

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

Docket No. 20-035-04

PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING

November 03, 2020

ADVANCED REPORTING SOLUTIONS

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Public Comment Hearing
November 03, 2020

1 BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

2 --oo0oo--

3 Application of Rocky)
4 Mountain Power for the)Docket No. 20-035-04 and
5 Authority to Increase its)Docket No. 18-035036
6 Retail Electric Utility)
7 Service Rates in Utah and)
8 for Approval of its Proposed))
9 Electric Service Schedules)
10 and Electric Service)
11 Regulations;)
12)
13 Application of Rocky)
14 Mountain Power for Authority))
15 to Change its Depreciation)
16 Rates Effective January 1,)
17 2021.)

13 VIDEO CONFERENCED PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING

14 Taken on Tuesday, November 3, 2020
15 at 5:00 P.M.

18 Taken through Public Service Commission of Utah

19 Via Google Meet

20 160 East 300 South
21 4th Floor
22 Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

24 Reported by: Kellie Peterson, RPR, CSR

A P P E A R A N C E S

COMMISSIONERS: Chair Thad Levar
Commissioner David Clark
Commissioner Ron Allen

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1 November 3, 2020 5:00 P.M.

P R O C E E D I N G S

2

3 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Okay. Good evening. We
4 are here for the public comment hearing in Public Service
5 Commission Docket 20-35-4, application of Rocky Mountain
6 Power for authority to increase its retail electric
7 utility service rates in Utah and for approval of its
8 proposed electric service schedules and electric service
9 regulations.

10 I'm Thad LeVar, and the other two
11 Commissioners are on the meeting, Commissioner David
12 Clark and Commissioner Ron Allen. And this is the
13 opportunity for members of the public to provide comment
14 on this proposed rate increase by Rocky Mountain Power.

15 At this point, Mr. Darnell, you are the only
16 person who has signed up to provide comments to us this
17 afternoon, so we will turn the floor over to you to tell
18 us what you could like to -- tell us what you would like
19 to talk about.

20 MR. CHARLES DARNELL: Thank you very much.
21 I'm surprised I'm the only one, but that will be just
22 fine.

23 My name is Charles Darnell. I'm currently
24 the associate vice president for energy management and
25 sustainability at the university, at Utah State

1 University.

2 I have over 42 years of experience in
3 facilities and utility management at state universities
4 in Texas, Illinois and Utah.

5 Over the past year, I have worked
6 independently in part of -- and also as part of a virus
7 collision, to procure renewable power under PacifiCorp's
8 Rate 34 and 32 on behalf of Utah State University.

9 The university is a 2007 signatory of the
10 President's climate commitment, pledging the institute to
11 become carbon neutral by the year 2050.

12 In 2019, the university adopted a faculty
13 Senate resolution to accelerate its prior carbon
14 neutrality pledge to the year 2040. My impression of the
15 procurement process and the increasing costs to
16 participate in these tariffs is that PacifiCorp prepares
17 to be systematically attempting to make its green tariffs
18 economically inaccessible to customers like Utah State
19 University.

20 From PacifiCorp providing the issue seemingly
21 arbitrary avoided cost under Rate 34 to its current
22 request for higher component charges on Rate 32, the
23 Company's actions threaten to render these rates
24 uneconomical to the very customers who are intended to
25 take advantage of them.

1 Like the University of Utah, many state
2 universities, including Utah State and Utah businesses,
3 have a greater sense of urgency to reduce carbon
4 emissions than would be achieved through PacifiCorp's
5 current integrated resource plan.

6 There should be no reason why PacifiCorp and
7 its large customers cannot be working simultaneously
8 toward more expedient carbon reduction, through
9 utilization of Rates 34 and 32.

10 For this reason, I encourage the Public
11 Service Commission to reject PacifiCorp's request for
12 changes in Rate 32 so that organizations like Utah State
13 University and others can have straightforward access to
14 stable and fairly priced green tariffs in the state of
15 Utah.

16 This concludes my witness statement. Thank
17 you.

18 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Thank you, Mr. Darnell.
19 I will just check and see if Commission Allen or
20 Commissioner Clark have any questions for you.

21 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: I have no questions.
22 Thank you, though, for your testimony.

23 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes. Mr. Darnell, thank
24 you for taking the time. We appreciate your message.

25 THE WITNESS: Well, thank you very much for

1 accepting it. I appreciate that. And have a good
2 evening.

3 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Thank you. You too.
4 Thank you for taking your time to speak with us today.

5 And let me just ask if anyone else on this
6 video conference has anything else we should consider
7 before we adjourn?

8 I'm not seeing anything. So thank you to
9 everyone. We are adjourned.

10 The evidentiary hearing will begin tomorrow
11 morning at 9 A.M.

12 (The hearing was concluded at 5:05 P.M.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

State of Utah)
)
County of Salt Lake)

I hereby certify that the witnesses in the foregoing hearing were duly sworn to testify to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in the within-entitled cause;

That said hearing was taken at the time and place herein named;

That the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me in stenotype and thereafter transcribed into typewritten form.

I further certify that I am not of kin or otherwise associated with any of the parties of said cause of action and that I am not interested in the events thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I set my hand this 11th day of November, 2020.



Kellie Peterson, RPR

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