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BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE)
APPLICATION OF ROCKY) **CASE NO. PAC-E-07-05**
MOUNTAIN POWER FOR)
APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO ITS) **Direct Testimony of Erich D. Wilson**
ELECTRIC SERVICE SCHEDULES)
)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER

CASE NO. PAC-E-07-05

June 2007

1 **Q. Please state your name, business address and present position with the**
2 **Company (also referred to as Rocky Mountain Power).**

3 A. My name is Erich D. Wilson. My business address is 825 N.E. Multnomah, Suite
4 1800, Portland, Oregon 97232. My present position is Director, Human
5 Resources.

6 **Qualifications**

7 **Q. Briefly describe your education and business experience.**

8 A. I have been employed as the Director of Human Resources since March 2006.
9 From March 2001 to March 2006, I was the Director of Compensation for the
10 Company. Prior to coming to the Company, I held various positions within the
11 area of human resources (operations, benefits and staffing), but for the majority of
12 my career I have directed the design and administration of compensation
13 programs. I received a Bachelor's degree in Economics (Business) from the
14 University of California at San Diego in 1992. In addition, I achieved the
15 Certified Compensation Professional status from the American Compensation
16 Association (ACA) in 1999 and have kept this certification current through
17 attending various educational programs and seminars.

18 **Q. Briefly describe your current duties.**

19 A. My primary responsibilities include managing the Company's human resource
20 function, including compensation, benefits, compliance, staffing, training and
21 development, employee and labor relations, and payroll. I focus on assisting the
22 Company in attracting, retaining and motivating qualified employees along with
23 the administration of all associated human resource programs and employee

1 experiences.

2 **Purpose of Testimony**

3 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

4 A. The purpose of my testimony is to provide an overview of the compensation and
5 benefit plans provided to employees at the Company and to support the costs
6 related to these areas that are included in the test period revenue requirement. This
7 overview is focused on our base pay, annual incentive, severance, pension and
8 healthcare benefit plans. These plans are designed to enable the Company to
9 attract and retain the employee talent to deliver operational and service value to
10 the customers we serve. In addition, the Company's programs help provide a
11 highly effective workforce at a reasonable cost and demonstrate that Rocky
12 Mountain Power is a prudent and well-managed company.

13 **Background**

14 **Q. Please briefly describe Rocky Mountain Power's compensation and benefits
15 philosophy.**

16 A. The philosophy of Rocky Mountain Power and its parent MidAmerican Energy
17 Holdings Company is to provide a total compensation and benefits package that
18 enables an employee to receive compensation and benefits comparable to the
19 average provided by competitors for labor when an employee performs at an
20 acceptable level. Employees will earn less than the average remuneration when
21 performance is less than acceptable and, conversely, will earn higher than the
22 average remuneration when performance is better than the accepted levels. The
23 Company's objective is to generally provide the same components in its total

1 remuneration package as are included in the packages provided by its competitors.
2 This allows Rocky Mountain Power to attract and retain the quality of employee
3 necessary to provide the high level of service demanded by and owed to our
4 customers, without incurring excessive or unreasonable labor costs.

5 When reviewing any expenses associated with any single portion of this
6 compensation package, it is essential to recognize that each portion is part of an
7 integrated total package. The total compensation package must be viewed as a
8 whole.

9 **Base and Incentive Compensation**

10 **Q. How does the Company determine the base compensation portion of the total**
11 **compensation and benefits package for each position?**

12 A. At least annually, the Company collects market data for comparable jobs and
13 calculates the average data point for total cash compensation. We then separate
14 the total cash compensation portion into two elements: 1) base salary, and 2) an
15 “at risk” or incentive element. In evaluating the compensation portion of the total
16 compensation and benefits package, these two elements must be considered
17 together; if either portion is eliminated, an employee would not be compensated at
18 a market level. This approach reinforces the Company’s strategies and objectives
19 while also providing flexibility and a prudent response to changes in business
20 conditions.

21

1 **Q. Please describe the incentive element of the compensation portion of Rocky**
2 **Mountain Power's compensation and benefits package as it exists in the test**
3 **period.**

4 A. The intent of the incentive element is to put some of the competitive total
5 compensation "at risk." If an employee performs at an acceptable level for the
6 position, the incentive amount (referred to as the target incentive) will allow the
7 employee to earn compensation comparable to other similar positions in the
8 market. If an employee fails to perform at an acceptable level, the employee will
9 receive less than the target incentive or no incentive at all. When this situation
10 occurs, the employee will be paid less than the comparable total cash
11 compensation in the marketplace for that year. Conversely, for exceptional
12 performance, an employee may receive above his or her target incentive level.

13 **Q. What are the objectives of the incentive element of the compensation portion**
14 **of the total package?**

15 A. The upside opportunity associated with incentive compensation provides the
16 employee with an incentive to exceed performance that is merely acceptable. This
17 opportunity is an essential counterbalance to the risk the employee faces that
18 performance in a particular year will be less than acceptable, with the
19 consequence that total compensation will be less than market in that year. The
20 symmetry of the incentive element provides the Company with the financial tool
21 to encourage exceptional performance and discourage less than acceptable
22 performance. As would be expected from a well-designed, symmetrical plan, the
23 average incentive element is approximately at the target incentive level.

1 **Q. Is incentive compensation a greater benefit to customers than compensation**
2 **consisting solely of base salary?**

3 A. Yes. In the Company's experience, and as I discuss further below, a higher level
4 of overall employee performance is achieved when a portion of pay is "at risk."
5 Therefore, while the total cost of the Company's base plus incentive
6 compensation program is still based on average total cash compensation, just as a
7 salary-only program would be, the benefit to customers is greater. In addition, the
8 lack of incentive compensation would make it more difficult for the Company to
9 attract and retain talented employees in the increasingly competitive market for
10 skilled labor.

11 **Q. How is the incentive compensation plan structured?**

12 A. Each employee has a target incentive level, as set by competitive market data.
13 The Company's Annual Incentive Plan provides performance awards based on the
14 following: achieving individual and group goals including safety goals,
15 individual performance, and success in addressing new issues and opportunities
16 that may arise during the course of the year. Note that all employees are expected
17 to operate within their respective budgets, but corporate financial performance
18 and returns are not a factor in determining the compensation amount. This
19 approach supports the philosophy of incentive compensation as pay at risk that is
20 earned based on individual performance. There is one important exception to the
21 focus on individual performance; failure of a group or business unit to meet its
22 safety goal will impact the compensation amount even if the individual achieves
23 his or her personal safety goal.

1 As previously described, the incentive plan is structured to deliver a target
2 incentive level for achieving performance objectives, and this target level
3 maintains the competitiveness of the employee's position within the market place.
4 Awards received above these stated target levels are for exceptional performance,
5 as previously described.

6 **Q. Please explain the level of incentive compensation that you have included in**
7 **this application?**

8 A. This application includes a request for total Company incentive compensation of
9 \$27.5 million, reduced from the \$33.9 million included in the 2006 unadjusted
10 data. This request represents the total incentive compensation payout at the target
11 incentive level for each employee participating in the incentive plan during the
12 test year.

13 **Q. What level of incentive compensation does the Company expect to pay out on**
14 **a year-to-year basis?**

15 A. The Company's pay philosophy is to provide competitive total compensation as
16 set by the competitive market; therefore, it is expected that the target incentive
17 level will be achieved on a year-to-year basis and paid out at that level. While the
18 Company's current incentive compensation design provides for an upside
19 opportunity for individual employees whose performance surpasses acceptable
20 levels, the overall company payout will be limited to the targeted incentive level.

21 **Q. Can you be more specific about the customer benefits related to incentive**
22 **compensation for Rocky Mountain Power's employees?**

23 A. Yes. Rocky Mountain Power's customers benefit from having exceptional

1 individuals leading and operating the organization who are motivated to achieve
2 challenging goals directly tied to safety, reliability and customer satisfaction – all
3 of which are customer benefits. Each year, the same goals used to manage the
4 Company are used to evaluate and reward employee performance. The best
5 example of this is Exhibit No. 22, the individual goals of Rocky Mountain
6 Power’s president, A. Richard Walje. These goals are used not only for Mr. Walje
7 personally, but they also represent the goals of the entire Rocky Mountain Power
8 business unit, which includes all of the power distribution activities in Idaho.
9 Each Rocky Mountain Power employee establishes individual goals that directly
10 reflect Rich’s goals for the business unit.

11 The focus of Mr. Walje’s goals, which you would find is similar in
12 approach to the goals of our other senior officers, is to improve all aspects of our
13 business and services provided to our customers and employees. Goal 2 for 2007
14 is focused on safety and reducing lost time, recordable, preventable and restricted
15 duty incidents. Goal 3 addresses environmental areas of improvement, reduction
16 of preventable environmental incidents, correction of any and all potential
17 noncompliance findings, and meeting all agency requirements, among others.
18 Goal 4 focuses directly on customer/stakeholder satisfaction, implementing local
19 and regional customer service improvements, improving visibility and relations
20 with industrial customers and consumer associations, and improving overall
21 customer satisfaction. Goal 5 relates to operating with established budgets,
22 including maintaining operating costs, controlling the cost of capital expenditures,
23 and achieving operational efficiencies—financial targets that allow the Company

1 to remain a low-cost utility. Other key goals relate to operational performance
2 (goal 6), major project delivery (goal 7), organizational planning and development
3 (goal 8), and quality of service and regulatory commitments (goal 9).

4 The Company's business strategy relies heavily on the annual
5 development and achievement of these goals by all employees. Aligning
6 employees' success in achieving these goals with a significant portion of their
7 compensation is an obvious performance incentive that ultimately benefits
8 customers.

9 **Q. Does the incentive plan compensate employees based on corporate financial**
10 **performance?**

11 **A.** No. As I mentioned, achievement of a level of corporate earnings is not part of
12 this plan. There is an additional incentive plan for selected officers and key
13 personnel that incorporates achievement of corporate financial performance as
14 one of its critical elements. We are not seeking to recover any of the costs of that
15 plan from customers.

16 The incentive compensation amount included in this case is based on
17 providing competitive market levels of incentive compensation. These levels
18 enable the Company to attract and retain the talent needed to provide safe and
19 reliable service to its customers.

20 **Employee Severance**

21 **Q. Please describe how the Company's severance plan operates and why it is**
22 **offered to its employees.**

23 **A.** As previously described, the Company has an overall compensation philosophy of

1 providing compensation that is aligned with the competitive market average in
2 order to attract, retain and motivate skilled employees needed to deliver safe and
3 reliable service to its customers. Severance programs are one element of the
4 Company's competitive approach.

5 Like many large companies, Rocky Mountain Power has maintained a
6 severance plan for its broad-based employee population and an enhanced program
7 for its executives. The Company has assessed its program against the market by
8 working with M Benefit Solutions (previously named MCG Northwest).

9 Attached is Exhibit No. 23, which outlines the 2002 study performed by M
10 Benefit Solutions and used by the Company to confirm its severance program
11 design.

12 **Q. How do Rocky Mountain Power customers benefit from a severance plan
13 that pays employees who are no longer working for the Company?**

14 **A.** Severance plans generally are used to encourage employees to remain with the
15 Company and continue to be productive during a period of organizational
16 changes. This is what occurred following MidAmerican Energy Holdings
17 Company's (MEHC) acquisition of PacifiCorp. The new leadership, based on
18 extensive meetings with customers, stakeholders and regulators, determined that
19 customers would be better served by eliminating a significant number of
20 management and corporate services positions, clarifying accountability, and
21 reorganizing the Company into three business units that were more autonomous
22 and responsive to local needs. As part of this reorganization, management
23 identified a number of operating efficiencies, resulting in the need for fewer

1 employees. The severance plan provided employees who were identified for
2 displacement with an incentive to continue to work productively and effectively
3 while the transition was occurring. The benefits of continued operation of the
4 Company during the transition, the operational improvements of the restructured
5 Company following the transition, and the savings associated with a leaner, more
6 responsive organization, all accrue directly to our customers. In light of these
7 benefits, the costs of transition benefits provided by a severance program are
8 prudent, and their recovery in rates is appropriate.

9 **Q. In January 2007, the Commission authorized the Company to maintain a**
10 **deferred account for severance costs related to MEHC restructuring (Case**
11 **No. PAC-E-06-11). Has the Company now recognized all of the severance**
12 **amounts to be included in this deferred account?**

13 **A. Yes.** The severance program for both the executive and non-executive level
14 employees was actively utilized when MEHC acquired the Company in order to
15 restructure work and job responsibilities under the new ownership. The company-
16 wide phase of the program ended on May 23, 2007, and all severance-related
17 costs associated with the MEHC labor restructuring program were recognized on
18 or before that date. The Company continues to operate a severance plan that will
19 be applied on a case-by-case basis. Under appropriate circumstances, which may
20 include displacement due to reduction in workforce, the Company may determine
21 whether and to what extent to provide severance benefits using the flexibility
22 inherent in a discretionary plan.

1 **Q. Please identify the MEHC restructuring severance costs for both executive**
2 **and non-executive employees.**

3 A. As of March 9, 2007, total MEHC severance cost was \$39.5 million. This cost is
4 comprised of the following amounts for the two employee groups:

- 5 a. Executive severance = \$11.4 million
- 6 b. Non-executive severance = \$28.2 million

7 Exhibit No. 24 is a list of all non-executive employees' work locations and
8 severance pay as of March 9, 2007. Exhibit No. 25 is a listing and associated
9 severance expense for each employee that received severance under the executive
10 severance plan as of March 9, 2007.

11 **Q. Please explain how the Company has included MEHC restructuring related**
12 **severance expense in this application?**

13 A. The Company has recognized \$39.5 million in severance costs related to the
14 MEHC restructuring that should be deferred pursuant to Order No. 30225. This
15 amount reflects employee terminations from March 21, 2006, through March 9,
16 2007, related to the sale of PacifiCorp to MEHC. Although the severance costs
17 associated with the MEHC acquisition continued to be incurred through May 23,
18 2007, the March 9, 2007, cut-off date was used to provide time for preparation of
19 this application. Severance costs incurred after March 9, 2007, have been
20 insignificant.

21 In light of the benefits of the restructuring described above, as well as the
22 typical role of severance benefits as a component of competitive compensation
23 and benefits packages for employees, the Company believes that the expenses of

1 both the executive and broad-based employee severance benefits were prudently
2 incurred and, as a result, should be included in the Idaho revenue requirement. To
3 appropriately match these costs with the benefits to customers over a reasonable
4 time period, the Company has proposed a three-year amortization of this deferred
5 expense; therefore, one third of the \$39.5 million, or \$13.2 million on a total
6 Company basis, is included in the computation of revenue requirement in this
7 application.

8 **Q. Have you prepared a cost/benefit analysis that supports the Company's**
9 **proposal to include this cost in the revenue requirement?**

10 A. Yes. An analysis detailing the cost and benefits related to the change in control
11 severance program is provided on Page 4.17.2 of Exhibit No. 11, which is
12 sponsored by Company witness Steven R. McDougal. The analysis supports the
13 inclusion of this expense in the revenue requirement because it is offset by the
14 ongoing benefits of the workforce restructuring.

15 **Q. Have any of the MEHC restructured and severed positions been backfilled,**
16 **resulting in both severance costs and an ongoing replacement salary**
17 **expense?**

18 A. There are special circumstances where terminations have occurred resulting in
19 severance costs, and the employee's position has been replaced due to the critical
20 nature of the position or the ongoing dynamic nature of the restructuring effort.
21 The attached Exhibit Nos. 24 and 25 include a column ("Replaced (yes/no)") that
22 identifies those meeting these criteria. In these instances, the related severance
23 costs for replaced positions have been removed from the rate case revenue

1 requirement.

2 All other positions have not been replaced, and to help ensure that the
3 remaining displaced jobs are not inadvertently backfilled, the human resources
4 department established a governance/approval process for new hires that is
5 handled as follows:

- 6 1. All new positions are reviewed by human resources and approved by the
7 president/ business unit lead.
- 8 2. Once approved by the president/business unit lead, they are then reviewed
9 by the director of human resources.
- 10 3. The director of human resources reviews and final approval is provided by
11 the senior vice president of human resources for MidAmerican Energy
12 Holdings Company.

13 **Q. Please explain why the severance costs for individual executive employees are**
14 **so much higher than for non-executive employees.**

15 A. There are fundamental differences in the severance plan design and benefit value
16 for executive-level positions versus non-executive-level positions. Executive-
17 level positions obviously are at greater risk of termination in the event of a change
18 in control, and it is a necessary part of their compensation package that these risks
19 be addressed through appropriate severance arrangements. Moreover, executives
20 are likely to need more time than the broad-based employee population to secure
21 a comparable position with another company. As a result, enhanced severance
22 benefits are an important recruitment and retention tool for executive-level
23 employees.

1 **Q. Please explain the severance expenses and arrangements for the executive**
2 **employees.**

3 **A. The executive severance plan provides the following severance benefits in the**
4 **event a termination occurs as part of a change in control:**

- 5 1. Two times base pay at time of termination.
- 6 2. Two times target bonus opportunity.
- 7 3. Two times annual vehicle allowance.
- 8 4. Six to twenty-four months of healthcare continuation (based on years of
9 service).
- 10 5. Outplacement services.
- 11 6. Additional payment to compensate for any excise tax obligation.

12 **Q. A significant portion of the executive severance costs relate to the Company's**
13 **former president and chief executive officer, Judi Johansen. Please explain**
14 **the benefit of these costs to customers in light of the fact that the Company**
15 **now has three presidents.**

16 **A. Ms. Johansen's role was largely assumed by Mr. Greg Abel, the Company's**
17 **current CEO. Mr. Abel is not on the Company's payroll, and only the portion of**
18 **his time spent on Company matters is charged to the Company through the inter-**
19 **company administrative services agreement. Inter-company charges are subject to**
20 **annual expense limits (and potential rate credits) and must be supported by**
21 **detailed time reporting, consistent with MEHC and PacifiCorp commitments**
22 **made to the Commission. The three Company presidents primarily assumed**
23 **functions that were performed by other Company executives prior to the**

1 acquisition by MEHC; those previous positions were eliminated. The
2 restructuring of top-level executives was done to ensure local decisions and
3 control over local issues, particularly in the Rocky Mountain Power states; to
4 clarify responsibility for budgets, safety, operations and customer satisfaction;
5 and to make the presidents more accessible and accountable to customers,
6 regulators and shareholders. The associated executive severance cost is a one-time
7 expense that should be recovered through rates to reflect the long-term benefit of
8 reduced layers of management.

9 **Q. Does the company expect severance expense in the future and if so, has that**
10 **been included in this filing?**

11 A. There will be instances where the company determines severance would be
12 appropriate for an employee on a case-by-case basis. However, there is no future
13 severance expense included in this filing.

14 **Retirement Plans**

15 **Q. Please describe the changes to the Company retirement plan that took effect**
16 **on June 1, 2007.**

17 A. The Company regularly reviews its compensation and benefit plans. Rising and
18 volatile pension costs and recent changes to applicable laws and regulations led
19 the Company to implement changes to its pension plan that will create a more
20 stable, predictable cost structure.

21 Previously, the Company has offered employees a traditional defined-
22 benefit pension plan, delivered in value based on a final average pay formula.
23 This approach can cause both short- and long-term cost and volatility of cost and

1 cash funding. To mitigate these risks, the Company has shifted its benefit
2 determination approach, effective June 1, 2007, to a more stable benefit for the
3 non-union workforce. Going forward, the pension benefit will be delivered
4 through a cash balance plan approach. All vested benefits under the current final
5 average pay approach were frozen as of May 31, 2007, and will be provided to
6 employees at the time of retirement. Effective June 1, 2007, the Company
7 established an account for each employee that will grow based on credits of 6.5
8 percent of annual pay (base plus incentive) plus 4.0 percent of pay in excess of the
9 Social Security taxable wage base (\$97,500 in 2007). In addition, on an annual
10 basis each account will receive an interest credit based on the account balance and
11 the annual credit rate.

12 A transition benefit was provided for employees who are age 40 or older
13 on May 31, 2007. Employees falling in this category will receive additional pay
14 credits for five years (ending in 2012), structured as follows:

15 Year 1-3 = 4.0 percent

16 Year 4 = 2.5 percent

17 Year 5 = 1.5 percent

18 All new hires eligible to participate in the pension plan after June 30, 2006 will
19 receive a pay credit rate of 5.0 percent and no transition pay credits.

20 The cash balance plan approach spreads pension costs throughout an
21 employee's career and is conceptually much simpler than a traditional defined-
22 benefit approach (final average pay formula), providing employees more
23 transparency and the Company (as well as the Commission and customers) more

1 predictability. Another key benefit to employees of this approach is its portability
2 and ability to roll over into another retirement account.

3 The Company is also adjusting its matching and fixed contributions to
4 participants' 401(k) retirement plan. Effective June 1, 2007, the Company will
5 match 65 percent of employee contributions for the first 6 percent of employee
6 pay (change from 50 percent of employee contributions), plus a 1 percent of pay
7 discretionary profit sharing match determined annually. These changes will
8 reduce the maximum employer contribution to the 401(k) plan from 5 percent to
9 4.9 percent of an employee's pay.

10 **Q. Is the Company making changes to the retirement plan to reduce its overall**
11 **expense?**

12 **A.** The pension plan changes will result in savings that will ultimately benefit
13 customers. However, the main reason the Company has decided to shift its
14 pension benefit program is to remain competitive with other energy service
15 providers and to reflect recent legislation passed under the Pension Protection Act
16 of 2006. This change reflects a broader shift in large organizations across the
17 country to cash-balance plans, as many other businesses see the benefit of a more
18 predictable method of funding employee retirement benefits. Based on studies by
19 Hewitt Associates (a copy is attached as Exhibit No. 26), 71 percent of companies
20 (all industries) had traditional defined benefit pension plans in 2000, by 2006, that
21 number had shifted to 53 percent. Those having a cash balance plan moved from
22 18 percent to 34 percent during the same time period. The same study focusing in
23 on the utility sector shows a shift from 79 percent to 51 percent for traditional

1 defined benefit pension plans and an increase from 19 percent to 35 percent for
2 cash balance plans. This trend has been reinforced to us by many of our larger
3 business customers who wrestle with the same issues associated with providing
4 retirement benefits and have questioned how we would continue to manage the
5 financial uncertainties associated with a defined-benefit plan (final average pay
6 formula).

7 **Q. How much does the Company expect to save by changing to a cash-balance**
8 **pension plan?**

9 A. Prior to revising the pension plan as described above, the Company had budgeted
10 \$54.7 million for its annual pension expense accrual using the final average pay
11 determination approach. Under the revised pension plan structure, the Company
12 now expects the 2007 pension expense accrual to be \$49.6 million, yielding an
13 annual reduction of approximately \$5.0 million.

14 **Q. How does the Company propose to include the annual pension costs in its**
15 **calculation of revenue requirement?**

16 A. The Company accounts for its annual pension costs according to the guidelines set
17 forth by the Financial Accounting Standards Board in FAS 87 and more recently
18 FAS 158. The Company has consistently requested recovery of pension expense
19 based on FAS 87 accruals in general rate cases across its six-state service territory
20 since 1998, and would prefer to continue to recover its pension-related expenses
21 under this approach. The level of expense accrual for the test year in this
22 application is \$49.6 million as shown on Page 4.5.2 of Company witness Steven
23 R. McDougal's Exhibit No. 11.

1 However, for purposes of this application, the Company has made an
2 additional adjustment to the test year to calculate revenue requirement based on
3 the level of cash contributions made to the pension plan trust assets during the test
4 year. This adjustment is consistent with Commission rulings in previous general
5 rate cases for both Idaho Power Company (Case No. IPC-E-03-13, Order No.
6 29505) and Avista (Case No. AVU-E-04-01, Order No. 29602). Consequently,
7 this application includes \$66.7 million for annual pension costs.

8 **Q. Why is the Company proposing the additional adjustment to include the cash**
9 **contributions to its pension fund rather than accrued expenses?**

10 A. The Company's pension plan is an integral component of its overall compensation
11 program, and it is critical that the Company recover the cost of funding the
12 program using a consistent methodology from year to year. The Company has not
13 had an explicit determination made by the Commission regarding the allowed
14 method for Idaho-allocated pension cost recovery since it began adhering to FAS
15 87 guidelines. Based on the recent Commission decisions cited above, the
16 Company has included cash contributions to the plan assets in the calculation of
17 revenue requirement.

18 **Q. Why is it important that the Company receive direction from the**
19 **Commission regarding the allowed methodology for recovery of pension-**
20 **related costs?**

21 A. To adequately fund the Company's pension plan, contributions must be made to
22 plan assets in a way that ensures obligations to employees are ultimately met.
23 The level of these contributions is based on many factors, including investment

1 performance and laws and regulations in place to protect those expecting to
2 receive benefits from the plan, and can vary significantly from year to year. For
3 financial reporting purposes the Company is required to accrue pension expenses
4 according to guidelines contained in FAS 87 and FAS 158. Over the long run, the
5 accrued expense will equal the total cash contributions; however, in a given year
6 the cash contribution may be significantly different than the accrued expense. If a
7 consistent methodology is not followed year after year to determine the
8 appropriate level of expense to include in rates, the Company may not have an
9 opportunity to recover the full cost of funding its pension plan.

10 **Employee Health Benefits**

11 **Q. Please describe the Company's rationale for sharing healthcare-related costs**
12 **with employees.**

13 **A.** The Company periodically reviews and adjusts the sharing of healthcare-related
14 costs with employees in an effort to stabilize cost, manage volatility, and respond
15 to changing market practices. Exhibit No. 27 provides market data compiled by
16 Hewitt Associates outlining competitive healthcare sharing structures. Rocky
17 Mountain Power has established a tiered rate approach to healthcare premium cost
18 sharing, requiring employees earning greater than \$100,000 to contribute 20
19 percent toward the premium cost, employees earning between \$60,000 and
20 \$100,000 to contribute 15 percent, and employees earning less than \$60,000 to
21 contribute 10 percent. This change was the start of a transition to have all
22 employees at an 80/20 cost sharing level, a level which will be achieved effective
23 January 1, 2008.

1 An additional consideration for the Company in making this decision to
2 shift the cost-sharing structure was the continued rise in the healthcare costs borne
3 by the Company. This structural shift adheres to the Company's goal of providing
4 competitive benefits to its employees, while doing so in a fair and prudent
5 fashion.

6 **Q. Please explain the level of healthcare costs you have included in this**
7 **application and compare that to previous fiscal year expenses.**

8 A. There has been a significant upward trend in healthcare costs in recent years. For
9 fiscal year 2005 and calendar years 2006 and 2007, expected healthcare expenses
10 totaled \$41.5 million, \$49.9 million and \$60.8 million, respectively. Consistent
11 with this trend, the Company has included in this application healthcare expenses
12 of \$58.6 million as shown on Page 4.5.2 of Mr. McDougal's Exhibit No. 11.

13 Hewitt Associates has informed the Company that current trends indicate
14 the rates for the Company's plans are anticipated to increase further in 2008 by
15 between 9 and 11 percent. Shifting the cost-sharing structure passes more of the
16 increasing expense on to employees rather than customers and, again, is done for
17 the purpose of providing competitive retail electric service to our customers.

18 **Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

19 A. Yes.

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IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Case No. PAC-E-07-05

Exhibit No. 22

Witness: Erich D. Wilson

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER

Exhibit Accompanying Direct Testimony of Erich D. Wilson

2007 Goals
Rocky Mountain Power
Richard Walje

June 2007



**2007 GOALS
ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER**

**RICHARD WALJE
PRESIDENT**

-
1. **Support all companywide goals – Collaborate with the presidents of Pacific Power, PacifiCorp Energy and MidAmerican Energy Company to ensure the efficient use of resources and to convey consistent external positions.**
 2. **Safety – Develop and implement a safety improvement plan that will improve Rocky Mountain Power’s safety record by reducing the recordable accident rate, lost-time accident rate, restricted duty cases, medical treatment cases and preventable vehicle accidents.**
 - Reduce lost-time accidents to five or fewer.
 - Reduce recordable incidents to 49 or fewer.
 - Reduce restricted duty incidents to eight or fewer and hearing threshold shift incidents to one or fewer.
 - Reduce preventable vehicle accidents to fewer than 60.
 - Deliver Rocky Mountain Power 2007 safety plan.
 - Comply with all mandated health and safety training requirements.
 3. **Environmental – Assure the environmental management system and associated compliance plan encompasses all actions required to reduce risk associated with noncompliance and to mitigate and/or eliminate any potential environmental impacts caused by incidents.**
 - Correct all potential noncompliance findings at facilities.
 - Reduce preventable incidents to fewer than 40.
 - Perform 12 environmental management system required audits.

- Meet U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requirements for avian and raptor protection.
 - Further integrate the environmental services organization within Rocky Mountain Power's construction activities.
 - Increase Blue Sky participation by adding 2,250 new customers (a 10 percent increase compared to 2006 actual).
 - Review the Blue Sky tariffs across Rocky Mountain Power and file revised tariffs in each state to: clarify the company's ability to provide grants to certain community-based projects that are research and development oriented; allow for the contribution of Blue Sky revenues toward company-owned renewable projects to reduce the cost of renewable energy; and complete other modifications as required to better promote the adoption of renewable energy by customers.
 - Deliver demand-side management targets as presented in the proposed 2006 Integrated Resource Plan update of 138 megawatts of class 1 schedule firm and/or dispatchable resources as measured at the customer site (153 megawatts at generator).
 - Deliver demand-side management targets for class 2 as presented in the proposed 2006 Integrated Resource Plan of 13.32 average megawatts (14.8 megawatts at the generator). It is anticipated that the class 2 accomplishments also will deliver a minimum of 17 megawatts of permanent peak load reductions to the system as measured at the customer site (20 megawatts at the generator).
 - Develop a demand-side management program for consideration in the state of Wyoming and seek approval from the commission. Implement the outcome of the commission decision.
4. **Customer/Stakeholder Satisfaction – Significantly improve customer satisfaction levels at all customer interface points throughout the organization.**
- Develop and implement a strategic communications plan focused on Rocky Mountain Power, PacifiCorp Energy and MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company's operations, regulations and community relations.
 - Continue to implement local and regional customer service improvement plans.
 - Increase visibility and improve relations with industrial customers and consumer associations.

- Improve J.D. Power & Associates residential customer survey results from 4th quartile rating to a 3rd quartile rating in the Western region.
 - Improve J.D. Power & Associates business customer survey results from 3rd quartile rating to 2nd quartile rating in the Western region.
 - Achieve TQS customer survey score of No. 1 nationally.
 - Achieve commission complaint rate of no more than 0.29 per 1,000 customers (282 complaints).
 - Achieve customer guarantee success rate of 99.99 percent or no more than 2.1 failures for every 10,000 customer events (240 failures).
 - Achieve telephone service levels of 80 percent answered in 30 seconds.
 - Achieve billing accuracy at or above 99.0 percent.
 - Achieve meter reading accuracy at or above 99.85 percent.
- 5. Financial Performance – Deliver Rocky Mountain Power budgeted net income, operating expenses and capital expenditure targets.**
- Achieve targeted Rocky Mountain Power net income.
 - Achieve targeted operating expense budget.
 - Achieve targeted capital expenditure investment program.
 - Achieve bad debt net write-offs of less than \$10.8 million (0.35 percent of revenue) for Rocky Mountain Power and Pacific Power. (\$5.4 million or 0.28 percent of billed revenue for Rocky Mountain Power.)
 - In compliance with Utah general rate case commitments, deliver \$62.8 million in Utah distribution maintenance and \$5.1 million in Utah distribution pole replacements.
 - Implement improvements to capital forecasting and monitoring identified in the Summit-Vineyard project review.
 - Continue to refine the Rocky Mountain Power asset investment plan to assure optimal use of capital.
 - Identify and deliver ongoing operational efficiencies.

