

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

Docket No. 21-035-05

VIDEO CONFERENCED HEARING

May 19, 2021

ADVANCED REPORTING SOLUTIONS

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Video Conferenced Hearing
May 19, 2021

1 BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

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4 Application of Rocky)
5 Mountain Power for Authority)
6 to Revise Rates in Tariff)
7 Schedule 98, Renewable)
8 Energy Credits Balancing)
9 Account)
10)
11) Docket No. 21-035-05
12 _____)

11 VIDEO CONFERENCED HEARING

12 Taken on May 19, 2021

13 10:00 a.m. to 10:19 a.m.

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19 Reported by: Michelle Mallonee, RPR, CCR
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1 APPEARANCES

2 Michael J. Hammer, Hearing Officer

3 For the Division of Public Utilities:

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 -o0o-

3 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Good morning,
4 everybody. We should all be here for the hearing
5 scheduled in the Application of Rocky Mountain Power for
6 authority to revise rates in Tariff Schedule 98,
7 Renewable Energy Credits Balancing Account. That's
8 Commission Docket No. 21-035-05.

9 My name is Mike Hammer, and I'm the Commission's
10 designated presiding officer. Let's take appearances,
11 please, beginning with Rocky Mountain.

12 Is someone here for Rocky Mountain Power?

13 MR. WILDING: This is Mike Wilding. I'm not
14 sure where --

15 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Wilding, I can't
16 hear you. I see you're speaking, but I can't hear you.
17 Can the others hear him? Oh, you can?

18 MR. WILDING: Um --

19 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Now I'm hearing you.

20 MR. WILDING: Okay. Great. Emily Wegener was
21 online, but then she -- I saw her drop off, so she might
22 be having technical difficulties. But she is our
23 attorney.

24 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Let's give her just a
25 minute, then.

1 MR. WILDING: I'll try to contact her as well.

2 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: It looks like Ms. Saba
3 is trying to join. Ms. Saba, can you hear me?

4 We're waiting to hear from counsel for Rocky
5 Mountain Power. I see a few people joined the call.

6 MR. WILDING: This is Mike Wilding again. Emily
7 is having technical issues. Hopefully we can get her on
8 momentarily. Oh, here she is.

9 MS. WEGENER: I'm here. I'm joining by phone
10 because my (inaudible) won't work. Can you hear me okay?

11 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: You're breaking up on
12 my end.

13 Did the court reporter get that?

14 THE COURT REPORTER: No, she's breaking up on my
15 end also.

16 MS. WEGENER: Hmm.

17 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Try one more time,
18 please.

19 MS. WEGENER: Can you hear me now?

20 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: I can.

21 THE COURT REPORTER: I can, too.

22 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: We didn't get your
23 appearance though, Ms. Wegener, on the record.

24 MS. WEGENER: Oh, I wasn't here. I didn't
25 realize that you'd (inaudible).

1 This is Emily Wegener on behalf of Rocky
2 Mountain Power. And with me, I have Nick Highsmith,
3 Company witness, who will be adopting Grant Bagby's
4 testimony; Mike Wilding, who will be providing a summary.
5 Mr. Highsmith will also be providing a summary. And
6 Robert Meredith, who is available for questions but will
7 not be providing a summary of his testimony.

8 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Okay. And for the
9 Division of Public Utilities, Ms. Schmid?

10 MS. SCHMID: Good morning. Patricia E. Schmid
11 for the Division of Public Utilities. Our witness today
12 is Mark Long. Thank you.

13 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Do we have any other
14 parties who wish to make an appearance? Okay.

15 Are there any matters to address before
16 Ms. Wegener calls her first witness?

17 Go ahead, Ms. Wegener.

18 MS. WEGENER: The Company calls Nick Highsmith.

19 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Heisman --
20 Highsmith, pardon me, do you swear to tell the truth?

21 MR. HIGHSMITH: I apologize. I appear to be
22 having technical issues with Google Meet. And so if it
23 is okay with everyone, would it be possible for me to
24 just continue using the telephone?

25 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: No objection on my end.

1 Ms. Schmid, do you mind?

2 MS. SCHMID: No objection.

3 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Highsmith, do you
4 swear to tell the truth?

5 MR. HIGHSMITH: I do.

6 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you.

7 Go ahead.

8

9 NICHOLAS HIGHSMITH,

10 was called as a witness, and having been first duly
11 sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing
12 but the truth, testified as follows:

13

14 DIRECT EXAMINATION

15 BY MS. WEGENER:

16 Q. Good morning, Mr. Highsmith. Would you please
17 state and spell your name.

18 A. My name is Nicholas Highsmith, spelled
19 N-I-C-H-O-L-A-S, last name H-I-G-H-S-M-I-T-H.

20 Q. Have you reviewed and become familiar with the
21 testimony and exhibits filed by Grant Bagby in this
22 matter?

23 A. Yes, I have.

24 Q. And do you adopt his testimony as your own?

25 A. I do.

1 Q. Do you have any corrections to that testimony?

2 A. Yes, I have one correction to a reference that
3 was on RMP, Exhibit RMP GB1. The correction is on line
4 No. 1 where it references Docket No. 20-035-13, then it
5 says "RMP GB2," that should say "THS2."

6 Q. Thank you. With that correction, if I were to
7 ask you the questions contained in Mr. Bagby's testimony
8 today that's now your testimony, would your answers be
9 the same?

10 A. Yes, they would.

11 Q. Could you please provide a summary of that
12 testimony.

13 A. Yes.

14 Good morning. On March 15th, 2021, Rocky
15 Mountain Power filed its annual renewable energy credit
16 balancing account, or RBA, seeking to refund a deferral
17 balance to Utah customers through Schedule 98 of
18 approximately 1.1 million over a one-year period
19 beginning June 1st, 2021.

20 The RBA deferral is calculated as the difference
21 between actual REC revenue realized by the Company and
22 the amounts and rates during the deferral period for
23 calendar year 2020. The refund amount also includes a
24 net carrying charge during the 2020 deferral period and
25 the interim period of January 1st, 2021, through May

1 31st, 2021, of approximately 45,000. The deferral
2 balance was calculated in a manner consistent with
3 previous RBA filings.

4 Mr. Grant Bagby, whose testimony I have adopted,
5 Mr. Mike Wilding, and Mr. Meredith filed testimony in
6 support of the Company's application describing the
7 calculation.

8 My testimony described the calculation of the
9 deferral amounts and the amount of REC revenue allocated
10 to Utah ratepayers. Mr. Wilding's testimony presents a
11 detailed accounting of total company REC revenue for
12 calendar year 2020. And Mr. Meredith's testimony
13 addresses the allocation of the RBA surcharge among the
14 customer classes and the resulting Tariff Schedule 98
15 rates in this case.

16 On April 28th, 2021, the Division of Public
17 Utilities filed comments in support of the proposed rate
18 change becoming effective on an interim basis on
19 June 1st, 2020 -- 2021, I'm sorry, pending their final
20 audit of the REC revenues contained in this filing. No
21 other party filed comments in this phase of the
22 proceeding.

23 The Company respectfully requests the Commission
24 approve the Company's request to return to customers
25 1.1 million associated with this RBA filing on an interim

1 basis beginning June 1st, 2021. Thank you.

2 **Q. Thank you, Mr. Highsmith.**

3 MS. WEGENER: I have nothing further for this
4 witness, and he's now available for cross-examination and
5 questions from the Hearing Officer.

6 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Schmid?

7 MS. SCHMID: No questions. Thank you.

8 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: And I have none.

9 Thank you, Mr. Highsmith.

10 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Wegener, please
12 feel free to call your next witness.

13 MS. WEGENER: The Company calls Mr. Mike
14 Wilding.

15 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Wilding, do you
16 swear to tell the truth?

17 THE WITNESS: Yes.

18 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you.

19

20 MICHAEL WILDING,
21 was called as a witness, and having been first duly
22 sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing
23 but the truth, testified as follows:

24

25

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. WEGENER:

Q. Good morning, Mr. Wilding. Can you please state and spell your name.

A. Yes. My name is Michael Wilding. It's M-I-C-H-A-E-L, Wilding is W-I-L-D-I-N-G.

Q. Did you prepare and cause to be filed testimony and exhibits in this matter?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Do you have any corrections to that testimony?

A. No.

Q. If I were to ask you the questions contained in that testimony today, would your answers be the same?

A. Yes, they would.

MS. WEGENER: I move to admit the testimony of Mike Wilding.

HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: It's admitted.

MS. WEGENER: And I also just realized that I did not move to admit Mr. Highsmith's testimony earlier.

So, can I just move to admit that now, or would you prefer I do that later?

HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Go ahead.

MS. WEGENER: Okay. I move to admit the testimony of Grant Bagby as adopted by Mr. Nicholas Highsmith.

1 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: It's admitted as well.

2 MS. WEGENER: Thank you.

3 Q. (BY MS. WEGENER:) Mr. Wilding, can you please
4 provide a summary of your testimony.

5 A. Yes, I can.

6 My testimony provides the detail of the REC
7 revenue received by the Company during calendar year 2020
8 that was used to set the Schedule 98 REC balancing
9 account surcharge to be effective June 1, 2021.

10 I would recommend that the Commission approve
11 the Company's request for interim rates.

12 My testimony also supports a settlement
13 stipulation with the Office of Consumer Services and the
14 Division of Public Utilities relating to the transfer of
15 RECs from Utah to California. The stipulation allows the
16 Company to transfer some of the Utah allocated RECs to
17 California to meet California's renewable portfolio
18 standard. Utah customers will be compensated at the
19 market rate for those RECs that are transferred, and the
20 compensation for those RECs will be included in the 2022
21 RBA.

22 The transfer of these RECs does not affect
23 Utah's ability to meet its renewable portfolio goals.
24 And this stipulation is just, reasonable, and in the
25 interest of Utah customers, and I recommend that the

1 Commission approve it.

2 **Q. Thank you.**

3 MS. WEGENER: I have nothing further for
4 Mr. Wilding, and he is available for cross-examination
5 and questions from the Hearing Officer.

6 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Schmid?

7 MS. SCHMID: No questions. Thank you.

8 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: I have none.

9 Thank you, Mr. Wilding.

10 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Wegener, did you
12 intend to call another witness?

13 MS. WEGENER: No. The Company has no further
14 witnesses. Thank you.

15 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you.

16 Ms. Schmid.

17 MS. SCHMID: Yes, thank you. The Division would
18 like to call Mr. Mark Long as its witness. Could
19 Mr. Long please be sworn?

20 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Long, do you swear
21 to tell the truth?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

23 //

24 //

25 //

1 MARK LONG,
2 was called as a witness, and having been first duly
3 sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing
4 but the truth, testified as follows:

5

6 DIRECT EXAMINATION

7 BY MS. SCHMID:

8 Q. Mr. Long, could you please state by whom you are
9 employed and your official office, traditional address.

10 A. Yes. I'm employed by the Division of Public
11 Utilities, and my office address is 160 East 300 South,
12 Salt Lake City, Utah.

13 Q. Have you participated on behalf of the Division
14 in this docket?

15 A. Yes, I have.

16 Q. Did you prepare or assist in preparing and cause
17 to be filed the Division's memorandum filed April 28th
18 entitled "Preliminary Recommendations"?

19 A. Yes, I did.

20 Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to that
21 memo?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Do you adopt the contents of that memo as your
24 testimony today?

25 A. Yes.

1 MS. SCHMID: With that, the Division moves for
2 the admission of its April 28th memorandum.

3 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: It's admitted.

4 MS. SCHMID: Thank you.

5 **Q. (BY MS. SCHMID:) Mr. Long, do you have a**
6 **summary to present today?**

7 A. Yes, I do.

8 **Q. Please proceed.**

9 A. Okay.

10 Good morning. It's good to finally put a face
11 to all these testimonies I've been reading lately.

12 As the Company has stated, Tariff Schedule 98
13 tracks a difference between renewable energy credit,
14 referred to as RECs, revenues included in rates, and
15 actual net revenues collected from the sale of RECs by
16 the Company. The variances between REC revenues included
17 in rates and actual REC revenues collected are identified
18 and deferred each month for one full calendar year.

19 Annually on March 15th, a renewable energy
20 credits balancing account -- referred to as RBA --
21 application is filed to present the variances, including
22 applicable carrying charges with a 100 percent true-up
23 for the difference between the amounts in rates and
24 actual sales occurring through Tariff Schedule 98.

25 The collection or credit under Tariff Schedule

1 98 is to be made annually, effective June 1st. The
2 application under this docket is the ninth deferred RBA
3 rate adjustment.

4 This application requests refunding to Utah
5 customers over one year from June 1st, 2021, through
6 May 31st, 2022, the 2021 RBA deferral balance of
7 1.11 million, which is a net -- which is a net decrease
8 of 25,000, or .001 percent, over the current collection
9 level of \$1.8 million.

10 The Company proposes an allocation of the
11 outstanding deferral balance across customer classes in a
12 manner that is consistent with the approved rate -- the
13 approved rate spread found in Step 2 of the 2014 general
14 rate case stipulation with modifications for metered
15 outdoor nighttime lighting and special contracts.

16 This is the second year of the inclusion of the
17 REC revenue from the sale of RECs to Kennecott Copper for
18 the nongeneration renewable energy credit supply
19 agreement between the Company and Kennecott dated
20 April 18th, 2019, that was approved by the Commission in
21 the Kennecott agreement, Docket No. 19-035-20.

22 Also included in this docket is a confidential
23 settlement stipulation between Rocky Mountain Power, the
24 Division, and the Office of Consumer Services.

25 On or about February 28th, 2021, Rocky Mountain

1 Power entered into a confidential settlement stipulation
2 with the Division and Office of Consumer Services wherein
3 the Division and Office of Consumer Services agreed that
4 the Company could transfer some of Utah's allocated RECs
5 to be used on behalf of the Company's California retail
6 customers for compliance with California's renewable
7 portfolio standard. The parties agreed on a price for
8 REC as compensation for Utah customers, which will be
9 booked in 2021 and included in the Company's 2022 RBA.

10 Rocky Mountain Power states that this
11 confidential settlement stipulation will not affect
12 Utah's ability to meet its 2025 renewable portfolio goal.
13 The confidential settlement stipulation has been signed
14 by all parties and is awaiting Commission approval.

15 As a signatory, the Division supports the
16 confidential settlement stipulation as just and
17 reasonable and in the public interest.

18 In summary, the Division performed a preliminary
19 review of the filing and the corresponding Commission
20 orders and has found that in general the Company has
21 complied with the Commission's orders.

22 The Division participated in the confidential
23 settlement stipulation and found it to be just and
24 reasonable and in the public interest.

25 The Division will file its RBA audit report on

1 or before July 14th, 2021.

2 The Division recommends the Commission approve
3 the change to Schedule No. 98 as filed, approve the
4 confidential settlement stipulation, and approve the rate
5 increase on an interim basis until the Division can
6 complete a final audit of the REC revenues contained in
7 this filing.

8 That concludes my testimony.

9 Q. Mr. Long, I have just one clarifying question.

10 Is it your testimony today that the signed
11 settlement stipulation is just and reasonable in result?

12 A. Yes, it is.

13 Q. Thank you.

14 MS. SCHMID: The Division has nothing further.

15 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Wegener, do you
16 have any cross-examination questions?

17 MS. WEGENER: No questions. Thank you.

18 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Sorry, I lost my audio
19 for just one second. I think you said no.

20 MS. WEGENER: I said no questions. Thank you.

21 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you.

22 And I have nothing for you, Mr. Long. Thank you
23 for your testimony.

24 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

25 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Schmid, any other

1 witnesses?

2 MS. SCHMID: No other witnesses for the
3 Division. Thank you.

4 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: All right.
5 Is there anything else before we adjourn?

6 MS. SCHMID: Nothing further from the Division.

7 MS. WEGENER: Nothing further from the Company.

8 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: All right. Well, thank
9 you, everyone. Have a wonderful day. We're adjourned.

10 (The matter concluded at 10:19 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

1
2
3 State of Utah)
 ss.
4 County of Salt Lake)

5 I, Michelle Mallonee, a Registered
6 Professional Reporter in and for the State of Utah, do
hereby certify:

7 That the proceedings of said matter was
8 reported by me in stenotype and thereafter transcribed
into typewritten form;

9 That the same constitutes a true and correct
10 transcription of said proceedings so taken and
transcribed;

11 I further certify that I am not of kin or
12 otherwise associated with any of the parties of said
cause of action, and that I am not interested in the
13 event thereof.

14 WITNESS MY HAND at Salt Lake City, Utah,
this 25th day of May, 2021.

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17 _____
18 Michelle Mallonee, RPR, CCR
19 Utah CCR #267114-7801
20 Expires May 31, 2022
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