behalf of Rocky Mountain Power (“Company”), filed February 15,
35 2018.

36 **A Why is the Company proposing to conduct a Load Research Study?**

37 A. The Load Research Study is a component of the first phase of Docket 17-035-61, also
38 known as the “Export Credit Proceeding,” the purpose of which is to “determine a just
39 and reasonable rate for export credits for customer generated electricity.”¹ The Export
40 Credit Proceeding is described in the Settlement Stipulation, approved by the Public
41 Service Commission on September 29, 2017, in Docket No. 14-35-114.

¹ Docket No. 14-035-114, In the Matter of the Investigation of the Costs and Benefits of PacifiCorp’s Net Metering Program, Settlement Stipulation, filed August 28, 2017 and approved September 29 2017, paragraph 30.

42 **Q. How will the Commission determine a just and reasonable rate for export credits**
43 **for customer generated electricity through the Export Credit Proceeding?**

44 A. As described in the Commission-approved Settlement Stipulation, following the
45 Commission’s Order approving the Stipulation, “the Company will promptly file an
46 application to initiate the Export Credit Proceeding to determine the compensation rate
47 for exported power from customer generation systems...” and “The Parties agree to
48 support a procedural schedule that will allow the Commission to conclude the Export
49 Credit Proceeding no later than three (3) years after the Export Credit Proceeding is
50 initiated.”² During this proceeding, “Parties may present evidence addressing reasonably
51 quantifiable costs or benefits or other considerations they deem relevant, but the Party
52 asserting any position will bear the burden of proving its assertion.”³ That is to say, the
53 parties participating in this proceeding are responsible for presenting evidence that
54 demonstrates the costs and benefits of, or other relevant considerations related to,
55 customer generated electricity.

56 In order to quantify the costs and benefits of customer generated electricity, parties must
57 have access to data necessary to complete analysis of the costs and benefits of customer
58 generated electricity. It is important to note that in most cases, participating parties will
59 rely on the Company to gather or procure this data. The Settlement Stipulation
60 anticipated this need for data and created two avenues for data collection sufficient to

² Docket No. 14-035-114, Settlement Stipulation, filed August 28 2017, approved September 29 2017, paragraph 28.

³ Docket No. 14-034-114, Settlement Stipulation, filed August 28 2017, approved September 29 2017, paragraph 30.

61 allow the parties participating in the docket to meet the burden of proof established for
62 the Export Credit Proceeding:

63 (1) A Company-facilitated workshop with the Parties and other stakeholders soon
64 after the Export Credit Proceeding is initiated to discuss the type and scope of
65 data expected to be considered in determining the appropriate export rate.

66 (2) Mandatory participation in a Load Research Study by randomly selected net
67 energy metering (“NEM”) customers and Transition customers.⁴

68 The Load Research Study will provide some data about solar customers that can be used
69 by participating parties to “present evidence addressing reasonably quantifiable costs or
70 benefits or other considerations they deem relevant.”⁵ Because the Load Research Study
71 will provide important information for use in the export credit proceeding, Utah Clean
72 Energy believes that it is critical that parties are able to glean as much useful information
73 from this study as is reasonably possible. Further, it is worth noting that although the
74 Load Research Study is a key opportunity to collect data from solar customers, there are
75 likely to be additional data needs outside of the Load Research Study. It is Utah Clean
76 Energy’s hope that this additional information can be obtained through the standard data
77 request process and technical workshops.

⁴ The terms “NEM customers” and “Transition customers” are defined in the Docket No. 14-034-114 Settlement Stipulation, filed August 28 2017 and approved September 29 2017.

⁵ Docket No. 14-034-114, Settlement Stipulation, filed August 28 2017 and approved September 29 2017, paragraph 30.

78 **Q. Did Utah Clean Energy participate in meetings leading up to the filing of the**
79 **Company’s Proposed Load Research Study?**

80 A. Yes. Utah Clean Energy attended a meeting on January 9, 2018 to review a draft of the
81 Company’s proposed Load Research Study, provided informal comments on this draft to
82 the Company on January 24, 2018, and attended a follow up meeting on February 7, 2018
83 to learn about the Company’s revised Load Research Study.

84 **Q. Did the Company make significant changes to the Load Research Study proposal in**
85 **response to stakeholder comments filed on January 24?**

86 A. No, the only significant difference between the Load Research Study proposal shared on
87 January 9 and the proposal filed on February 15 was an adjustment to the level of
88 confidence the Company plans to use for sample design.

89 **III. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

90 **Q. Does the Company’s proposed Load Research Study gather data sufficient to allow**
91 **Utah Clean Energy and other parties to present evidence addressing reasonably**
92 **quantifiable costs or benefits or other considerations they deem relevant, as**
93 **described in the Settlement?**

94 A. No.

95 **Q. Are there ways the Company’s Load Research Study proposal could be improved?**

96 A. Yes.

97 Q. **Please summarize your recommendations for improving the Company's Load**
98 **Research Study**

99 First, the Load Research Study is a critical opportunity to gather data necessary for the
100 Solar Export Credit proceeding and should be used to gather complete data streams from
101 each customer in the study, including:

- 102 • Total energy usage, energy imports, and energy exports from the same set of
103 customers
- 104 • Information about orientation, tilt, and shading of each solar installation
- 105 • Information that characterizes Load Research Study customers' energy usage
- 106 • Relevant information about the Load Research Study customers' location on the
107 distribution system

108 Second, the Load Research Study should sample and stratify customers in a manner that
109 results in a sample population that is representative of the relevant characteristics of solar
110 customers and does not obscure important information. To do this,

- 111 • Residential and commercial customers should be sampled and stratified separately
- 112 • Load Research Study customers should be stratified based on total energy usage,
113 not system size

114 Utah Clean Energy supports the Company's proposed level of confidence for the Load
115 Research Study, if applied in addition to the recommended changes to the Load Research
116 Study and stratification proposal that we have recommended herein.

117 Utah Clean Energy is also supportive of evaluating options for obtaining additional useful
118 information from solar inverters.

119 Finally, Utah Clean Energy supports using technical conferences and data requests to
120 obtain additional information necessary for the export credit proceeding.

121 **IV. IMPORTANCE OF GATHERING COMPLETE SET OF RELEVANT**
122 **INFORMATION FROM LOAD RESEARCH CUSTOMERS**

123 A) The Load Research Study should gather total energy usage, energy
124 import, and energy export data from the same set of customers

125 **Q. What types of data is the Company proposing to collect through this Load Research**
126 **Study plan and why?**

127 A. According to Mr. Elder’s direct testimony, the Company is proposing to collect three data
128 streams, from two different sets of customers, including:

129 1) customer-exported energy from all Transition Program customers

130 2) customer-delivered energy from all Transition Program customers

131 3) a sample of solar energy generation from a separate set of grandfathered net
132 energy metering (“NEM”) customers. (Direct testimony of Mr. Elder lines 133 –
133 136)

134 All Transition Program customers will be equipped with bi-directional meters that are
135 capable of gathering data about customer exports and deliveries on a 15 minute basis, so
136 the Company will have a complete set of export and delivery data for all Transition
137 Program customers. According to Mr. Elder’s testimony, the purpose of gathering
138 generation data, in addition to customer export and delivery data, is “To further
139 supplement the body of data available and to better understand the intertemporal
140 relationship between PG⁶, delivered energy, exported energy, and full requirements
141 energy.” (Direct testimony of Mr. Elder lines 166 – 170).

142 **Q. Do you agree with the Company that it is important to understand the**
143 **intertemporal relationship between solar generation, delivered energy, exported**
144 **energy, and total electricity usage?**

145 A. Yes. The amount of energy exported by a customer is a direct function of that customer’s
146 generation and the characteristics of their behind-the-meter usage. Under the current 15-
147 minute netting scheme in effect for Transition Customers, a solar customer’s exports are
148 equal to their solar generation minus their behind-the-meter usage during a 15 minute
149 interval. While solar generation for a system of a given size, orientation, location, and tilt
150 is fairly predictable, behind-the-meter usage can vary significantly for a given customer

⁶ The term “private generation” or “PG” is used throughout the Company’s direct testimony. The terms “private generation” and “private solar” are recommended in the Edison Electric Institute’s April 12, 2016 Communications Handbook. However the term private generation is confusing and unspecific; it is not referenced or defined in the Settlement Stipulation, it could refer to a privately-owned utility-scale solar project, and it does not seem an appropriate descriptor for a rooftop solar installation located on a publically-owned facility. For the purpose of clarity we have used the more common terms “rooftop solar” or “solar generation.”

151 or between customers (which directly affects solar electricity exports). Additionally, the
152 value of customer-exported electricity can vary significantly depending on the time and
153 location at which it is produced. In order to provide a comprehensive understanding of
154 the value of exported electricity, it is important to understand the relationship between
155 generation, delivered energy, exported energy, and total electricity usage for each
156 customer participating in the study and to consider a variety of customer types with
157 different energy demand profiles.

158 **Q. Does the Company’s proposed Load Research Study provide sufficient information**
159 **about generation, delivered energy, exported energy, and total energy usage for a**
160 **given customer?**

161 A. No. It appears that the Company’s Load Research Study relies on delivery and export
162 data from one set of customers (Transition Program customers) and solar generation data
163 from a different set of customers (a set of 36 Net Metering Customers who already have
164 production meters as part of the 2014 Load Research Study, plus 34 additional
165 customers).⁷ The Company proposes to estimate behind-the-meter consumption and total
166 energy usage based on data sets from these two different, mismatched sets of customers.
167 This approach will not allow parties to draw informed conclusions about the
168 intertemporal relationship between these data streams for actual customers. In order to
169 understand the intertemporal relationship between these data streams, it is important to

⁷ Docket No. 17-35-114, Exhibit Accompanying Direct Testimony of Kenneth Lee Elder, Jr. February 15 2018. “Draft Utah Customer Generator Load Research Study,” Page 3.

170 gather each of these data streams (solar generation, delivered energy, and exported
171 energy) from the same set of customers. Critically, the Load Research Study is the only
172 opportunity for the Company to gather this data set.

173 **Q. Do you have concerns about the Company’s proposal to gather and use generation**
174 **data from certain solar customers in isolation from the other data streams,**
175 **described above?**

176 A. Yes. Generation data from solar arrays is relatively easy to model based on array size,
177 location, aspect, tilt, and shading. Gathering this data in isolation from a set of customers
178 is not likely to yield interesting or surprising results. The Company agrees that “solar
179 panel production is fairly predictable.” (Direct testimony of Mr. Elder line 216.) If the
180 purpose of this study were solely to determine generation, it would be a waste of time and
181 resources to install meters on customer solar systems, especially considering the
182 Company’s anticipated cost of \$2,306 per meter.⁸ On the other hand, the Company does
183 not currently have data about the intertemporal relationship between solar generation,
184 exported energy, delivered energy, and total energy consumption for a given customer.
185 These data streams are likely to vary considerably from customer to customer. Collecting
186 generation data from specific customers is useful only to the extent that the data provides
187 insight into the intertemporal relationship between exported energy, delivered energy,
188 and total energy usage, which requires that all three data streams (generation, exports,
189 and deliveries) are gathered from the same customer. This allows parties to accurately

⁸ Rocky Mountain Power Response to Workshop Data Request 13.

190 estimate the fourth variable (total energy usage) for each customer and to evaluate and
191 understand the temporal relationship between generation, exports, deliveries, and total
192 usage for actual customers in a holistic manner.

193 **Q. Might there be other ways to gather generation data from solar customers?**

194 A. Yes, the vast majority of solar customers install monitoring software that reports the
195 output of the solar inverters. While the data from inverters may not be accurate to +/-
196 0.2%, as is the case for the companies' proposed revenue grade production meters,⁹ the
197 inverter data is likely to be accurate enough given that Company's study is designed to
198 achieve a minimum accuracy of plus or minus +/-10 percent at the 95 percent confidence
199 level. Utilizing data from customer-sited inverters, in addition to generation data from
200 revenue grade meters, may provide significantly more data at a much lower cost. The
201 Company provided a list of considerations to be addressed in order to use data gathered
202 from solar inverters in their response to Workshop Data Request 9. Utah Clean Energy
203 supports further exploration of the option to use solar inverter data in addition to data
204 collected using revenue grade meters through the Load Research Study.

205 B) The Load Research Study should gather information about the customer's
206 solar installation, including orientation, tilt, and shading

⁹ Rocky Mountain Power Response to Workshop Data Request 9.

207 **Q. Does the orientation and tilt of the PV system impact the total electricity output and**
208 **temporal output of the PV system?**

209 A. Yes. Tilt and orientation impacts the timing of generation as much or more than the
210 geographic location of a system, and timing of energy exports affects the value of the
211 exported energy to the utility. For example, a south-facing system in Cedar City, Utah is
212 estimated to produce approximately 11% more energy annually than a south-facing
213 system in Salt Lake City. On the other hand, that south-facing system in Salt Lake is
214 estimated to produce 20% more energy annually than an east-facing system in Salt
215 Lake City.¹⁰ Further, the timing of the generation profile changes with the aspect. For
216 example, west-facing systems produce power later in the day as compared to
217 south-facing systems, and east-facing system produce power earlier in the morning. For
218 this reason, it is important to have information about the orientation and tilt of the
219 systems included in the Load Research Study, in addition to information about the
220 system's location, so that parties can understand how solar exports differ for customers
221 who have systems of different tilts and orientations.

222 **Q. What is your recommendation regarding, tilt and orientation for the Load Research**
223 **Study?**

224 Utah Clean Energy recommends that the Company collect information about orientation,
225 tilt, and degree of shading of systems by visually inspecting the systems when meters are

¹⁰ This analysis used PVWatts estimates for solar generation, assuming a 6 kW system at 40.7 degree tilt.

226 read or installed and/or issuing a survey to customers participating in the Load Research
227 Study.

228 C) The Load Research Study should gather information that characterizes a
229 customers' energy usage

230 **Q. Is there additional data that is important to understanding the value of solar export**
231 **credits?**

232 A. Yes. Characterization of and information about a customer's energy usage is important to
233 understand the interplay between customer generation, deliveries, and exports. This is
234 another reason residential customers should be stratified separately from commercial
235 customers, as described below.

236 **Q. How do you propose that the Company modify the proposed Load Research Study**
237 **to obtain key load characteristics for customers?**

238 A. We suggest that key load characteristics can be derived from a questionnaire provided to
239 customers participating in the Load Research Study that asks about their appliances,
240 including (but not limited to) whether the customer has air conditioning, evaporative
241 cooling, an electric vehicle, LED lighting, battery storage, smart thermostats, or other
242 relevant appliances or devices. This information should also be collected from the current
243 load research customers that are not associated with the solar Load Research Study.
244 Understanding the nature and controllability of customer loads, how customer loads are
245 changing, and the interplay between customer loads and onsite generation will provide
246 important information for this docket and beyond.

247 D) The Load Research Study should gather relevant information about the
248 customers' location on the distribution system

249 **Q. Is the location of customer exported electricity relevant to its value?**

250 A. Yes. Customer exported electricity will have a different value depending on its location
251 on the distribution system. For example, customer generation may be able to avoid or
252 defer planned upgrades to a given circuit or substation. As another example, customer
253 generation in the early afternoon may be of more or less value depending upon the nature
254 of the load on the circuit and whether it is largely commercial, largely residential, or
255 mixed. Further other distribution system factors can impact the value of solar exports at
256 that location, including the age and condition of distribution system equipment.

257 **Q. What is your recommendation regarding a customer's location on the**
258 **distribution system for the Load Research Study?**

259 A. We request that the Company gather relevant data about load research customers'
260 solar system's location on the distribution system, including data about the circuit and
261 substation.

262 **V. SAMPLE DESIGN AND STRATIFICATION**

263 A) Residential and commercial customers should be sampled and stratified
264 separately

265 **Q. What is the purpose of stratifying the sample?**

266 A. As I understand it, the purpose of stratifying the sample is to reduce the sample size
267 necessary to achieve a given level of precision, which reduces the cost required to
268 complete the study. According to the Company, “Stratified-random sampling divides the
269 sample, or customer class, into sub-classes that have like characteristics. The technique
270 has the effect of reducing the overall variance of the class, thus reducing sample size.
271 Stratified-random sampling is a widely used and accepted technique because the
272 statistical precision of a sample can usually be improved by using stratification.
273 Therefore, a smaller sample size can be used with the same degree of precision.” (Direct
274 testimony of Mr. Elder, lines 75- 80). Critically, stratification should result in a sample
275 population that is representative of the total population with respect to the intended
276 variable of study and does not obscure important information about that variable.

277 **Q. Do you have concerns about the Company’s proposal to include residential and**
278 **commercial customers in the same sample?**

279 A. Yes. Residential customers are different from commercial customers in important ways.
280 For example, residential and commercial customers typically have different load shapes
281 and cause different system peaks and distribution system peaks. The value of solar
282 exports may be different on a circuit that is largely composed of residential customers
283 compared to a circuit that is largely composed of commercial customers. It is important
284 to understand the difference. Commercial customers are more likely to have limited roof
285 space relative to their electricity usage, and as a result, tend to install smaller systems
286 relative to their load (which can result in minimal or no exports to the grid). Commercial
287 customers are also more likely to have a flat roof, affecting system tilt. All of these

288 factors could impact the value of exported electricity. The Load Research Study should
289 gather information that makes it possible to understand whether and how the value of
290 residential and commercial solar export credits is different.

291 **Q. How does the Company’s proposal to include residential and commercial customers**
292 **in the same sample affect the four sample strata?**

293 A. The Company’s four proposed strata break points are as follows:

294 Strata 1: 0-6 kW

295 Strata 2: 6 – 12 kW

296 Strata 3: 12 – 80 kW

297 Strata 4: >80 kW¹¹

298 Intuitively, a strata with systems ranging from 12 to 80 kilowatts (Strata 3) or 80 to 2,000
299 kilowatts (Strata 4) does not seem like it categorizes customers with like characteristics.
300 For example, Strata 3 likely contains many residential installations in addition to medium
301 commercial installations. The wide ranges of the strata are a result of the Company’s
302 decision to stratify based on system size and include residential and commercial
303 customers in the same sample. If separated into two samples, the strata for each sample
304 would likely be more representative of the two customer types.

305 **Q. Are there other reasons is it important to separate residential customers and**
306 **commercial customers into different samples?**

¹¹ Docket No. 17-35-114, Exhibit Accompanying Direct Testimony of Kenneth Lee Elder, Jr. February 15 2018. “Draft Utah Customer Generator Load Research Study,” Page 4.

307 A. Yes. There are relatively few commercial customers compared to residential customers,
308 but there is a wide spread among commercial customer's system sizes. Commercial
309 systems can be as large as 2 MW, and commercial load shape can vary significantly
310 depending on the customer type. As a result, commercial customer exports are expected
311 to vary significantly from customer to customer. On the other hand, residential rooftop
312 solar installations are limited to 25 kilowatts, and the relationship between residential
313 solar generation and load will vary significantly from the relationship between
314 commercial solar generation and load. As of September 2017, 95% of solar net metering
315 customers were residential customers.¹² If this trend continues, the majority of solar
316 customers who are affected by the export credit rate will be residential. It is critical that
317 we separate residential and commercial customers to ensure that we are accounting for
318 the significant differences between these customer classes.

319 **Q. What is your recommendation with regard to residential and commercial**
320 **customers?**

321 A. The Load Research Study should sample and stratify residential and commercial
322 customers separately. Further, the Load Research Study should stratify residential and
323 commercial customers based on total energy consumption, not system size, as described
324 in more detail below.

¹² Docket No. 17-035-31, In the Matter of Rocky Mountain Power's Customer Owned Generation and Net Metering Report and Attachment A for the Period April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017, Rocky Mountain Power 2017 UT Interconnection Report-Attachment A, September 29, 2017.

325 B) Load research customers should be stratified based on their total
326 energy usage

327 **Q. What is the purpose of stratifying a sample based on a variable of interest?**

328 A. The purpose of sample stratification, as I understand it, is to divide a given population
329 into representative subgroups in order to reduce the sample size necessary to achieve a
330 given precision. Sample stratification is based on a variable of interest. Sample
331 stratification based on a variable of interest that is not closely linked with the intended
332 variable of study could obscure important information about the variable of study (in this
333 case, solar exports).

334 **Q. What is the Company's proposed variable of interest?**

335 A. The Company has identified the variable of interest as solar energy production, and notes
336 that "when the variable of interest is not known, as in this case, an auxiliary variable that
337 is highly correlated with the variable of interest should be used." (Direct testimony of Mr.
338 Elder, lines 184-186). The company has identified solar system nameplate capacity as the
339 auxiliary variable of interest.

340 **Q. Do you agree?**

341 A. No, the variable of interest chosen by the Company, system size, will not result in a
342 sample population that is meaningfully representative of solar customers. We already
343 know that as solar systems get larger, they also produce more electricity, and neither
344 system size nor solar energy production are the sole variables influencing solar energy
345 exports. Solar customers choose the capacity of their system based on several variables,

346 including (1) budget, (2) available roof space, and (3) total energy usage. Consider two 3-
347 kilowatt installations that are south facing, at 30 degrees tilt, in full sun, and located in
348 Salt Lake City. One is located on a smaller home that uses an average of 350 kilowatt-
349 hours per month, and one is located on a larger home that uses an average of 1,200
350 kilowatt-hours per month. This 3-kilowatt system would produce between 200 and 496
351 kilowatt-hours per month, depending on the time of year.¹³ The smaller home is almost
352 certain to export much more energy than the larger home, where energy consumption on
353 a 15 minute basis is more likely to exceed production from the solar installation. Yet the
354 Company's Load Research Study design proposes to include these two customers in the
355 same strata (Strata 1) despite the obvious difference in the magnitude and timing of their
356 solar exports.

357 Solar exports are a function of solar energy production (which in turn is influenced by
358 location, orientation, tilt, and shading) and total energy usage. The Load Research Study
359 is the only opportunity to gather data necessary to understand the interplay between solar

¹³ According to PVWatts, a 3 kilowatt solar installation in Salt Lake City on a south facing roof with 30 degrees of tilt would produce the following energy on a monthly basis:

January – 242 kWh
February – 299 kWh
March – 385 kWh
April – 412 kWh
May – 496 kWh
June – 467 kWh
July – 493
August – 491
September – 439
October – 389
November – 270
December - 200

360 generation, energy delivery, energy exports, and total energy usage. Stratifying systems
361 based on capacity will obscure important differences between customers.

362 **Q. Is there a better variable for stratification?**

363 A. Yes. First, residential customers should be separated from commercial customers, as
364 described above. Then we recommend stratifying each population based on total energy
365 usage. Stratifying the sample based on this variable will require some additional upfront
366 work, but it is possible with the data the Company has. The Company will have to look at
367 the set of solar customers, identify the annual energy usage for the 12 months prior to the
368 customer's solar installation, and stratify based on this variable. To simplify this process,
369 the Company could start with the set of customers who have installed solar thus far in
370 2018 and stratify based on those customers' annual usage in 2017.

371 **Q. What do you recommend regarding the 36 net metering customers who already**
372 **have production meters?**

373 A. In addition to the recommendations we have made to identify and stratify a new sample
374 of load research customers, we recommend that the Company install bi-directional meters
375 on the 36 grandfathered Net Metering customers who already have production meters
376 from the 2014 Load Research Study. Especially given the Company's stated cost for
377 production meters, which is significant, it seems wise to take advantage of production
378 meters that have already been installed to gather complete data streams from these
379 customers.

380 **Q. How does your proposal compare to the Load Research Study completed 2014 as**
381 **part of Docket 14-035-114?**

382 A. With respect to sample stratification, our proposal is very similar to the Load Research
383 Study conducted in 2014, except that we propose to stratify customers based on total
384 energy consumption (or gross consumption) instead of net consumption. Further, for this
385 docket it is necessary that commercial customers also be included as a separate sample.
386 Given that there are more solar customers now that there were in 2014, a larger sample
387 size is warranted.

388 **VI. LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE**

389 **Q. Do you have comments regarding the level of confidence proposed by the Company?**

390 A. We appreciate the Company's attempt to improve accuracy by designing a sample to
391 achieve a minimum accuracy of plus or minus 10 percent at the 95 percent confidence level,
392 compared to plus or minus 10 percent at the 90 percent confidence level. We appreciate this
393 change and request that the Company apply this accuracy to the recommended changes to the
394 Load Research Study and stratification proposal that we have requested in this testimony.

395 **VII. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

396 The data obtained through the Load Research Study will be a critical input into the export
397 credit proceeding. Given that the parties participating in the solar export credit
398 proceeding will bear the burden of proof for any costs or benefits related to solar energy
399 exports they wish to present, it is necessary to design the study such that it collects as
400 much useful information as is reasonably possible. Utah Clean Energy has made the
401 following recommendations with regards to the Load Research Study proposal:

- 402 • Gather all data streams from customers included in the Load Research Study,
403 including
- 404 ○ Total usage, imports, and exports for each customer included in the study,
405 including temporal information for the data sets.
- 406 ○ In addition to information about system capacity, the study should collect
407 information about a customers' system orientation, tilt and, to the extent
408 possible, shading.
- 409 ○ Information that characterizes the customer's energy usage, including (but
410 not limited to) whether the customer has air conditioning, evaporative
411 cooling, an electric vehicle, LED lighting, battery storage, smart
412 thermostats, or other relevant appliances or devices. This information
413 could be collected through a simple survey.
- 414 ○ Geographic information for the Load Research Study participants,
415 including information about the participant's location on the distribution
416 system, and whether the location is primarily commercial, primarily
417 industrial, primarily residential or a mixture of these categories.
- 418 • Improve sample stratification by:
- 419 ○ Separating residential customers from commercial customers
- 420 ○ Stratifying customers based on total energy usage, rather than system size
- 421 • Apply the Company's proposed level of confidence to the recommended changes
422 to the Load Research Study and stratification proposal that we have requested in
423 this testimony.

- 424 • Utah Clean Energy supports evaluating options for obtaining additional useful
425 information from solar inverters.
- 426 • Finally, Utah Clean Energy supports using technical conferences and data
427 requests to obtain additional information necessary for the export credit
428 proceeding.

429 **Q. Are the changes you have proposed to the Load Research Study Plan sufficient to**
430 **allow parties to meet the burden of proof established in the Settlement Stipulation?**

431 A. Not entirely, other information will still be required. The intent of this testimony is to
432 recommend changes to the Load Research such that we can gather the data that can
433 reasonably be acquired through a Load Research Study and used to inform parties’
434 analysis of reasonably quantifiable costs or benefits related to solar exports. Although the
435 Load Research Study is one way to gather data to inform analysis for the Export Credit
436 Proceeding, parties may wish to introduce evidence or analysis that requires additional
437 data from the utility. For this reason, the Settlement Stipulation provides for a workshop
438 during which Parties and other stakeholders discuss the type and scope of data expected
439 to be considered in determining the appropriate export credit rate. There may be certain
440 data that is currently only visible to the utility, and participating parties will need access
441 to this data. We anticipate that parties will need to work with the Company to gather
442 information through data requests, and we are supportive of using meetings, workshops,
443 or collaborative processes to improve the efficiency and efficacy of the data gathering
444 process for all parties.

445 **Q: Does that conclude your testimony?**

446 A: Yes.