

Utah Clean Energy  
1014 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103  
801-363-4046

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH**

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

**DOCKET NO. 17-035-61**

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REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF KATE BOWMAN

ON BEHALF OF

UTAH CLEAN ENERGY

DATED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018



Kate Bowman

*Utah Clean Energy*

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

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

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

**Q. Are you the same Kate Bowman that provided direct testimony in this docket?**

A. Yes.

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

A. I am testifying on behalf of Utah Clean Energy (UCE).

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

A. The purpose of my rebuttal testimony is to respond to direct testimony filed by Robert Davis and Charles Peterson for the Division of Public Utilities (“the Division), Rick Gilliam for Vote Solar, and Chris Worley for Vivint. Specifically, I respond to the Division’s assessment that Rocky Mountain Power’s (“the Company’s”) proposed load research study is sufficient to gather the data necessary for Phase II of this proceeding and to the recommendations for improving the load research study proposed by Vote Solar and Vivint.

At a higher level, the overarching purpose of my testimony related to the load research study is to ensure that Utah Clean Energy and other parties participating in Phase II of this docket will have the data necessary to carry out the stated goal of the second phase of the docket: to have parties “present evidence addressing reasonably quantifiable costs or benefits or other considerations they deem relevant,” as outlined by the Settlement Stipulation filed August 28, 2017 in Docket

20 No. 14-035-114<sup>1</sup>. A robust load research study is key to the collection of data necessary to  
21 analyze costs, benefits, and other considerations related to solar energy exports. I recognize there  
22 is a tradeoff between a more comprehensive study and managing costs, and I have endeavored to  
23 recommend changes that would result in gathering the most useful information while keeping  
24 costs associated with the study reasonable. As such, the intent of our recommendations is to  
25 ensure that the load research study collects as much relevant data as is reasonably possible.

26 **II. PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LOAD RESEARCH STUDY:**

27 **Q. Do parties agree regarding the adequacy of the load research study proposal for the**  
28 **purposes of acquiring data necessary for Phase II of this proceeding?**

29 A. No. In my direct testimony, I proposed changes to the design of the load research study that are  
30 necessary for Utah Clean Energy to acquire data for analysis in Phase II of the proceeding. In  
31 direct testimony Vote Solar finds that “RMP’s proposed load research plan does not acquire the  
32 data necessary for the analyses Vote Solar intends to perform”<sup>2</sup> and makes a number of  
33 recommendations for improving the load research study. Vivint has concluded that “the  
34 Company’s methodology is likely to result in biased estimates that lack sufficient statistical  
35 power”<sup>3</sup> and provides recommendations for its improvement. The Division notes several concerns  
36 with the Company’s proposed load research study, but “believes RMP has designed the LRS to  
37 capture the necessary data needed to support the scope of work for this phase of the docket and  
38 provide the necessary data for Phase Two” and “recommends the Commission approve RMP’s

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Gilliam lines 56 – 57.

<sup>3</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Worley lines 60 – 61.

39 LRS for Phase One of this docket.”<sup>4</sup> The Division also makes the following recommendation:  
40 “To protect and mitigate against some of the potential problems with the study as proposed, the  
41 Division recommends that the Company report to the Division and any interested parties on a  
42 monthly basis the on-going results of the study so that any emerging anomalies can be evaluated  
43 and (if necessary) a course of action decided upon as early in the process as possible.”<sup>5</sup>

44 **Q. Do you agree with the Division’s conclusion that the Company’s proposed Load Research**  
45 **Study is adequate to gather the data necessary for Phase II?**

46 A. No, I do not.

47 **Q. Why not?**

48 A. The load research study, as proposed, will not collect data that has been requested by Utah Clean  
49 Energy and other parties for use in Phase II of this docket. Utah Clean Energy, Vote Solar, and  
50 Vivint have made requests for this data and recommendations for its collection through informal  
51 comments to the Company and through direct testimony in this docket.

52 **Q. Why is it important to gather data requested by parties other than the Company during this**  
53 **phase of the docket?**

54 A. As noted in my direct testimony, each party participating in Phase II of this proceeding (including  
55 the Company) will bear the burden of proof for presenting “evidence addressing reasonably  
56 quantifiable costs or benefits or other considerations they deem relevant.”<sup>6</sup> The load research

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<sup>4</sup> Direct Testimony Mr. Davis lines 39 – 42.

<sup>5</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Peterson lines 142 – 146.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

57 study is a key opportunity for all parties to collect the data they intend to use for analysis in Phase  
58 II.

59 **Q. Does the Division address the need for all parties to have access to data necessary for**  
60 **analysis in Phase II?**

61 A. No, the Division does not comment on this aspect of the Settlement Stipulation except to note that  
62 “each party has its own interests in this matter.”<sup>7</sup> The Division recommends that the Commission  
63 approve the Company’s load research study proposal. While the Company’s proposed load  
64 research study may be sufficient to provide the Division with the data it needs to complete the  
65 analysis it plans to conduct in Phase II, the study will not provide data that Utah Clean Energy  
66 requires for analysis in Phase II. This data can be reasonably gathered as part of the load research  
67 study by following the recommendations outlined in my testimony.

68 **Q. What is Utah Clean Energy’s interest in this matter?**

69 A. Utah Clean Energy’s interest in this proceeding is to efficiently and cost-effectively gather data to  
70 evaluate reasonably quantifiable costs, benefits or other considerations associated with solar  
71 exports in Phase II.

72 **Q. Is the load research study the only avenue by which this data can be gathered?**

73 A. No, this study is not the only opportunity to gather data needed for Phase II, nor does it preclude  
74 the use of or need for additional data outside of the load research study. However, it is the most

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<sup>7</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Davis line 39.

75 efficient and cost-effective opportunity to gather as much data as possible to allow parties to  
76 conduct sound analysis for Phase II of this proceeding.

77 **Q. Do you agree with Vote Solar’s position that “RMP should bear the ultimate risk associated**  
78 **with technically insufficient or improper sampling” that results from this study?<sup>8</sup>**

79 A. Yes, while other parties can provide recommendations regarding data needs and acquisition and  
80 make requests for data outside of the load research study, the Company is ultimately the only  
81 party able to gather certain types of data that relate to customers or the grid and therefore should  
82 bear the risk associated with a failure to gather data that is needed for Phase II of this proceeding.

83 **Q. The Division states that “Unlike the Net Metering case, Docket No. 14-035-114, where**  
84 **interested parties were concerned about how private generation customers were using the**  
85 **grid, this docket studies how much energy and when customer generation is hitting the**  
86 **grid.”<sup>9</sup> How do you respond to this statement?**

87 A. While I agree that the amount and timing of customer generation are critical components to  
88 determine a “just and reasonable rate for export credits for customer generated electricity,”<sup>10</sup> from  
89 Utah Clean Energy’s perspective these two factors do not represent the full extent of analysis  
90 necessary for Phase II. These may be the only two factors the Division plans to assess during  
91 Phase II of the docket, but the Settlement Stipulation allows *all* parties to present evidence

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<sup>8</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Gilliam lines 51 – 53.

<sup>9</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Davis lines 132 – 133.

<sup>10</sup> Docket No. 14-035-114, Settlement Stipulation, paragraph 30.

92 addressing “reasonably quantifiable costs or benefits or other considerations they deem  
93 relevant.”<sup>11</sup>

94 **III. IMPORTANCE OF GATHERING COMPLETE SET OF RELEVANT**  
95 **INFORMATION**

96 **A. DATA STREAMS TO BE COLLECTED**

97 **Q. What have other parties proposed regarding the types of data streams that should be**  
98 **collected from load research study customers?**

99 **A.** Vote Solar and Vivint assert that it is important to gather three streams of data from the same set  
100 of customers: energy imports (also referred to as deliveries or purchases from the utility), solar  
101 energy exports, and total rooftop solar system production.<sup>12</sup> Gathering all three data streams from  
102 each customer allows parties to accurately determine the total energy usage of *that* customer,  
103 including solar generation and energy deliveries. In contrast, the Company has proposed to derive  
104 estimates for total household usage based on generation data from one set of customers and  
105 delivery and export data from a different set of customers. Through this mathematical derivation,  
106 actual information about how each customer uses energy, and how energy usage differs between  
107 customers, is lost. The Division acknowledges that actual data about a given customer’s total  
108 energy usage “may become useful to better understand these customer’s interaction with the

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<sup>11</sup> Docket No. 14-035-114, Settlement Stipulation, paragraph 30.

<sup>12</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Gilliam lines 220 – 222, Direct testimony Mr. Worley lines 159 – 160.



109 utility's system<sup>13</sup> but is satisfied with the Company's proposal to use mathematical derivations  
110 to determine total customer usage.

111 **Q. What is your response?**

112 A. As articulated in my direct testimony, collecting energy imports, exports, and rooftop solar  
113 generation data from each study participant will allow for a more detailed and nuanced  
114 understanding of the relationship between solar and onsite energy usage for individual customers.  
115 What's more, as noted by Mr. Gilliam, "there is an opportunity now to capture actual generation  
116 data for Schedule 136 customers that is time-correlated to customer deliveries, consumption and  
117 exports. Thus, there is no reason to settle for "an understanding" based on estimates when full  
118 knowledge is possible."<sup>14</sup> As noted by Vivint, the Company's proposed approach to gather  
119 generation data from one set of customers and energy import and export data from a different set  
120 of customers is not sufficient to allow parties to evaluate the impact of exported solar energy on  
121 the Company's distribution system.<sup>15</sup>

122 **Q. Why is this information relevant to determining a just and reasonable rate for a solar  
123 export credit?**

124 A. As illustrated in Vote Solar's testimony, load shapes can vary significantly from customer to  
125 customer.<sup>16</sup> As I stated in my direct testimony, the amount of energy exported by a given  
126 customer depends directly on both their solar generation and the load shape of their energy usage

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<sup>13</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Davis lines 150 – 151.

<sup>14</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Gilliam lines 231 – 238.

<sup>15</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Worley lines 152 – 155.

<sup>16</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Gilliam Figure 1: APS Residential Customer Load Types.

127 behind-the meter.<sup>17</sup> A detailed understanding of the interaction between onsite usage and  
128 generation, including how this pattern differs between customers, will better inform a rate for  
129 solar energy exports.

130 **B. ORIENTATION, TILT, AND SHADING**

131 **Q. What have other parties proposed regarding the importance of gathering information about**  
132 **the customer’s solar installation, including orientation, tilt, and shading?**

133 A. Vote Solar states that “system characteristics including verified system capacity, orientation, tilt,  
134 location, and shading are important characteristics of each system that can significantly affect the  
135 results and should be captured.”<sup>18</sup> Vivint states that the reason stratification based on system  
136 capacity is problematic is because it “ignores DG system orientation, tilt, and shading, factors that  
137 have a strong impact on system production.”<sup>19</sup> Mr. Worley provides an example of why these  
138 factors can have an important impact on the value of energy production.<sup>20</sup>

139 **Q. What is your response?**

140 A. This is in alignment with the information that I requested in my direct testimony. I agree that it is  
141 important to consider how these factors influence solar energy exports. To my understanding, no  
142 party is proposing to stratify the sample based on any of these factors. Rather, it is sufficient to

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<sup>17</sup> Direct testimony Ms. Bowman lines 145 – 146.

<sup>18</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Gilliam lines 200 – 203.

<sup>19</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Worley lines 61 – 62.

<sup>20</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Worley Table 1: Total annual output (kWh) by system azimuth and Table 2: Summer peak hour output (kWh) by system azimuth.

143 collect information about the orientation, tilt, and shading of each system, which can be done  
144 relatively simply, as described in my direct testimony.

145 **C. CHARACTERIZATION OF CUSTOMERS' ENERGY USAGE**

146 **Q. What do parties propose regarding the need to gather information to characterize a**  
147 **customer's energy usage?**

148 A. Vote Solar proposes to identify each customer's major appliances and other electrical devices in  
149 use behind the meter because they can impact the timing and magnitude of net exports.<sup>21</sup> As  
150 described in my direct testimony, UCE recommends gathering data about customers' appliances  
151 including (but not limited to) the following: air conditioning, evaporative cooling, an electric  
152 vehicle, LED lighting, battery storage, and a smart thermostat. There may be other electrical  
153 devices worth asking about, including air source and ground source heat pumps. This information  
154 can be easily gathered through a questionnaire issued to all participants in the both the solar load  
155 research study as well as non-solar participants in the standing load research study. We  
156 recommend that the Commission direct the Company to work with interveners to develop a  
157 questionnaire that will capture this information.

158 **Q. Why is information about electrical devices in use behind the meter relevant to the export**  
159 **credit proceeding?**

160 A. Certain electrical devices have the potential to have a profound impact on customer load shape,  
161 which in turn affects the timing and magnitude of solar exports for that customer. Furthermore,

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<sup>21</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Gilliam lines 216 – 218.

162 customer electrical loads are increasingly controllable: electric car chargers and smart thermostats  
163 can be programmed to operate at a certain time of day. Adoption of these types of electrical  
164 devices is growing quickly. The amount and timing of solar export credits is directly affected by  
165 customer choices made behind the meter. Surveying customers about their electrical device usage  
166 will allow parties to present analysis that improves understanding of how customer electrical  
167 loads, and therefore solar exports, vary.

168 **Q. What other recommendations does Vote Solar make regarding characterization of customer**  
169 **energy usage?**

170 A. Vote Solar recommends that the load research study gather consumption data for customers from  
171 the twelve months prior to their rooftop solar installation.<sup>22</sup>

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

173 A. In my direct testimony, I recommended stratifying load research study participants based on their  
174 total energy usage for the twelve months prior to completing a solar installation. I support  
175 collecting this information for use by parties participating in Phase II of this docket.

176 **D. LOCATION ON THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM:**

177 **Q. Have other parties expressed the need to understand the interaction between solar**  
178 **generation and the distribution system and how it may affect the value of solar exports?**

179 A. Yes, as described in Mr. Worley's direct testimony, this study is "an opportunity for the  
180 Commission to put hard numbers on how RMP's system operates and should inform how, where,

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<sup>22</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Gilliam lines 369 – 372.

181 and when RMP invests in its distribution system in the future.”<sup>23</sup> The cost of investments in the  
182 distribution system, and the potential for rooftop solar to affect those costs, is relevant to consider  
183 in Phase II of this docket. Distributed generation and distributed energy resources will result in  
184 changes to customer’s appliances and loads that will fundamentally impact utility investments in,  
185 and operation of, the grid. Utilities can keep costs low for all customers and avoid costly  
186 investments by understanding the effects of distributed generation’s growth on the distribution  
187 system and responding appropriately. The results of this study can best inform Phase II of this  
188 proceeding if they help to answer important questions about the interaction between customer-  
189 owned distributed generation, customer energy usage characteristics, the distribution system, and  
190 the grid that, as yet, remain unanswered.

191 **Q. How do parties recommend gathering data necessary to understand the interaction between**  
192 **solar exports and distribution capacity and investments?**

193 A. Vivint recommends sampling based on distribution system topology rather than county-level  
194 sampling, as proposed by the Company.<sup>24</sup> Utah Clean Energy does not oppose this approach, but  
195 recognizes that sampling based on county may be administratively simpler, and I believe  
196 sampling based on county is sufficient as long as it is paired with our other recommendations to  
197 ensure the sample is adequately representative of the population. Included in these  
198 recommendations is a request to gather information about each customer’s location on the  
199 distribution system, including data about the circuit and substation.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Worley lines 39 – 41.

<sup>24</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Worley lines 280 – 284.

<sup>25</sup> Direct testimony Ms. Bowman lines 259 – 261.

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#### **IV. SAMPLE DESIGN AND STRATIFICATION**

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##### **A. TRANSITION VERSUS NEM CUSTOMERS**

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**Q. Please summarize feedback from other parties regarding the use of grandfathered net metered customers versus transition customers in the load research study?**

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A. Vote Solar notes that “grandfathered customers installed their systems under a different set of economic conditions from transition customers”<sup>26</sup> and for this reason “it is important to capture the consumption patterns of transition customers and grandfathered customers separately in order to identify the effect of changes that may result from the different policies and economics reflected in the Stipulation versus the net metering program.”<sup>27</sup> Vote Solar recommends installing bi-directional meters on the 36 grandfathered net metering customers who already have production meters, but using transition customers for the new load research study. Vote Solar recommends installing production meters on all new transition customers until there is a sufficient number of customers to design a sample. Mr. Davis of the Division is concerned that “there may be too few transition customers interconnected by January 1, 2019 to ensure an ample record of export and delivery data,” and notes that the Company intends to randomly select grandfathered net metering customers for participation in the study if there are not enough transition customers interconnected.<sup>28</sup> Mr. Peterson of the Division expresses several concerns

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<sup>26</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Gilliam lines 214 – 216.

<sup>27</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Gilliam lines 328 – 331.

<sup>28</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Davis lines 124 – 129.

217 with combining grandfathered net metering customers and transition customers in the same  
218 sample, specifically that:

- 219 • Sample selection for these two groups “is not being conducted at the same time and not in  
220 exactly the same way,” resulting in anomalies related to the geographic distribution the  
221 company has proposed.<sup>29</sup>
- 222 • The 36 grandfathered net metering customers selected for participation in the first load  
223 research study were selected four years ago and may be “suffering from physical degradation,  
224 some degree of technological obsolescence or other systematic differences from the new  
225 sample that is to be collected.”<sup>30</sup>

226 **Q. What recommendations do you make in response to concerns about capturing data from**  
227 **grandfathered net metered customers versus transition program customers?**

228 A. I agree with Vote Solar and the Division and am concerned about mixing data from grandfathered  
229 net metering customers and transition customers in the same sample. Ideally, the sample for the  
230 load research study would focus on transition customers. However, I recognize that it will take  
231 some time for enough transition customers to install and interconnect their systems in order to  
232 develop a representative sample. As such, I recommend the following:

233 (1) Retrofit the 36 customers from the previous net metering load research study with meters  
234 sufficient to collect all three streams of data from each customer. Given that these customers  
235 already have production meters, it is an efficient use of resources to also retrofit them with bi-  
236 directional meters to gain a complete picture of their energy usage.

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<sup>29</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Peterson lines 95 – 104.

<sup>30</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Peterson lines 111 – 115.

237 (2) Select transition customers to participate in the load research study using simple sampling or,  
238 if warranted, stratified sampling based on total customer energy usage. The objective of sample  
239 selection should be to develop the best sample possible to represent both residential and  
240 commercial transition customers. As described in my direct testimony, residential and  
241 commercial customers should be sampled separately. Recognizing that it may take some time for  
242 a sufficient number of customers to interconnect through the transition program, the Company  
243 may need to continue installing meters on transition customers through the full window of time  
244 allotted to begin data collection, until January 1 2019. If there is an insufficient number of  
245 transition customers by the end of the year to create a meaningful sample, I recommend hosting a  
246 technical workshop to resolve sampling issues and protocol.

247 **B. RESIDENTIAL VS COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS:**

248 **Q. In your direct testimony you recommend separating residential and commercial customers**  
249 **for the purposes of the load research study. How do other parties recommend sampling**  
250 **residential and commercial customers?**

251 A. Vote Solar recommends that the Company sample and study small commercial customers  
252 separately from residential customers.<sup>31</sup> Vivint also recommends analyzing residential and  
253 commercial customers separately.<sup>32</sup> These are aligned with my recommendations in direct  
254 testimony.

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<sup>31</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Gilliam lines 526 – 527.

<sup>32</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Worley lines 278 – 279.



255           **C. STRATIFICATION VARIABLE**

256   **Q.     Please summarize positions of other parties regarding sample stratification.**

257   A.     Vote Solar recommends stratifying the sample based total energy load.<sup>33</sup> Vivint recommends  
258           against stratifying the sample at all in favor of simple sampling, although if the sample is  
259           stratified then Vivint recommends stratification based on historic gross consumption from 2017.<sup>34</sup>  
260           Based on my interpretation of this language, Vote Solar, Vivint, and Utah Clean Energy all  
261           support stratifying the sample based on total customer energy usage. During Phase II of this  
262           docket, parties may wish to evaluate and gain a better understanding of the relationship between  
263           solar exports and a variety of factors and system characteristics including, but not limited to,  
264           orientation, tilt, shading, location on distribution system, and the presence of electrical appliances  
265           that characterize the customer’s pattern of energy usage. A sample size that is reasonably  
266           representative of the population of solar customers with regards to all these variables is essential  
267           for sound analysis.

268   **Q.     Do you agree with Vivint’s proposal to use simple sampling?**

269   A.     Utah Clean Energy is not opposed to simple sampling but recognizes there may be additional  
270           costs associated with the larger sample. The most important consideration for sample design is  
271           that it results in a sample that is robust enough to collect sufficient data and provide the  
272           information necessary for analysis in Phase II. In direct testimony, I recommended stratifying the  
273           sample based on total customer energy usage because the interaction between customer load and  
274           generation is one of the important variables for analysis in Phase II. The data collected in this

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<sup>33</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Gilliam lines 459 – 461.

<sup>34</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Worley lines 266 – 276.

275 load research study will be used to inform analysis that will then inform rates for future solar  
276 customers. The rates that result from this docket will impact customers, their energy choices, and  
277 in turn the utility system for years to come. Therefore it is critical to design a study that provides  
278 sufficient data for thorough analysis in Phase II.

279 **Q. Vivint proposes sampling based on distribution system instead of by county. How do you**  
280 **respond?**

281 A. I agree that sampling based on distribution system topology would provide a more accurate  
282 representation of information that is relevant to this proceeding, namely how rooftop solar  
283 interacts with the distribution system. If the load research study does sample based on county-  
284 level data, I have addressed the need for data about the distribution system by requesting that the  
285 study gather relevant information about each system's location on the distribution system,  
286 including substation and circuit level data, and provide this to parties for analysis.

287 **Q. The Division expresses concern that the “associated costs [of the load research study] must**  
288 **remain reasonable while in the pursuit of an adequate study.”<sup>35</sup> How do you respond?**

289 A. I agree that the load research study must strike a balance between gathering important  
290 information and keeping costs low. To be clear, UCE has not proposed to sample all solar  
291 customers and we agree that sample stratification, in concept, is a reasonable way to reduce the  
292 sample size necessary to capture a representative picture of solar customers. However, I diverge  
293 from the Division and the Company regarding the choice of the variable used to stratify the  
294 sample. In my direct testimony I explained why stratification based on system size will not  
295 appropriately capture the diversity of solar customers with regards to the variables that parties

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<sup>35</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Davis lines 111 – 112.

296 plan to analyze in Phase II. Mr. Worley provides a good example of how stratification based on  
297 the wrong variable can make it difficult or impossible to tease out usable information about  
298 variables of interest other than the variable chosen for stratification:

299 *“If a party wanted to estimate the impact of West-facing systems during peak times, the sample*  
300 *would need enough West-facing systems for the estimated impact to demonstrate statistical*  
301 *significance. If the sample is too small, there may not be enough statistical power to test that*  
302 *question.”<sup>36</sup>*

303 The Company proposes to include a minimum of 10 systems in each strata, and Strata 2 in fact  
304 only includes 10 systems which are intended to represent 9,193 actual solar installations. While  
305 the 10 selected systems may be representative with regards to the Company’s proposed variable  
306 of stratification (system capacity), they are not necessarily representative of the diversity of other  
307 system and customer characteristics which parties intend to study for Phase II.

308 **Q. Might there be other ways to control costs on this study, beyond stratification or altering**  
309 **the precision of the study to reduce the sample population?**

310 A. Yes, the Company describes three categories of cost associated with data collection: the cost of  
311 materials (estimated to be \$523 per customer), the cost of labor (estimated to be \$1,612 per  
312 customer) and the cost of deploying a truck (\$170.90 per customer). The cost of installation, in  
313 particular, seems unusually high. Vivint has proposed that there are lower cost hardware-based  
314 alternatives to the equipment proposed by the Company, and estimates that these meters would  
315 take no longer than four hours to install.<sup>37</sup> Vote Solar cites industry cost estimates for labor that

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<sup>36</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Worley lines 192 – 195.

<sup>37</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Worley lines 115 – 145.

316 are a fraction of those quoted by the Company, and recommends that the Company issue a  
317 discrete request for proposals to reduce the costs for the installation of meters.<sup>38</sup> I support further  
318 exploration of hardware solutions that keep costs low and using a request for proposals to ensure  
319 competitive costs for meter installation.

320 Additionally, Vivint recommends software alternatives for gathering data from solar customers.<sup>39</sup>  
321 Solar inverter companies have partnered with utilities in other parts of the country to provide  
322 utilities with customer data.<sup>40</sup> Given the significant costs associated with materials and labor, I  
323 support exploring software solutions to complement data collection through the load research  
324 study. Although solar inverter data is not always as accurate as a revenue-grade meter, if software  
325 solutions can provide data from a significantly larger population of customers at significantly  
326 reduced costs, it is certainly worth working with parties to obtain as much data as possible. As  
327 stated in my direct testimony, we support using inverter data as a supplement to the data obtained  
328 from the Company-installed production meters. Further, we recommend that the study evaluate  
329 and compare data obtained from inverters, when available, with data obtained from Company-  
330 installed production meters.

331 **Q. Are there other recommendations you would like to address?**

332 A. Yes, the Division recommends that the Company report to the Division and any interested parties  
333 on a monthly basis the on-going results of the study so that any emerging anomalies can be

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<sup>38</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Gilliam lines 296 – 297.

<sup>39</sup> Direct testimony Mr. Worley lines 115 – 145.

<sup>40</sup> “Enphase Energy and Hawaiian Electric Collaborate to Improve Stability of the Grid.” Feb 3, 2015.  
<<http://newsroom.enphase.com/releasedetail.cfm?releaseid=894344>.>

334 evaluated and (if necessary) a course of action decided upon as early in the process as possible.”

335 Utah Clean Energy appreciates and supports this recommendation.

336 **Q. Are there issues and concerns about the load research study proposal remaining among**  
337 **parties participating in this docket?**

338 A. Yes, all parties participating in this docket have expressed some level of concern regarding the  
339 proposed load research study. When Utah Clean Energy originally agreed to an expedited  
340 schedule with only two rounds of testimony for this docket at the Scheduling Conference held  
341 December 11, 2017 it was with the understanding that parties would work together on a load  
342 research study design in advance of the Company’s formal filing on February 15, 2018. Our  
343 intent was to work with all parties involved in this docket to address issues and concerns related  
344 to the load research study with the hope that we could resolve many of those issues and concerns  
345 through informal meetings and comments in advance of the Company’s formal filing. As noted in  
346 my direct testimony, Utah Clean Energy and other parties participated in meetings held on  
347 January 9, 2018 and February 7, 2018 and provided informal comments to the Company on  
348 January 24, 2018. The recommendations made at these meetings and through comments did not  
349 result in any meaningful changes to the Company’s proposed load research study design.

350 The load research study is a critical first step to gather data necessary for Phase II of this  
351 proceeding, and to make it possible for Utah Clean Energy and other parties to meet the burden of  
352 proof established in the Settlement Stipulation. The data gathered through the load research study  
353 will be used to inform analysis in Phase II, which will in turn inform a rate design for solar  
354 customers. The rates that result from this docket will impact customers, their energy choices, and  
355 in turn the utility system long into the future. It is critical that the load research study gather as  
356 much data as is reasonably possible to inform sound analysis in Phase II.

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

358 A. Yes