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- BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH -

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Rocky Mountain Power's) DOCKET NO. 23-035-15
Application for Authority)
to Revise Tariff Schedule)
98, Renewable Energy)
Credits Balancing Account,)
)
-----)

VIRTUAL HEARING

Taken via Google Meet
On Thursday, May 18, 2023
At 11:00 a.m. MT

Reported by: Brooke Simms, RPR, CCR, CSR

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A P P E A R A N C E S

The Public Service Commission:

Presiding Officer Michael Hammer

For Division of Public Utilities:

Patrick Grecu

Patricia Schmid

UTAH ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

For Rocky Mountain Power:

Zachary Rogala

PACIFICORP

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

2 -o0o-

3 PRESIDING OFFICER: Well, we should all be
4 here for the -- pardon me -- hearing -- virtual hearing
5 noticed on interim rates in the Docket Number
6 23-035-15. That's Rocky Mountain Power's Application
7 for Authority to Revise Tariff Schedule 98, Renewable
8 Energy Credits Balancing Account.

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

13 MR. ROGALA: Thank you, Your Honor. Good
14 morning, everyone. Zachary Rogala for the Company.
15 Happy to be here.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER: Welcome. Ms. Schmid?

17 MS. SCHMID: Thank you. Patricia E. Schmid
18 and Patrick Grecu of the Utah Attorney General's
19 Office. We are assistant attorney generals for the
20 Division. Thank you.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER: Welcome. And are there
22 any other parties that would like to enter an
23 appearance?

24 MS. SCHMID: I have communicated with the
25 Office and with UAE, and neither is planning on

1 participating today.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you, Ms. Schmid.

3 Okay. Is there anything before we ask

4 Mr. Rogala to call his first witness?

5 All right. Mr. Rogala, I'll ask you to do so.

6 Thanks.

7 MR. ROGALA: Yeah. Thank -- thank you, Your
8 Honor. We're here today requesting interim approval of
9 the Company's annual Schedule 98 REC balancing account
10 adjustment. This year's adjustment results in a
11 pass-through of an overall \$1.1 million refund to Utah
12 customers.

13 But before I call our chief witness, with the
14 Commission's permission, I would like to move for
15 admission of our application and accompanying exhibits.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER: They're admitted.

17 MR. ROGALA: All right. Thank you.

18 Your Honor, I'd like to call our witness
19 Shelley McCoy today. Also on the call are Company
20 witnesses Robert Meredith and Marcelina Hundis, but
21 Shelley McCoy will be our principal witness. So --

22 PRESIDING OFFICER: I'll go ahead and swear
23 her then.

24 MR. ROGALA: Yep. Thank you.

25 PRESIDING OFFICER: Ms. McCoy, do you swear to

1 tell the truth?

2 THE WITNESS: I do.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

4 Go ahead.

5 MR. ROGALA: Thank you, Your Honor.

6 SHELLEY MCCOY

7 was sworn and testified as follows:

8 DIRECT EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. ROGALA:

10 Q. Ms. McCoy, can you please state and spell your
11 name for the record, please.

12 A. Yes. Shelley E. McCoy. Shelley is
13 S-h-e-l-l-e-y. McCoy, M-c-C-o-y.

14 Q. And can you state for the record who you're
15 employed by and what's your business record -- or your
16 business address? Sorry.

17 A. Yes. I'm employed by PacifiCorp doing
18 business with Rocky Mountain Power, and my business
19 address is 825 Northeast Multnomah, Suite 2000,
20 Portland, Oregon 97232.

21 Q. Great. And what's your position with the
22 Company?

23 A. I am the director of revenue requirement.

24 Q. And what's your educational and professional
25 experience for this role?

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1 A. So I have a bachelor's of science degree in
2 accounting. I've taken numerous regulatory leadership
3 conferences -- trainings and conferences, and my
4 responsibilities are overseeing the calculation of the
5 revenue requirement, reporting regulatory earnings, and
6 overseeing the jurisdictional allocation for reporting
7 in the six states in which we serve.

8 Q. Thank you. And in this position, have you had
9 the opportunity to review the Company's application and
10 relevant exhibits in this proceeding?

11 A. Yes, I have.

12 Q. And have you prepared a statement regarding
13 your review of those materials?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Can you please provide that for the
16 Commission?

17 A. Definitely. Good morning. On March 15th,
18 2023, Rocky Mountain Power filed its annual renewable
19 energy credit balancing account, or RBA, seeking to
20 refund a deferral balance to Utah customers through
21 Schedule 98 of approximately \$1.1 million over a
22 one-year period beginning June 1st, 2023.

23 The RBA deferral is calculated as the
24 difference between actual REC revenue realized by the
25 Company and the amount in rates during the deferral

1 period or calendar year 2022. The refund amount also
2 includes a net carrying charge during the 2022 deferral
3 period and the interim period of January 1st, 2023,
4 through May 31st, 2023, of approximately \$92,000. The
5 deferral balance was calculated in a manner consistent
6 with previous RBA filings.

7 Ms. Hundis, Mr. Meredith, and myself filed
8 testimony in support of the Company's application,
9 describing the calculations. My testimony describes
10 the calculation of the deferral amounts and the amount
11 of REC revenue allocated to Utah rate payers.

12 Ms. Hundis's testimony presents detailed accounting of
13 total Company REC revenue for calendar year 2022, and
14 Mr. Meredith's testimony addresses the allocation of
15 the RBA surcharge among the customer classes and the
16 resulting tariff Schedule 98 rates in this case.

17 On April 26th, 2023, the Division of Public
18 Utilities filed comments in support of the proposed
19 rate change becoming effective on an interim basis on
20 June 1st, 2023, to name their final audit of the REC
21 revenues contained in this filing. No other party
22 filed comments in this phase of the proceeding.

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

1 on an interim basis beginning June 1st, 2023.

2 Thank you.

3 Q. Great. Thank you, Ms. McCoy.

4 MR. ROGALA: And, Your Honor, Rocky Mountain
5 Power tenders this witness for cross-examination and
6 questions from the hearing officer.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER: Just one. And I think
8 this is trivial because you just stated the new
9 tariffs -- tariff Schedule 98 rates were proposed to be
10 effective June 1st, 2023, and it says so on page 6 of
11 the application. But we noticed on page 5 it proposes
12 they become effective on June 1st, 2022. I think it's
13 obviously a typo, but I just wanted to confirm on the
14 record that I'm not missing something.

15 THE WITNESS: That is correct, yes. We are
16 requesting they become effective June 1st, 2023.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay. Ms. Schmid any
18 questions?

19 MS. SCHMID: No questions. Thank you.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER: Any other witnesses,
21 Mr. Rogala?

22 MR. ROGALA: No, Your Honor. We rest our
23 case.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you, Ms. McCoy.

25 Ms. Schmid.

1 MS. SCHMID: Thank you.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER: Are you ready to call your
3 first witness?

4 MS. SCHMID: I am. The Division would like to
5 call Justin Christensen as its witness. May he please
6 been sworn?

7 PRESIDING OFFICER: Mr. Christensen, do you
8 swear to tell the truth?

9 THE WITNESS: I do.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

11 JUSTIN CHRISTENSEN

12 was sworn and testified as follows:

13 DIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MS. SCHMID:

15 Q. Good morning. Could you please state and
16 spell your full name for the record.

17 A. Yes. It's Justin Christensen. That's Justin,
18 J-u-s-t-i-n, Christensen, C-h-r-i-s-t-e-n-s-e-n.

19 Q. By whom are you employed, and what is your
20 title?

21 A. I'm employed with the Division of Public
22 Utilities as a utility analyst.

23 Q. How long have you been employed by the
24 Division?

25 A. I've been with the Division since 2013.

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1 Q. Could you please give your business address?

2 A. Yes. It's 160 East 300 South, Salt Lake City,
3 Utah 84114.

4 Q. On the fourth floor?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Could you please briefly describe your
7 educational experience?

8 A. Yes. I have a bachelor's degree in
9 mathematics, and I have a MBA with an emphasis in
10 accounting.

11 Q. And from what institutions were you awarded
12 those degrees?

13 A. With the bachelor's degree, I got it from the
14 University of Utah in 2008 and the MBA from the
15 University of Phoenix in 2009.

16 Q. Have you participated in this docket on behalf
17 of the Division?

18 A. Are you referring to the current one or
19 previous ones?

20 Q. This current docket, yes.

21 A. Yes, I have.

22 Q. Is this the first RBA audit that you have
23 participated in?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Have you participated in other audits on

1 behalf of the Division?

2 A. Yes. I have participated in numerous audits
3 over the years, including the Blue Sky, the Lifeline
4 Program, and the Demand-Side Management.

5 Q. With respect to this docket, have you reviewed
6 the application, testimonies, and exhibits filed by the
7 Company?

8 A. I have.

9 Q. Did you prepare or cause to be prepared and
10 filed the Division's preliminary recommendation dated
11 April 26th?

12 A. I have.

13 Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to that
14 preliminary recommendation?

15 A. I do not.

16 Q. Do you adopt that preliminary recommendation
17 as part of your testimony here today?

18 A. I do.

19 MS. SCHMID: The Division would like to move
20 for the admission of its preliminary recommendation
21 dated April 26th.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER: It's admitted. Thank you.

23 MS. SCHMID: Thank you.

24 Q. (BY MS. SCHMID) Mr. Christensen, do you have
25 a summary to present?

1 A. I do.

2 Q. Please proceed.

3 A. Okay. Good morning, everybody. As the
4 Company has stated, Schedule 98 tracks the difference
5 between renewable energy credits, or REC revenues,
6 included in rates and actual REC revenues collected
7 from the sale of RECs by the Company. The variances
8 between REC revenues included in rates and actual REC
9 revenues collected are identified and deferred each
10 month for one calendar year.

11 Annually, on March 15th, a renewable energy
12 credits balancing account, or RBA, application is filed
13 to present the variances, including applicable carrying
14 charges with a hundred percentage true-up for the
15 difference between the amounts in rates and actual
16 sales occurring through Schedule 98, if prudent.

17 The collection or credit, under Schedule 98,
18 will be made annually effective June 1st. The
19 application under this docket is the 11th deferred RBA
20 rate adjustment.

21 The Company proposes to refund 1.1 million
22 over one year from June 1st, 2023, through May 31st,
23 2024. This is a net increase of 369,000 or
24 .02 percent. The Company also proposes to allocate the
25 2023 RBA deferral revenue across customer classes based

1 on the cost of service factor ten.

2 This docket marks the fourth year of the
3 inclusion of Kennecott contract revenue, which
4 represents the revenue the Company received from the
5 non-generation and REC supply agreement between
6 Kennecott Utah Copper LLC and PacifiCorp dated
7 April 8th, 2019.

8 The Commission's standard for evaluating
9 whether to approve an interim rate -- an interim rate
10 request in an energy balancing account application is
11 found in Utah Code Section 54-7-13.5, which states that
12 the Company must make an accessible first look showing
13 that the proposed interim rate appears consistent with
14 prior years' filings and the interim rate requested is
15 more likely to reflect actual costs than the current
16 rates. The Division adopts this standard to evaluate
17 Rocky Mountain Power's interim rate request in this
18 docket.

19 In summary, the Division has performed a
20 preliminary review of the filing and corresponding
21 Commission orders and found that, in general, the
22 Company has complied with the Commission's orders and
23 meets statutory standards for such applications. The
24 proposed interim rate is more likely to reflect actual
25 costs than the current rates.

1 The Division recommends the Commission to
2 approve the chart -- the change to Schedule 98 as filed
3 and approve the rate increase on an interim basis until
4 the Division can complete a final audit by July 17th,
5 2023, of the REC revenues contained in this filing.

6 MS. SCHMID: Mr. Christensen is now available
7 for cross-examination questions and questions from the
8 presiding officer.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER: Mr. Rogala?

10 MR. ROGALA: No questions from me, Your Honor.
11 Great summary. Thank you.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER: And I have none. Thank
13 you, Mr. Christensen.

14 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER: No other witnesses,
16 Ms. Schmid?

17 MS. SCHMID: No other witnesses.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER: All right. Is there
19 anything else before we adjourn?

20 MS. SCHMID: Nothing further from the
21 Division.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you everyone for
23 your participation. Have a wonderful afternoon. We're
24 adjourned.

25 (This hearing was concluded at 11:15 a.m. MT.)

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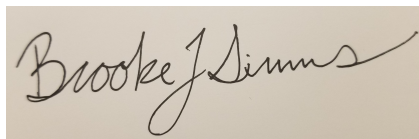
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF UTAH)
)
COUNTY OF UTAH)

I, BROOKE SIMMS, a State Certified Court Reporter and Registered Professional Reporter, hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place set forth in the caption hereof; that the proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter my notes were transcribed through computer-aided transcription; and the foregoing transcript constitutes a full, true, and accurate record of such oral proceedings had, and of the whole thereof.

I have subscribed my name on this 30th day of May, 2023.



Brooke Simms, RPR, CCR, CSR

[02 - awarded]

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[zachary - zachary]

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Utah Rules of Civil Procedure
Part V. Depositions and Discovery
Rule 30

(E) Submission to Witness; Changes; Signing.

Within 28 days after being notified by the officer that the transcript or recording is available, a witness may sign a statement of changes to the form or substance of the transcript or recording and the reasons for the changes. The officer shall append any changes timely made by the witness.

DISCLAIMER: THE FOREGOING CIVIL PROCEDURE RULES
ARE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.
THE ABOVE RULES ARE CURRENT AS OF APRIL 1,
2019. PLEASE REFER TO THE APPLICABLE STATE RULES
OF CIVIL PROCEDURE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

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COMPANY CERTIFICATE AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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