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- BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH -

-o0o-

Application of Rocky)
Mountain Power for Authority)
to Increase its Retail)
Electric Utility Service)
Rates in Utah and for)
Approval of its Proposed)
Electric Service Schedules)
and Electric Service)
Regulations)
) DOCKET NO. 24-035-04
)
_____)

Public Hearing
Taken via Google Meet on Monday, March 4, 2024
At 9:02 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 The Division of Public Utilities:

Patrick Grecu
UTAH ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

For Rocky Mountain Power:

Ajay Kumar
PACIFICORP

For Utah Association of Energy Users:

Phillip Russell
JAMES DODGE RUSSELL & STEPHENS P.C.

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I N D E X

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SHELLEY E. MCCOY

Direct Examination By Mr. Kumar

5

GARY SMITH

Direct Examination By Mr. Grecu

9

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

2 -o0o-

3 PRESIDING OFFICER: Welcome. We are here for
4 the hearing noticed in the Application of Rocky Mountain
5 Power for Authority to Increase its Electric Utility
6 Service Rates in Utah and for Approval of its Proposed
7 Electric Service Schedules and Electric Service
8 Regulations. That's Docket Number 24-035-04.

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

13 MR. KUMAR: Thank you. Appearing on behalf of
14 Rocky Mountain Power is Ajay Kumar. Also representing
15 Rocky Mountain Power but not attending today is
16 Ms. Carla Scarsella.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER: All right. And for the
18 Division of Public Utilities?

19 MR. GRECU: Patrick Grecu, Assistant Attorney
20 General, representing the Division of Public Utilities.
21 Our -- the Division's witness today will be Gary Smith.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER: And any other parties
23 which should make an appearance?

24 MR. RUSSELL: Sure. I will. This is Phillip
25 Russell on behalf of the Utah Association of Energy

1 Users.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER: You don't intend to
3 present a witness, do you Mr. Russell?

4 MR. RUSSELL: I do not. Just to observe.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER: All right. Then we'll go
6 to you, Mr. Kumar. Would you like to call your first
7 witness?

8 MR. KUMAR: Yes. Rocky Mountain Power would
9 like to call Ms. Shelley McCoy.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER: Ms. McCoy, do you swear to
11 tell the truth?

12 MS. McCOY: I do.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER: Go ahead.

14 SHELLEY E. MCCOY

15 was sworn and testified as follows:

16 DIRECT EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. KUMAR:

18 Q. Ms. McCoy, could you please state and spell
19 your name for the record.

20 A. Yes. Shelley, S-h-e-l-l-e-y E. McCoy,
21 M-c-C-o-y.

22 Q. And how are you employed by Rocky Mountain
23 Power?

24 A. I am the director of revenue requirement.

25 Q. And have you prepared and filed direct

1 testimony for this phase of the proceeding?

2 A. Yes, I have.

3 Q. And do you have any changes or corrections to
4 that prefiled testimony?

5 A. No.

6 Q. If I were to ask you the same questions today
7 in that testimony, would you give the same answers?

8 A. Yes, I would.

9 MR. KUMAR: Your Honor, I would like to move
10 for the admission of Ms. McCoy's testimony.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER: It's admitted.

12 (RMP's prefiled testimony admitted into
13 evidence.)

14 Q. (BY MR. KUMAR) Ms. McCoy, have you prepared a
15 summary for us today?

16 A. Yes, I have.

17 Q. Could you please provide that summary?

18 A. Yes. Good morning. Rocky Mountain Power is
19 preparing to file a general rate case on approximately
20 April 30th, 2024, for new rates to be effective on or
21 around January 1st, 2025. Pursuant to Utah
22 administrative code, the Company is requesting the
23 Commission approve the use of a forecast test period for
24 the 12-month period ending December 31st, 2025, and
25 utilize a 13-month average rate. I will --

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(Background noise.)

PRESIDING OFFICER: Pause one second.

Someone's providing a lot of audio on the screen.

Mr. Nass, Fred, I think maybe you need to mute.

Okay. I hope that improves things. I'm
sorry. Go ahead.

A. I will refer to this as the 2025 proposed test
period. The Division of Public Utilities' witness,
Mr. Smith, filed testimony supporting the Company's
recommendation, and no other party has opposed.

As stated in the application, the Company
respectfully requests an order approving the test period
by March 11th, 2024, to facilitate the Company's ability
to file required information 30 days in advance of the
general rate case in accordance with the Commission
order approving a waiver of significant energy resource
decision.

My testimony explains why the 2025 proposed
test period is the only test period that properly
reflects the cost of providing service during the same
period for which the rates will be in effect.

Specifically, the Company has identified three major
drivers that necessitate the need for its general rate
case. Significant investment in 2024 and 2025 for new
wind and transmission assets, alignment of net power

1 costs and production tax credits, and recovery of cost
2 pressures related to third party liability insurance.

3 Due to the in-service dates of these new major
4 capital investments, use of any test period other than
5 the Company's 2025 proposed test period will not provide
6 the Company the opportunity to recover costs for
7 investments that will be producing Utah customer
8 benefits. Additionally, the 2025 proposed test period
9 is the only test period that allows for a recovery of
10 the third party liability insurance premiums for the
11 policy to be -- policy expected to be in effect during
12 the same period as customer rates.

13 Lastly, as described in my testimony, a test
14 period determination prior to the filing of a general
15 rate case will simplify the filing process and allow
16 parties to more effectively focus their resources on the
17 relevant aspects of the case.

18 I recommend that, based on the reasons above,
19 the Commission issue an order by March 11th, 2024,
20 approving the Company's 2025 proposed test period.
21 Thank you.

22 MR. KUMAR: Thank you, Ms. McCoy.

23 I'd like to make Ms. McCoy available for
24 cross-examination and any questions from the Bench.

25 PRESIDING OFFICER: Mr. Grecu?

1 MR. GRECU: No questions.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER: Mr. Russell?

3 MR. RUSSELL: No questions. Thank you.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER: And I have none. Thank
5 you, Ms. McCoy.

6 Do you have any other witnesses, Mr. Kumar?

7 MR. KUMAR: We do not.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER: All right. Then we will
9 turn to Mr. Grecu.

10 MR. GRECU: Thank you. The Division calls
11 Gary Smith.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER: Mr. Smith, do you swear to
13 tell the truth.

14 MR. SMITH: Yes.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER: Please go ahead.

16 GARY SMITH

17 was sworn and testified as follows:

18 DIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. GRECU:

20 Q. Mr. Smith, could you please state and spell
21 your name for the record.

22 A. My name is Gary, G-a-r-y, Smith, S-m-i-t-h.

23 Q. And by whom are you employed, and what is your
24 position?

25 A. I'm employed by the Division of Public

1 Utilities as a utility technical consultant.

2 Q. And what is your business address?

3 A. It is 160 East 300 South, Salt Lake City, Utah
4 84111.

5 Q. And have you participated in this docket on
6 behalf of the Division?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And regarding that participation, could you
9 describe your activities?

10 A. I reviewed the application or request,
11 specifically Shelley E. McCoy's testimony. The Division
12 asked for additional information which it received from
13 the Company. We reviewed that and provided direct
14 testimony.

15 Q. And on behalf of the Division, did you prepare
16 and cause to be filed your direct testimony, which was
17 filed on February 23rd, 2024?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And do you have any changes or corrections to
20 that filing?

21 A. No.

22 Q. And do you adopt the contents of that filing
23 as part of your testimony today?

24 A. Yes, I do.

25 Q. And based on your review, would approval of

1 the Company's request or approval of the Company's
2 proposed test period be in the public interest?

3 A. Yes, we believe it would.

4 MR. GRECU: At this point I'd like to move to
5 admit the direct testimony of Gary Smith, which was
6 filed on February 23rd, 2024.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER: It's admitted.

8 MR. GRECU: Thank you.

9 (DPU's prefiled testimony admitted into
10 evidence.)

11 Q. (BY MR. GRECU) Mr. Smith, do you have a
12 summary to share today?

13 A. I do.

14 Q. Please proceed.

15 A. Thank you. Good morning and thank you for the
16 opportunity to address Rocky Mountain Power, or the
17 Company's, notice of intent to file a general rate case
18 and request for approval of a test period filed with the
19 Commission on January 24th, 2024.

20 The Company provided notice that it intends to
21 file a general rate case on or about April 30th, 2024,
22 or 2024 rate case. In advance of the 2024 rate case
23 application filing, pursuant to Utah Administrative Code
24 R746-700-10.B, the Company requests the Commission
25 approved -- approve the test period it proposes to use.

1 Establishing the test period in advance of the 2024 rate
2 case filing is permissible and allows the Company to
3 identify which generation resources will be included in
4 the test period for its expected rate case application.

5 The Company requests approval of a future test
6 period, or 2025 test period, using the 12 months ending
7 December 31st, 2025, with a 13-month average rate base.
8 The Company believes that the 2025 test period is the
9 only test period that allows the Company the opportunity
10 to recover most of its cost increases without the need
11 for multiple general rate cases or extensive use of
12 other ratemaking mechanisms. The Company asserts that
13 the 2025 test period will not disadvantage any party or
14 presume an outcome to any proposed adjustments in the
15 2024 rate case proceeding.

16 In support of its proposed test period, the
17 Company filed the direct testimony of Shelley E. McCoy.
18 Ms. McCoy's testimony was similar in format and content
19 to the Company's test period requests in previous
20 dockets. As the Company did not include any separate
21 supporting exhibits with the direct -- with its direct
22 testimony, the Division sought additional information
23 from the Company requiring its test period.

24 After reviewing the Company's request, the
25 direct testimony of Ms. McCoy, the Company's response to

1 the Division request for additional information,
2 applicable statutes and rules and related dockets, the
3 Division recommends approval of the Company's request
4 for the 2025 test period. The 2025 test period will
5 align the Company's expected cost increases with the
6 anticipated rate effective period with new rates
7 effective January 1st, 2025.

8 This recommendation is based on the Company's
9 stated intent to file its general rate case on or around
10 April 30th, 2024. The Division also recommends that the
11 Company include exhibits providing information
12 supporting its proposed test period as directed in Utah
13 Administrative Code R746-700-10.B.1 in future requests
14 for test period approval.

15 The Division reserves the opportunity to
16 review and recommend any adjustments during its analysis
17 of the expected 2024 rate case filing.

18 This concludes my summary.

19 MR. GRECU: Thank you. The witness is now
20 available for cross-examination and questions from the
21 hearing officer.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER: Mr. Kumar?

23 MR. KUMAR: No questions, Your Honor.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER: Mr. Russell?

25 MR. RUSSELL: No questions. Thank you.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: All right. And,
Mr. Russell, you have no witness?

MR. RUSSELL: Correct.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Is there anything else
before we adjourn from any party?

All right, everyone. Thank you very much. I
hope you have a wonderful morning. We're adjourned.

(This hearing was concluded at
9:15 a.m. MT.)

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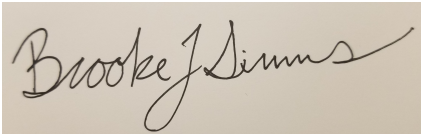
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF UTAH)
)
COUNTY OF UTAH)

I, BROOKE SIMMS, an Idaho Certified Shorthand Reporter, Utah 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 17th day of March, 2024.



Brooke Simms, RPR, CCR, CSR
Idaho CSR No. 1174
Utah CCR No. 12335391-780

[& - behalf]

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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.

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VERITEXT LEGAL SOLUTIONS

COMPANY CERTIFICATE AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Veritext Legal Solutions represents that the foregoing transcript is a true, correct and complete transcript of the colloquies, questions and answers as submitted by the court reporter. Veritext Legal Solutions further represents that the attached exhibits, if any, are true, correct and complete documents as submitted by the court reporter and/or attorneys in relation to this deposition and that the documents were processed in accordance with our litigation support and production standards.

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