

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

Rocky Mountain Power’s Application for)	Docket No. 21-035-42
Alternative Cost Recovery for Major Plant)	Rebuttal Testimony
Additions of the Pryor Mountain and TB Flats)	of Michele Beck
Wind Projects)	For the Utah Office of
)	Consumer Services

OCTOBER 28, 2021

1 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND TITLE.**

2 A. My name is Michele Beck and I am the director of the Utah Office of Consumer
3 Services.

4 **Q. DID YOU PREVIOUSLY FILE DIRECT TESTIMONY IN THIS DOCKET?**

5 A. Yes.

6 **Q. WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF YOUR REBUTTAL TESTIMONY?**

7 A. I will be responding to some of the statements and recommendations of Dr. William
8 A. Powell on behalf of the Division of Public Utilities (DPU).

9 **Q. PLEASE GIVE AN OVERVIEW OF DR. POWELL'S POSITION AND
10 WHETHER YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS.**

11 A. Dr. Powell provided testimony raising many of the same issues I raised in my direct
12 testimony. In particular, he demonstrated that Rocky Mountain Power's (RMP)
13 application does not meet the 1% threshold for a Major Plant Addition case and
14 recommended that the petition be denied. Dr. Powell also recommended that base
15 NPC should not be reset in this case. As part of his discussion of the effect of the
16 Public Service Commission of Utah (PSC) denying either the recovery of additional
17 costs or resetting the base NPC, Dr. Powell stated, "Therefore, the Division
18 recommends that the PTCs and other NPC benefits continue to be treated on a
19 prorated basis consistent with the Commission's order with the treatment of the two
20 wind projects from the rate case."¹ I was initially unclear about what this statement

¹ Powell Direct Testimony, lines 273 – 275.

21 means and have concerns about some potential interpretations of the statement that
22 might be made by other parties or the PSC.

23 **Q. DO YOU AGREE WITH THE DPU RECOMMENDATION THAT THE PSC**
24 **SHOULD DENY RMP'S REQUEST TO RESET BASE NPC IN THIS CASE?**

25 A. If the PSC denies RMP's request to recover additional costs associated with Pryor
26 Mountain and TB Flats, as recommended by Dr. Powell and in my direct
27 testimony², then I agree that base NPC should not be changed in this case. However,
28 the OCS takes no position about resetting base rates if the PSC were to approve
29 RMP's request to recover additional costs.

30 **Q. WHAT IS YOUR CONCERN ABOUT DR. POWELL'S STATEMENT**
31 **QUOTED ABOVE?**

32 A. My concern is that Dr. Powell did not specifically indicate whether his
33 recommendation related solely to the PTCs and other NPC benefits contained in
34 base rates or if he also intended his recommendation to extend to future EBA true
35 up filings.

36 **Q. WERE YOU ABLE TO CLARIFY DR. POWELL'S INTENT?**

37 A. Yes. OCS Data Request 1.1 to the DPU asked about Dr. Powell's intent. In the
38 response, the DPU clarified its recommendation by stating, "The intent was to keep
39 base NPC the same as approved in the general rate case and deal with true-ups in

² Powell Direct, lines 279-280 and Beck Direct, lines 5-8. I also note that Kevin Higgins took this same position on behalf of the UAE, Higgins Direct lines 47-48, and the UAE, OCS, and DPU filed a joint motion for summary judgement making legal arguments supporting this position.

40 future EBA filings.” This response resolves any potential concerns that the DPU
41 was taking a position on a change to the EBA operation within this docket. Such a
42 position, in my opinion, would have gone beyond the scope of the MPA as
43 contemplated by its enabling statute.

44 **Q. DOES THAT CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY.**

45 **A. Yes.**