In the Matter Of:

In RE: RMP - ESA between PacifiCorp and US Magnesium LLC

HEARING, DOCKET NO. 17-035-71

April 12, 2018

Job Number: 445228

1	BEFORE THE	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH
2 3 4 5	Rocky Moun Electric So Operating 1	ter of the Application of Docket No. 17-035-71 tain Power for Approval of ervice Agreement and Reserves Agreement Between and US Magnesium, LLC
7		HEARING PROCEEDINGS
8 9 10 11	TAKEN AT:	Utah Public Service Commission 4th Floor 160 East 300 South Salt Lake City, Utah
12	DATE:	Thursday, April 12th, 2018
13	TIME:	10:00 a.m.
14	REPORTER:	Mary R. Honigman, R.P.R.
15		Job No. 445228
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1	Page 4 PROCEEDINGS
2	OFFICER REIF: Good morning. I'm
3	Melanie Reif. I am the administrative law judge and
4	hearing officer for this case. And this is the
5	scheduled hearing in Docket No. 17-035-71. This
6	matter is entitled: Application of Rocky Mountain
7	Power for Approval of Electric Service Agreement and
8	Operating Reserves Agreement between PacifiCorp and
9	US Magnesium, LLC. Let's start first by taking
10	appearances, please. Starting with PacifiCorp.
11	MR. MCDERMOTT: This is
12	Jacob McDermott on behalf of Rocky Mountain Power.
13	OFFICER REIF: Welcome.
14	MR. JETTER: Good morning.
15	Justin Jetter with the Utah Attorney General's
16	Office, representing the Utah Division of Public
17	Utilities. And with me at counsel table is Jeff
18	Einfeldt.
19	OFFICER REIF: Thank you.
20	MR. SNARR: Good morning. My name is
21	Steven Snarr. I'm an Assistant Attorney General
22	representing the Office of Consumer Services, and
23	with me today is Cheryl Murray.
24	OFFICER REIF: Thank you and welcome.
25	Just a quick reminder before I turn to Mr. Dodge.

Page 5

- 1 Make sure your microphone is not only on but
- 2 somewhere near your face, it will make it much
- 3 easier for me to hear you and those in the room.
- 4 Mr. Dodge, good morning.
- 5 MR. DODGE: Good morning. Gary Dodge
- on behalf of US Magnesium, LLC, and Roger Swenson
- 7 is here at the table with me.
- 8 OFFICER REIF: Good morning.
- 9 Welcome. Before we get started this morning,
- 10 Mr. McDermott, I wanted to make something very clear
- 11 before we begin the hearing. And that is, as it
- 12 relates to the reply comments that were filed by
- 13 US Magnesium, the Commission is very aware that
- 14 there is a separate docket pending in this before
- 15 the Commission. And to that end, the Commission
- 16 will not be making any indication as to how we
- intend to resolve that matter in this hearing, but
- 18 we do wish to note that we are aware of that pending
- 19 matter and we anticipate that it will be resolved in
- 20 the coming weeks.
- 21 So with that said, our understanding
- 22 is that we have an ESA application that is pending
- 23 before the hearing -- before the Commission, and
- 24 that is what we intend to hear today. So if that is
- 25 what you understand as well and PacifiCorp has filed

Page 6 such an ESA, that's what we intend to review. 1 2 MR. DODGE: May I ask a question on 3 that issue or at least, raise an issue that is of 4 concern to US Mag? We completely agree with Your Honor's statement that the tax docket is the 5 appropriate docket for that to be revolved in. 6 The problem we have is that there are statements in that 7 docket that could be interpreted to say that unless 8 9 the tax issue is expressly dealt with in the energy 10 services agreement, it shouldn't be -- the reduction 11 shouldn't be passed on to US Maq. There is no ESA 12 today going forward, and US Mag would prefer to have 13 this matter continued so that it can negotiate, attempt to negotiate, such an amendment if it needs 14 15 to be in the contract expressly. Or we would ask 16 the Commission to expressly rule that the fact -that the language in the agreement itself is enough 17 to have the merits of that issue decided in the tax 18 docket. In other words, the ESA itself says any 19 2.0 other charges or credits will be decided by the 21 Commission in an appropriate document. We simply 2.2 don't want to get whipsawed with this being approved 23 and then someone arguing in the next docket that because it doesn't expressly say "taxes," that the 24 25 tax credit should not go there. I think that's a

1	Page 7 fairly I think that's a crazy argument to make to
2	be honest, but we're fearful that could be made.
3	OFFICER REIF: Mr. Dodge, thank you.
4	And just to sum up, reiterate, what I've already
5	said, we don't intend in any way to make an
6	indication today either implicitly or explicitly how
7	the Commission intends to address the pending
8	docket. And to that end, if the parties wish to
9	postpone this matter, that certainly is within your
10	purview. And if you would like some time to discuss
11	that, I would happily step out of the room if you
12	want to discuss that privately and
13	MR. DODGE: We would make a motion
14	we'll discuss it privately to continue this
15	hearing until some time near the end of the month.
16	OFFICER REIF: Okay.
17	MR. DODGE: And I'm happy to talk and
18	if they're not in agreement, we will still ask for
19	that.
20	OFFICER REIF: Okay. You do realize
21	that the application is pending or at least the
22	Commission does realize that the application is
23	pending by application of Rocky Mountain Power. So
24	with that said, we'll be in recess and if you could
25	kindly just let me know when you're ready to

Page 8 commence, I'll come back in and take care of 1 whatever needs to be taken care of at that point. 2 3 Mr. McDermott? Is everybody on board with that? 4 Okay. Very good. 5 (A brief recess was taken.) 6 OFFICER REIF: Mr. Dodge? 7 MR. DODGE: Your Honor, we've had 8 some very good discussions and the parties, I think, 9 have resolved our concern -- well, the parties have resolved the concern, and I'd like to state what the 10 11 resolution is and then the other parties can 12 obviously indicate whether I've stated it right. 13 The parties have agreed that the language in the ESA that's before the Commission for approval today, 14 which includes the reference to other credits and 15 16 surcharges, et cetera, will be applied to US 17 Magnesium only if the Commission decides it in an appropriate docket, and that the appropriate docket 18 for determining that is the tax docket, and that 19 2.0 there won't be an argument that, because that 21 language doesn't expressly refer to taxes, that 2.2 somehow that's not included. So it will be decided 23 on the merits in the tax docket, as opposed to based 24 on some argument that had to have been in the ESA 25 specifically. I hope that makes sense.

1	Page 9 OFFICER REIF: And that resolves your
2	concern?
3	MR. DODGE: It does.
4	OFFICER REIF: Mr. McDermott, is that
5	your understanding?
6	MR. MCDERMOTT: That's my
7	understanding. The company's position is that the
8	tax docket is the appropriate docket to consider
9	whether those surcharges or whether those credits
10	are appropriate for US Magnesium under this
11	agreement.
12	OFFICER REIF: Very good.
13	Mr. Jetter.
14	MR. JETTER: I would say yes, that
15	also reflects our understanding of what we have
16	agreed to and having just a record today that will,
17	sort of, memorialize though it's a strange way to
18	do it, I think it's worthwhile because of the
19	timing, short timing, that reflects primarily the
20	Division agrees that that's an appropriate way to go
21	forward.
22	OFFICER REIF: Thank you. Mr. Snarr.
23	MR. SNARR: The Office concurs with
24	the explanation provided.
25	OFFICER REIF: Thank you. Okay. So
1	

1	Page 10 if I am tracking this correctly, we are ready to
2	proceed on the ESA application; is that correct?
3	MR. MCDERMOTT: That is correct.
4	OFFICER REIF: All right. Well,
5	Mr. McDermott, this is your application, so you have
6	the floor.
7	MR. MCDERMOTT: The Company would
8	like to call Kyle Moore to testify.
9	OFFICER REIF: Good morning,
10	Mr. Moore. Would you like to testify from where you
11	are?
12	MR. MOORE: Yes, that would be fine.
13	OFFICER REIF: Okay. So I'll swear
14	you in.
15	KYLE MOORE,
16	having been first duly sworn to tell the truth, was
17	examined and testified as follows:
18	BY MR. MCDERMOTT:
19	Q Mr. Moore, please state your name,
20	business address, and title.
21	A My name is Kyle Moore. I'm a power
22	marketer originator for Rocky Mountain Power, and my
23	business address is 1407 West North Temple Street.
24	Q Thank you. And did you work on the
25	contract, the ESA contract, with US Magnesium, LLC?

1	Page 11 A Yes, I did.
2	Q And did you prepare a summary of testimony
3	for us today?
4	A Yes, I did.
5	Q Please proceed.
6	A I present today for Commission approval an
7	electric service agreement between US Magnesium,
8	LLC, or US Mag, and Rocky Mountain Power, or the
9	Company.
10	On November 15, 2017, the Commission
11	issued an order approving a stipulation and
12	settlement agreement filed by Rocky Mountain Power
13	to extend the previous contract's term through
14	April 30, 2018. The stipulating parties included
15	Rocky Mountain Power, the Office of Consumer
16	Services, or the Office, and the Division of Public
17	Utilities, or the Division. In an application dated
18	December 29, 2017, Rocky Mountain Power filed for an
19	approval of a new electric service agreement, or
20	ESA, with US Mag. The Company now seeks approval of
21	this ESA. The effective date of this new agreement
22	is May 1, 2018, and the Company requests the
23	Commission approve this new ESA prior to the
24	expiration of the current ESA, by April 30, 2018.
25	US Mag has an interruptible customer of

Page 12 1 the Company for many years. The specific structure 2 and terms of the electric service agreements between 3 the parties have varied somewhat over the years, but 4 the interruptible nature of the contract has been The structure and terms of the new ESA 5 are similar to those found in the existing 6 agreement, which was approved by the Commission on 7 January 28, 2015, in Docket No. 14-035-143. 8 9 The new ESA has a two-year term covering calendar years 2018 and 2019, with one automatic 10 11 one-year extension through the end of 2020, unless 12 either party gives 180 days notice to terminate at 13 the end of the initial term. The rates in the new ESA are equivalent to the approved rates as of 14 December 31, 2017, from the previous contract. 15 changes for US Mag will occur consistent with the 16 17 results of any general rate case or a major plant addition case in the state of Utah and will be tied 18 19 to the average percent change for all Utah retail 2.0 customers. 21 The cost of service study used to set 2.2 US Mag's rate accounts for the interruptible rights 23 set forth in the agreement for the purpose of 24 reducing peak demand. The new agreement also 25 includes interruptible provisions similar to the

Page 13 1 existing agreement in which the Company is allowed 2 to interrupt US Mag's load in the summer months 3 based on the day-ahead temperature forecast and in 4 the winter months, regardless of temperature. the winter months of December and January, the 5 Company has the right to curtail US Mag for two 6 7 blocks of two hours each for a total of four hours each weekday. For the summer months of June through 8 9 September, the Company has the right to curtail 10 US Mag for up to four consecutive hours each weekday 11 if the day-ahead forecasted temperature at the Salt 12 Lake City International Airport exceeds certain 13 triggers set forth in the ESA. 14 The Company can also bank curtailment 15 hours during times when interruption is allowed by 16 the agreement but not needed by the Company and then 17 use those banked hours during times when interruption is not otherwise allowed by the 18 19 agreement, but the Company deems interruption is 20 needed for operational flexibility. When provided 21 with a notice to curtail, US Mag may elect to either 22 physically curtail or to buy through market prices 23 if energy is available. 24 On March 12, 2018, the DPU issued its 25 report in which it recommends approval of the ESA

1	Page 14 while stating that it will be looking at a cost of
2	service study in the next rate case to inform its
3	decisions regarding any future ESA US Mag and Rocky
4	Mountain Power.
5	On March 12, 2018, the OCS issued its
6	report in which it recommends approval of the ESA
7	with the following conditions, to which Rocky
8	Mountain Power has no objections: The Company will
9	provide to the Office and the Division, US Mag's
10	annual report on energy efficiency projects;
11	US Magnesium will continue to be subject to
12	Schedule 98 REC revenue adjustment.
13	The Company represents the terms and
14	conditions in the US Mag ESA are just and reasonable
15	and in the public interest, therefore the Company
16	recommends and requests that the Commission approve
17	the ESA.
18	MR. MCDERMOTT: Thank you. No
19	further questions.
20	OFFICER REIF: Mr. Jetter.
21	MR. JETTER: I have no questions.
22	OFFICER REIF: You don't wish to put
23	on a do you have any questions?
24	MR. JETTER: I do not.
25	OFFICER REIF: Okay. I'm sorry.

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1	Mr. Snarr, do you have any questions?
2	MR. SNARR: We have no
3	cross-examination.
4	OFFICER REIF: Mr. Dodge?
5	MR. DODGE: No, thank you.
6	OFFICER REIF: My apologies.
7	Mr. Jetter, back to you. Do you wish to put on a
8	witness?
9	MR. JETTER: I do, your Honor. Thank
10	you. The Division would like to have sworn in
11	Mr. Jeff Einfeldt.
12	OFFICER REIF: Mr. Einfeldt, good
13	morning. I'm assuming you wish to give your
14	testimony from where you are?
15	MR. EINFELDT: Yes.
16	OFFICER REIF: Okay. So I'll go
17	ahead and swear you in.
18	JEFFREY S. EINFELDT,
19	having been first duly sworn to tell the truth, was
20	examined and testified as follows:
21	BY MR. JETTER:
22	Q Mr. Einfeldt, would you please state your
23	name and occupation for the record?
24	A My name is Jeffrey S. Einfeldt. I am
25	currently employed by the Division of Public
I	

Page 16 1 Utilities as a utilities analyst. My business 2 address is 160 East 200 South, fourth floor. Thank you. Did you file or create and Q 3 4 cause to be filed with the Commission, comments from the Division of Public Utilities dated March 12, 5 2018? 6 7 А Yes. And does the recommendation and the 8 0 comments included in that document still reflect the 9 Division's position? 10 11 Α Yes. 12 Q Have you prepared a brief statement? 13 Α Yes, very brief. Please, go ahead. 14 Q 15 The Division reviewed Rocky Mountain Α Power's filing in this docket. We met with Rocky 16 17 Mountain Power staff to go over the calculations supporting the proposed agreement, and the Division 18 has reviewed those calculations and is satisfied 19 20 that they were done correctly. The Division 21 compared the proposed ESA with the current ESA 22 between Rocky Mountain Power and US Magnesium and 23 found no material changes between the two 24 agreements. 25 The Division recommends that the

1 2	Commission approve the proposed ESA as just and reasonable and in the public interest. That
2	reasonable and in the public interest. That
3	concludes my comments.
4	MR. JETTER: Thank you. I have no
5	further questions.
6	OFFICER REIF: Thank you.
7	Mr. McDermott, do you have any questions of the
8	witness?
9	MR. MCDERMOTT: No questions. Thank
10	you.
11	OFFICER REIF: Mr. Snarr?
12	MR. SNARR: No questions.
13	OFFICER REIF: Mr. Dodge?
14	MR. DODGE: No questions.
15	OFFICER REIF: Okay. Mr. Snarr.
16	MR. SNARR: Yes. On behalf of the
17	Office of Consumer Services, we would like to
18	present Cheryl Murray as a witness to state our
19	position. Could she be sworn?
20	CHERYL MURRAY,
21	having been first duly sworn to tell the truth, was
22	examined and testified as follows:
23	BY MR. SNARR:
24	Q Please state your name, address, and who
25	you represent.

1	Page 18 A My name is Cheryl Murray. My business
2	address is 160 East 300 South, Salt Lake City. And
3	I'm testifying on behalf of the Officer of Consumer
4	Services.
5	Q Did you prepare and submit to the
6	Commission a memo dated March 12, 2018, consisting
7	of six pages?
8	A Yes. I filed both confidential and
9	redacted versions providing the Office's position on
10	the proposed US Magnesium electric service
11	agreement.
12	Q And do you adopt those comments as your
13	testimony today?
14	A Yes.
15	Q Do you have a brief statement that would
16	summarize the Office's position?
17	A Yes, I do.
18	Q Could you please provide that?
19	A Yes, thank you. In a March 12 memo, the
20	Office stated its position regarding the ESA between
21	Rocky Mountain Power and US Magnesium. Important
22	considerations for the Office were the timing of
23	future rate adjustments and surcharges to which
24	US Magnesium would be subject, which the Office
25	asserts are appropriate elements of the ESA.

	Page 19					
1	The Office also identified two issues that					
2	we recommended be made conditions for approval of					
3	the ESA. In reply comments filed on April 5, 2018,					
4	US Magnesium agreed to one of the conditions,					
5	however the condition to which it agreed was not					
6	identified. Today in his summary, Mr. Moore					
7	indicates that Rocky Mountain Power agrees to both					
8	conditions. Therefore, the Office recommends that					
9	the Commission approve the ESA between Rocky					
10	Mountain Power and US Magnesium with those two					
11	conditions and that any approval order specifically					
12	include those conditions. That concludes my					
13	comments.					
14	MR. SNARR: Ms. Murray is available					
15	for questions.					
16	OFFICER REIF: Thank you. Any					
17	questions of the witness, Mr. McDermott?					
18	MR. MCDERMOTT: No, thank you. No					
19	questions from the Company.					
20	OFFICER REIF: Mr. Jetter?					
21	MR. JETTER: No, thank you.					
22	OFFICER REIF: Mr. Dodge?					
23	MR. DODGE: No questions.					
24	OFFICER REIF: Thank you, Ms. Murray.					
25	Mr. Dodge.					

1	Page 20 MR. DODGE: Thank you, Your Honor.
2	Roger Swenson is available to testify, but unless
3	Your Honor or other counsel have questions, we don't
4	feel the need to put him on. I would like to state
5	that in our reply comments we address primarily the
6	tax issue that we dealt with at the beginning of the
7	hearing, and I would like to confirm that it was
8	US Mag's intent to agree with both of the conditions
9	the Office proposed. So US Mag does agree with both
10	of those conditions being included in the order.
11	Sorry, we said one instead of two. We meant both.
12	Thank you.
13	OFFICER REIF: And does US Magnesium
14	wish to make any statement as to the just and
15	reasonable nature of the agreement?
16	MR. DODGE: We're happy to do that,
17	if you think that would be useful.
18	OFFICER REIF: I'm not forcing you.
19	MR. DODGE: Let's ask Mr. Swenson.
20	OFFICER REIF: Mr. Swenson, good
21	morning. I'm going to swear you in before you
22	testify.
23	ROGER SWENSON,
24	having been first duly sworn to tell the truth, was
25	examined and testified as follows:

1	Page 21 BY MR. DODGE:
2	Q Mr. Swenson, tell us who you are and why
3	you're here?
4	A My name is Roger Swenson. My address is
5	1592 East 3350 South, Salt Lake City, Utah. I am
6	the energy consultant for US Magnesium.
7	Q Were you responsible for negotiating on
8	behalf of US Magnesium the ESA before the Commission
9	for approval?
10	A Yes. That is one of my responsibilities
11	with US Magnesium, is to interact with Rocky
12	Mountain Power and negotiate the terms and
13	conditions of the agreement.
14	Q And can you state your opinion on your
15	position, US Mag's position, on whether the contract
16	is fair and just and reasonable?
17	A We believe that we negotiated in good
18	faith and came to terms that were just and
19	reasonable and in the public interest.
20	MR. DODGE: Thank you. No further
21	questions.
22	OFFICER REIF: Thank you.
23	Mr. McDermott, do you have any questions of the
24	witness?
25	MR. MCDERMOTT: No questions. Thank

1	Page 22 you.
2	OFFICER REIF: Mr. Jetter?
3	MR. JETTER: No questions.
4	OFFICER REIF: Mr. Snarr?
5	MR. SNARR: No questions.
6	OFFICER REIF: And no questions from
7	the Commission. So is there anything else that any
8	of the parties wish to address this morning?
9	MR. MCDERMOTT: Are you prepared to
10	rule from the bench on the approval of the contract
11	today?
12	OFFICER REIF: Are you making a
13	motion?
14	MR. MCDERMOTT: I am making a motion
15	for a bench order.
16	OFFICER REIF: Okay. We'll take that
17	under consideration and I will return momentarily.
18	Thank you. Is there any objection to the motion
19	before we take a recess? Okay.
20	(A brief recess was taken.)
21	OFFICER REIF: There's been a motion
22	for a bench order to approve the ESA that's pending
23	before the Commission. And in reviewing the
24	request, the Commission so grants the motion and
25	approves the ESA based on the testimony today, which

1	Page 23 has indicated that there are no outstanding issues.
2	The requests from the Office have been resolved and
3	each of the witnesses has testified that the
4	agreement is just, reasonable, and in the public
5	interest. Based on the record before the Commission
6	and the application, and there being no objection,
7	we approve the ESA and will put our order in a
8	written order shortly after this hearing.
9	So thank you very much, and have a
10	good rest of the day.
11	(The hearing concluded at 10:40 a.m.)
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1	Page 24
	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
2	STATE OF UTAH)
3	COUNTY OF SUMMIT)
4	
5	I, Mary R. Honigman, a Registered Professional
6	Reporter, hereby certify:
7	THAT the foregoing proceedings were taken before
8	me at the time and place set forth in the caption hereof;
9	that the witnesses were placed under oath to tell the truth,
10	the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; that the
11	proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and
12	thereafter my notes were transcribed through computer-aided
13	transcription; and the foregoing transcript constitutes a
14	full, true, and accurate record of such testimony adduced
15	and oral proceedings had, and of the whole thereof.
16	I have subscribed my name on this 23rd day of
17	April, 2018.
18	Maria the
19	
20	Mary R. Honigman Registered Professional Reporter #972887
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