Rocky Mountain Power Docket No. 22-035-30 Witness: Craig M. Eller

## BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF UTAH

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER

## REDACTED

Direct Testimony of Craig M. Eller

June 2022

1		INTRODUCTION OF WITNESS AND QUALIFICATIONS
2	Q.	Please state your name, business address, and present position with PacifiCorp,
3		d/b/a Rocky Mountain Power ("RMP" or the "Company").
4	A.	My name is Craig M. Eller. My business address is 1407 West North Temple Street,
5		Suite 310, Salt Lake City, Utah 84116. My present position is Vice President, Business
6		Policy and Development for Rocky Mountain Power.
7	Q.	How long have you been in your present position?
8	A.	I have been in my present position since July 2020.
9	Q.	Please describe your education and business experience.
10	A.	I have a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of
11		Nebraska. I have been employed with PacifiCorp since July 2020 as the Vice President
12		of Business Policy and Development responsible for strategic planning, stakeholder
13		engagement, regulatory support, and development and execution of major transmission
14		projects. Prior to my current role, I worked at Northern Natural Gas Company, an
15		affiliate of the Company, from 2007 through 2020 in various business development,
16		commercial marketing and engineering roles.
17	Q.	Have you testified in previous regulatory proceedings?
18	A.	Yes. I have previously filed testimony on behalf of the Company in regulatory
19		proceedings in Utah, Wyoming, and Idaho.
20		PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY
21	Q.	What is the purpose of your testimony?
22	A.	The purpose of my testimony is to support the Company's application for Commission
23		approval of a proposed amendment to the Electric Service Schedule No. 34 ("Schedule

34") Renewable Energy Service Contract ("RESC") between Company and Stadion
LLC ("Stadion") ("Third RESC Amendment"), which is attached to my testimony as
Confidential Exhibit RMP\_\_(CME-1). My testimony provides a brief background of
the RESC and associated Renewable Resource Appendices, and an overview of the
Third RESC Amendment terms.

- 29 Q. Are any exhibits included with your testimony?
- A. Yes. Included with my testimony are two confidential exhibits. Confidential Exhibit
   RMP\_\_(CME-1) provides the Third RESC Amendment, as previously described, and
   provides several hypothetical monthly bills assuming the changes discussed in my
   testimony. My testimony also discusses Confidential Exhibit RMP\_\_(CME-2), which
   is the revised Appaloosa I-B Resource Appendix.
- 35

#### BACKGROUND

## 36 Q. Please provide a summary of the RESC between the Company and Stadion.

37 A. The RESC between the Company and Stadion (may be collectively referred to as the 38 "Parties"), which was filed with the Commission on June 21, 2016, in Docket No. 16-035-27, and approved by the Commission on August 29, 2016,<sup>1</sup> allows Stadion to 39 40 procure, through the Company, sufficient renewable resource supply to meet 41 100 percent of the annual electric energy needs of its Utah-based data center facilities ("Utah Facilities"). The RESC includes terms consistent with Utah Code section 54-42 43 17-506 and Schedule 34, and generally incorporates the following: i) includes, where possible, the terms and conditions included in Company's standard master electric 44 45 service agreement, ii) defines the terms and conditions under which the Company will

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Order Memorializing Bench Ruling Approving Renewable Energy Service Contract with Facebook, Inc. Issued: August 29, 2016.

acquire renewable resource supply on Stadion's behalf ("Customer Renewable
Resource(s)"), iii) sets rates and charges for the electric service provided by the
Company, iv) contractually obligates Stadion to the full cost, including termination
costs, of all the Customer Renewable Resources, and v) allows additional data center
phases to be added over the term of the RESC.

# 51 Q. Please provide a summary of how the Company acquires a renewable resource 52 supply on Stadion's behalf?

53 Stadion may request the Company negotiate and execute power purchase agreements A. 54 ("PPA") for renewable energy supply and renewable energy credits ("RECs") from a 55 new Customer Renewable Resource(s). Prior to Company's execution of a PPA, the 56 RESC requires Stadion and Company enter into a separate agreement (the Resource 57 Appendix) to specify the terms and conditions applicable to Company's procurement 58 of the Customer Renewable Resource and to outline various aspects of the PPA, 59 including but not limited to, project size, commercial operation dates, point of delivery, 60 contract price and other applicable charges, termination provisions any applicable 61 condition(s) precedent provisions for the procurement of Customer Renewable 62 Resources, treatment of PPA performance guarantee passthroughs, etc.

#### 63 Q. How many Resource Appendices have Stadion and the Company entered into?

- 64 A. The Company has procured and executed for a total of
- Each of these PPAs have a corresponding Resource Appendix that further provide terms
   and conditions associated with each contract.
- 67 Q. Has the RESC been previously amended?
- 68 A. The Parties have amended the RESC on two previous occasions. The first

amendment, executed in February 2017, extended the termination date associated
with an RESC condition precedent to March 2, 2018 ("CP Termination Date), while
the second amendment, executed in February 2018, extended the CP Termination
Date to December 31, 2018. The Company provided formal notice, along with the
fully executed amendments, in an August 8, 2018, filing in Docket No. 16-035-27.

## 74 Q. What does the Third RESC Amendment seek to accomplish?

75 A. The changes are divided into two categories based on applicability. The first category 76 is applicable for both Stadion's existing facilities ("Facility Phase 1") and any potential 77 facility expansions ("Future Phase(s)") that may exist in the future. Changes in the first 78 category include clarifications of the effective date and certain aspects of the billing 79 process as well as revisions to the calculation of the Early Termination Payment. The 80 second category of changes is applicable only to any Future Phase(s) and/or any future 81 Customer Renewable Resources. While the changes in the Third RESC Amendment 82 does not expand the amount of new load or resources that Stadion may bring to the 83 Company's system, these changes include modified Company charges to address 84 changed circumstances since the parties executed the RESC in 2016. I will provide 85 additional details on these changes later in my testimony.

## 86 Q. Is the Company requesting approval of the Third RESC Amendment?

87 A. Yes.

88	SUN	IMARY OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESC FOR FACILITY PHASE 1
89		AND POTENTIAL FUTURE FACILITY PHASE(S)
90	Q.	Please summarize the basic objectives of the proposed amendments applicable to
91		all facility phases.
92	A.	The Parties mutually agreed to make modifications to the RESC with the objective of
93		clarifying several aspects of the RESC. Specifically, the Parties agreed to the following:
94		1) The effective date of the RESC is June 20, 2016;
95		2)
96		; and
97		3) The early termination payment will be calculated to ensure proper alignment
98		with costs.
99	RESC	C Effective Date
100	Q.	Why is the effective date being clarified?
101	A.	During the execution of the existing RESC, the Parties inadvertently did not populate
102		the blank spaces in the definition of Effective Date. The Third RESC Amendment
103		clarifies the effective date as June 20, 2016.
104	Billin	g Process Clarifications
105	Q.	How does the Third Amendment affect the billing process of the RESC?
106	A.	Inherent to the service the Company provides under the RESC, the Company must
107		account for the variability in Customer Renewable Resources' production, and the load
108		it serves through the Customer Renewable Resources. To account for both variability
109		issues in the monthly billings, the existing RESC requires the Company use estimates
110		related to the expected amount of production from the Customer Renewable Resources

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111		and the expected Utah Facility load. Prior to the start of each Contract Year, <sup>2</sup> the
112		renewable resource production and the Utah Facility load are estimated for billing
113		purposes for the coming Contract Year. In addition, the existing RESC also requires the
114		Company to perform a series of calculations that true-up the estimates to actual
115		production and load results during the Contract Year. The Parties now agree that it will
116		be more efficient to perform the prescribed calculations on a calendar year basis
117		(January through December), rather than a truncated 12-month period. As such, the
118		Third RESC Amendment proposes to replace all references to Contract Year with
119		Calendar Year. <sup>3</sup>
120	RESC	E Early Termination Payment Calculation
121	Q.	What are Stadion's termination rights under the RESC?
122	A.	The RESC termination provision allows Stadion to terminate the RESC by providing
123		notice to the Company. In addition, and as required by Schedule

124 34, if the RESC is terminated early, Stadion is obligated to pay for all termination costs

associated with each of the Customer Renewable Resources.

- 126 Q. What constitutes an early termination under the RESC?
- 127 A. Early termination will occur if Stadion elects to terminate the RESC before the end of
- 128 the RESC term.
- 129 Q. What is the term of the RESC?

130 A. The initial term of the RESC is 10 years ("Initial Term"), however, the term of the

131 RESC will continue for so long as Customer Renewable Resources' PPAs, entered into

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Defined in the existing RESC as a 12 consecutive month period commencing on the date Stadion's permanent meter is set and firm power and energy is first provided to the Utah Facility.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Defined in the Third RESC Amendment as "...12-month period beginning January 1 and ending December 31..."







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200 Use of System Facilities Charge and Administrative Fees

201 Q. Please provide a summary of Use of System Facilities Charge

202 In advance of describing Use of System Facilities Charge, it is important to recognize A. 203 that under the RESC, Stadion, through the Company, will procure Customer Renewable 204 Resources to meet 100 percent of its load demand. However, while the Company fully 205 expects these Customer Renewable Resources to match Stadion's usage on an annual 206 basis, there will be periods during the year when Station's load and the output from 207 these Customer Renewable Resources will not match due to variations between the 208 generation output and Utah Facilities' load. Essentially, to effectuate the electric service 209 required by Stadion, the Company will provide a mixture of system services, including 210 transmission, firming and shaping, and balancing service<sup>4</sup> ("System Services").

211 The Use of System Facilities Charge and the Administrative Fees aim to recover 212 costs incurred by the Company to render System Services to Stadion's Utah Facilities.

#### 213 Q. What is the current Use of System Facilities Charge?

A. The negotiated Use of System Facilities Charge in the RESC was per kilowatt (kW) month, however, the RESC allows escalation of the Use of System Facilities Charge commensurate to the average percentage change in rates for all Utah retail tariff customers, as a result, the current Use of System Facilities Charge is per kW month ("Original USFC").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Particularly important during the instances the Company utilizes its system resources to firm and shape the variability on renewable supply to smooth out the differences between the instantaneous Customer Renewable Resources' output and the instantaneous Utah Facilities load.

219	Q.	How does the proposed Third RESC Amendment alter the Use of System Facilities
220		Charge?

221 The new Use of System Facilities Charge provision contemplated in the Third RESC A. 222 Amendment creates a tiered approached to the applicability of the Use of System 223 Facilities Charge, specifies the applicability of the Original USFC, and establishes a new Use of System Facilities Charge ("Second Tier USFC"). The Third RESC 224 225 Amendment delineates Stadion's on-peak demand by limiting the applicability of the 226 Original USFC to the first kW and establishes that for any on-peak demand in 227 excess of the kW of for all load at any new facilities, the Second Tier USFC would be applicable. 228

- 229 Q. What is the Second Tier USFC rate?
- A. The negotiated Second Tier USFC rate is per kW month,
- 231

232

233

Q.

A. Yes, both the Original and Second Tier USFC will be adjusted over time. Specifically, the Original USFC adjusts by the average percent change in rates for all Utah retail tariff customers concurrently with general rate case and major plant addition cases. The Second Tier USFC rate will be adjusted by the average percent change in Utah Schedule 9 retail tariff rates (excluding energy charges), concurrently with general rate case and major plant addition cases.

Does the Use of Facilities Charge change over the term of the RESC?

## 240 Q. Will there be other adjustments to the Use of System Facilities Charge?

A. Yes, The Third RESC Amendment stipulates that the Company will re-evaluate the

242		Use of System Facilities Charge if a Future Resource deviates from single-axis tracking
243		solar or wind turbines (with or without storage), or if the Company anticipates a Future
244		Resource will have a material impact on its system. In the event Company requires
245		adjustments to the Use of System Facilities Charge, the adjustment has to be agreed
246		upon by both Parties or approved by the Commission.
247	Q.	How will the Original USFC and Second Tier USFC rates be billed?
248	A.	The Use of System Facilities Charges will be billed as separate line items, that is, for
249		each billing period, the Company will utilize the billing period's on-demand peaks, as
250		delineated by the on-demand peak tier described above and multiply it by the
251		corresponding dollar-per-kW Use of System Facilities Charge.
252	Q.	What is the objective of the additional Administrative Fee associated with all
253		Future Resources and how much is it?
254	A.	To ensure that all the Company's costs associated with the service provided under the
255		RESC, and all other additional administrative costs, are fully reimbursed by Stadion,
256		the Parties agreed to include an additional negotiated administrative fee of per
257		megawatt-hour (MWh) for all actual renewable supply delivered to the Utah Facilities
258		from the Future Resources.
259	Capac	city Contribution and the Additional Capacity Charge
260	Q.	Can you please describe in general terms what is capacity contribution?
261	A.	Capacity contribution is a measure of a resource's ability to reliably meet demand
262		("Capacity Contribution"). This is relevant to the Company's resource planning
263		activities, which are intended to ensure sufficient resources are available to meet load
264		obligations during in each hour of the year under a range of conditions, accounting for

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265		a range of potential load, unplanned generator outages, hydro conditions, and variable
266		energy resource output.
267	Q.	Please comment why Capacity Contribution is relevant to the RESC.
268	A.	Stadion's electric service agreement for its Utah Facilities allows Stadion to add
269		incremental load and the RESC allows Stadion to bring new renewable resources to
270		help serve that load. Through the Third RESC Amendment, specifically inclusion of
271		Capacity Contribution, the Company seeks better alignment between the Capacity
272		Contribution of future Customer Renewable Resources and Stadion's load to ensure
273		that the electric service provided to the Utah Facilities does not increase or decrease
274		system reliability.
275	Q.	Will Capacity Contribution be applicable to all Customer Renewable Resources?
276	A.	No, as part of the negotiated provisions of the Third RESC Amendment,
277		
278		, which is attached as
279		Confidential Exhibit RMP_(CME-2) and which has been revised for consistency with
280		the Third RESC Amendment, and to all other Customer Renewable Resources procured
281		by the Company, on behalf of Stadion,
282		·
283	Q.	Did the Parties negotiate any other Future Resources Capacity Contribution
284		limitations?
285	A.	Yes, unless Parties mutually agree to the contrary, the Third RESC Amendment limits
286		the total Capacity Contribution that can be allocated to all Future Resources, including
287		Appaloosa I-B, to not exceed kW.

- 288 Q. What happens after the Capacity Contribution limitation is met?
- A. The parties will need to negotiate terms for any additional capacity needs beyond thislimit.

#### 291 Q. How will the Capacity Contribution be determined for each Future Resource?

292 Capacity Contribution for each Future Resource will be based upon a reasonably A. 293 estimated capacity contribution value for a comparable resource as utilized in the 294 Company's most recently Commission-approved applicable Utah resource planning or 295 tariff filing, adjusted as appropriate for Transmission Line Losses and reserve 296 requirements of three percent (3%). The assessment compares a resource's hourly 297 generation profile to the risk of loss of load events in each hour. The loss of load risk 298 is calculated from a large number of stochastic studies where a resource portfolio is 299 stressed with varying inputs, including load, hydro conditions, and thermal forced 300 outages. A resource that was 100 percent available in all hours where the loss of load risk was greater than zero would receive a 100 percent capacity contribution. Resources 301 302 that are only available during some hours or only partially available receive partial 303 credit, as the method provides credit for the proportion of the loss of load risk that can 304 be covered by a resource's expected output.

305 Q. What is the Capacity Contribution of Appaloosa I-B?

306 A. The expected Capacity Contribution for Appaloosa I-B was calculated to be

307The Company estimated the Capacity Contribution for Appaloosa I-B using the308Capacity Factor Approximation Methodology ("CF Method") and the inputs produced

309		as part of its 2019 IRP, <sup>5</sup> which was the most current information available at the time
310		the Appaloosa I-B PPA was executed.
311	Q.	Please summarize the reason why Additional Capacity Charge was added to the
312		Third RESC Amendment.
313	A.	As discussed above, Capacity Contribution as it relates to the RESC, is an important
314		aspect of the Company's power system planning as it ensures that adequate renewable
315		generation capacity exists to meet Stadion's Utah Facilities electricity demand.
316		
317		
318		. This element is important to addressing
319		the shifts in resource types that the region and the Company are experiencing, and
320		which put more pressure on capacity needs going forward.
321	Q.	How much is the Additional Capacity Charge?
322	A.	The negotiated Additional Capacity Charge is
323	Q.	Please summarize how the Additional Capacity Charge was developed.
324	A.	The Additional Capacity Charge was developed as a proxy for the theoretical costs
325		associated with generation from a natural gas peaking facility, the Company utilized
326		the following costs:
327		•
328		•

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> PacifiCorp's 2019 IRP. Volume II. Appendix N: Capacity Contribution Study. Available online at: https://www.pacificorp.com/content/dam/pcorp/documents/en/pacificorp/energy/integrated-resourceplan/2019 IRP Volume II Appendices M-R.pdf

#### 329

#### 330 Q. How will the Additional Capacity Charge be calculated and billed?

331 To identify any Capacity Contribution deficiencies, the Company will assess, on a Α. monthly basis, the positive variance ("Additional Demand") between the Capacity 332 Contribution associated with the applicable Customer Renewable Resources and future 333 334 Utah Facilities' on-peak demand; the positive difference indicates that for that billing 335 period, the allocated Capacity Contribution were insufficient to meet the Utah 336 Facilities' on-peak demand, and thus the Additional Capacity Charge will apply. To 337 perform this assessment, the Company will deduct (a) the sum in kW of (i) the 338 cumulative Capacity Contribution associated with the applicable Customer Renewable 339 Resources, plus (ii) any prior billings period Additional Demand, from (b) the Utah 340 Facilities' on-peak demand ("On-Peak Demand"). Provided however, similarly to the 341 tiered approached described in the Use of System Facilities Charge section of the 342 testimony, the Company will calculate On-Peak Demand by summing (x) all on-peak 343 kW measured at the Phase 1 Facilities' meter, and (y) all demand in excess of on-peak demand measured any other meters at the Utah Facilities. 344

After completing the analysis and determining any Capacity Contribution deficiencies, the Company would include Additional Demand Charges to Stadion's invoice for an amount equal to the product of Additional Demand Charge and Additional Demand.

## 349 Q. Will the Additional Demand Charge change throughout the term of the RESC?

350 A. Yes, the Additional Demand Charge will be adjusted from time to time by the average

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- percentage change in rates for all Utah retail tariff customers concurrently with general
   rate case changes and major plant addition cases that are filed and approved after the
   effective date of the Third RESC Amendment.
- 354 Transmission Line Loss

## 355 Q. Please define Transmission Line Loss.

A. Transmission of electricity, from generating facilities to end-user's delivery meters, is an inefficient process; for example, delivering 100 MWh of electricity to a customer's delivery point will require more than 100 MWh be put into the transmission system. These losses are inevitable and depend on a variety of factors, including the physical properties of transmission facilities and the distance the electricity must travel. The electricity quantity that is lost during the transmission and distribution of electricity across the Company's system is referred to as transmission line loss.

#### 363 Q. How does the Company estimate Transmission Line Loss factor?

364 A. In general, the Company calculated the current transmission loss factor by utilizing 365 information from its 2021 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Form 1 – Electric 366 Utility Annual Report. Simplistically, the mechanics of the calculations evaluates the 367 variance between the total system-connected energy sources, including energy imports, 368 and the disposition of that energy to the Company's transmission and retail customers, 369 including energy exports. The result of this analysis, among other assumptions and 370 variables, represents the unaccounted-for energy, which in turn becomes the 371 Transmission Line Loss factor.

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372 Q. How often does the Company reevaluates the Transmission Line Loss factor and
373 where does the Company report its Transmission Line Loss factor and
374 calculations?

A. The Company reassesses its Transmission Line Loss factor upon major transmission
upgrades or investments, and/or in the event of a major rate case. The results and
calculations are then posted on PacifiCorp's Transmission's Open Access Transmission
Tariff.

#### 379 Q. How will Transmission Line Loss affect provisions in the RESC.

380 A. Prior to each calendar year, the RESC requires the Company to estimate the expected 381 monthly net output to be received by Company from each of the Customer Renewable 382 Resources. Because there are multiple Customer Renewable Resources, the Company 383 calculates the monthly-average renewable supply, annually, by aggregating the 384 corresponding contracted annual expected energy associated with each of the Customer 385 Renewable Resources' PPAs, then divides this summation by twelve ("Estimated 386 Renewable Supply"). However, due to Transmission Line Losses as described above, 387 the amount of renewable supply that its ultimately delivered to the Utah Facilities will 388 be lower than what the Company receives from the Customer Renewable Resources. 389 While this occurrence does not impact Stadion from an electric service perspective, it 390 does create a situation where the Company is actually making up for the Transmission 391 Line Losses associated with the electric service it provides to the Utah Facilities from 392 the Customer Renewable Resources. The Third RESC Amendment attempts to 393 diminish this problem by incorporating Transmission Line Losses to the calculation of 394 Estimated Renewable Supply, thus reducing the expected energy from Future

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Resources' annual expected energy, and ensuring Stadion procures sufficient energyfrom Future Resources.

397 As mentioned earlier, the contract price associated with each of the Customer 398 Renewable Resources are restated in each corresponding Resource Appendix, thus, 399 Stadion is fully aware of its renewable supply costs, however, for billing purposes, the 400 RESC requires the Company to calculate a weighted-average supply cost ("Renewable 401 Supply Charge"). Estimated Renewable Supply is an integral part of calculating the 402 Renewable Supply Charge, as such, the application of Transmission Line Loss (which 403 reduces annual expected energy) will cause an overall increase to the Renewable Supply Charge. 404

405 Lastly, the Company bills Stadion utilizing estimated figures (i.e., Estimated 406 Renewal Supply, Renewable Supply Charge) as a result, the Company performs several 407 true-up adjustments at the end of each calendar year, one of which is affected by the 408 introduction of Transmission Line Loss. At the end of each calendar year, the Company 409 calculates the actual dollar-per-MWh cost of supply ("Actual Supply Cost") by 410 evaluating the actual renewable supply received from each Customer Renewable 411 Resources and the corresponding actual cost of renewable supply. As such, during its 412 evaluation, the Company will now reduce the amount of supply from all Future 413 Resources (including Appaloosa I-B) by the Transmission Line Losses.

414

#### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

415 Q. What is your recommendation for the Commission?

416 A. I recommend the Commission approve the Third RESC Amendment as discussed in
417 my testimony and presented in Confidential Exhibit RMP\_(CME-1).

- 418 Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?
- 419 A. Yes.