



January 6, 2010

## VIA OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Utah Public Service Commission Heber M. Wells Building, Fourth Floor 160 East 300 South Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Attn: Julie Orchard

**Commission Secretary** 

RE: MidAmerican Energy Holding Company Transaction Commitment 34

Docket No. 05-035-54

Pursuant to Docket No. 05-035-54, the Utah Public Service Commission ("Commission") granted approval of the acquisition of PacifiCorp by MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company ("MEHC"), subject to a Consolidated List of Commitments specified in a settlement agreement supported by all parties to the proceeding. One of the commitments in the consolidated list addresses proposed transmission investment projects. Specifically, General Commitment 34 states:

MEHC and PacifiCorp have identified transmission projects that MEHC and PacifiCorp believe will enhance reliability, facilitate the receipt of renewable resources, or enable further system optimization. Subject to permitting and the availability of materials, equipment and rights-of-way, MEHC and PacifiCorp commit to use their best efforts to achieve the following transmission system infrastructure improvements<sup>1</sup>: ...

c) Walla Walla - Yakima or Mid-C (~\$88 million) – Establish a link between the "Walla Walla bubble" and the "Yakima bubble" and/or reinforce the link between the "Walla Walla bubble" and the Mid-Columbia (at Vantage). MEHC and PacifiCorp assert that either of these projects presents opportunities to enhance PacifiCorp's ability to accept the output from wind generators and balance the system cost effectively in a regional environment. The target completion date for this project is 2010.

In January 2008, the Company notified the Commission that it had determined the Walla Walla-Yakima/Mid C project was not economically feasible. Per the commitment's footnote, if a project was not cost-effective or in the best interest for customers, the Company would propose an alternative to the project. The alternative projects identified were Walla Walla to McNary ("McNary Project") and Vantage to Pomona Heights ("Vantage Project").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> While MEHC has immersed itself in the details of PacifiCorp's business activities in the short time since the announcement of the transaction, it is possible that upon further review a particular investment might not be cost-effective, optimal for customers or able to be completed by the target date. If that should occur, MEHC pledges to propose an alternative to the Commission with a comparable benefit. The Commission may investigate the reasonableness of any determination by MEHC/PacifiCorp that one or more of the identified transmission investments is not cost-effective or optimal for customers.

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In April 2009, after receiving conditional use permits for the 56-mile, 230-kV McNary Project, the Company put the project on hold in order to re-evaluate transmission needs in light of evolving regional transmission plans and potential renewable generation development in the area.

PacifiCorp has recently received requests for transmission service, requiring that the Company proceed with the Wallula, Washington to Umatilla, Oregon portion of the McNary Project transmission line. This section of the McNary Project is approximately 30 miles in length and will be built on a 125-foot-wide right of way connecting the existing Wallula substation and the McNary substation at Umatilla. Constructing this portion of the line will provide the capacity to add new renewable energy to the system, improve service to customers and improve the reliability of the regional transmission system.

In the coming weeks, PacifiCorp will begin working with property owners to obtain rights of way for the Wallula-McNary transmission line segment by the end of 2010. Construction is expected to begin soon thereafter, with plans to bring the new line into service in late 2011. At this point, the Company has not determined when it will construct the Walla Walla to Wallula portion of the McNary Project.

In April 2009, the Company also notified the Commission that the in-service date for the Vantage Project has moved to December 2012 due to a revised permitting timeline. This project continues on task for completion by December 2012.

By copy of this letter, other parties to the proceeding are being provided notice of the status of General Commitment 34 C.

If you have any questions or would like to meet to discuss these transmission projects, please contact Dave Taylor at 801-220-2923.

Very truly yours,

Jeffry K. Larsen/how

Vice President, Regulation

cc: Service List Docket No. 05-035-54

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010, I caused to be served, via E-mail, if address available or U.S. Mail a true and correct copy of the MidAmerican Energy Holding Company Transaction Commitment 34 to the following:

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