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## BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

## IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )

 PACIFICORP DBA ROCKY MOUNTAIN ) POWER FOR AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT ) POWER COST ADJUSTMENT RATES FOR ) ELECTRIC SERVICE FROM APRIL 1, 2010 ) THROUGH MARCH 31, 2011 THROUGH THE ) ENERGY COST ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM )CASE NO. PAC-E-10-01)

## COMMENTS OF THE

 COMMISSION STAFFCOMES NOW the Staff of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, by and through its Attorney of record, Scott Woodbury, Deputy Attorney General, and in response to the Notice of Application, Notice of Modified Procedure, Notice of Comment/Protest Deadline and Notice of Reply Deadline issued on February 12, 2010, submits the following comments.

## BACKGROUND

On February 1, 2010, PacifiCorp dba Rocky Mountain Power (PacifiCorp; Company) filed an Application with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for authority to implement a power cost adjustment to rates for all customer classes excluding tariff contract customers (Monsanto Company and Agrium, Inc.). ${ }^{1}$ The proposed power cost adjustment is calculated pursuant to an Energy Cost Adjustment Mechanism (ECAM) approved by the Commission on September 29, 2009 in Case No. PAC-E-08-08, Order No. 30904. The primary purpose of the ECAM is to collect from customers or credit to customers a portion of the difference between base net power costs included in base rates, and actual net power costs incurred by the Company. The ECAM also includes several other adjustments approved by the Commission. The initial deferral period was July 1, 2009 through November 30, 2009. The Company is proposing to recover approximately $\$ 2.2$ million in total deferred net power costs. The energy cost adjustment is set forth in a new electric service Schedule No. 94. The proposed effective date is April 1, 2010. The Settlement Stipulation accepted by the Commission in Order No. 30904 identifies in substantial part the procedures, dates and components associated with the ECAM.

The Net Power Cost (NPC) portion of the ECAM includes costs typically booked to the following Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) accounts.

Account 447 - Sales for resale, excluding on-system wholesale sales and other revenues that are not modeled in GRID.

Account 501 - Fuel, steam generation, excluding fuel handling, start-up fuel/gas, ${ }^{2}$ diesel fuel, residual disposal and other costs that are not modeled in GRID.

Account 503 - Steam from other sources.
Account 547 - Fuel, other generation.
Account 555 - Purchased power, excluding BPA residential exchange credit pass-through, if applicable.

Account 565 - Transmission of electricity by others (wheeling).

[^0]In addition to NPC, the ECAM includes three other components: a Load Growth Adjustment, a credit for SO2 allowance sales, and a Renewable Resource Adder. The ECAM also includes an interest calculation and a symmetrical sharing band of $90 \%$ (customers)/10\% (Company) that is applied to most components.

The Renewable Resources Adder recognizes that the Company has made significant investments in renewable generation projects that are not yet being recovered in Idaho rates, even though these projects provide significant NPC benefits to customers. Specifically, the adjustment recognizes that actual NPC were reduced by power generated from these renewable generation projects. Pursuant to Commission Order No. 30904, the Commission approved a renewable resource adjustment of $\$ 55$ per megawatt-hour (MWh) multiplied by the actual MWh output generated by the renewable resources that were not included in rates in the Company's last rate case, Case No. PAC-E-08-07.

The components making up the deferred ECAM balance are reflected in the following table:

| NPC Differential | $\$ 121,504$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Load Growth Adjustment | $1,499,793$ |
| SO2 Credit | $(120,562)$ |
| Sub-Total | $\$ 1,500,735$ |
|  | $\mathbf{9 0 \%}$ |
| Customer Responsibility | $\$ 1,350,662$ |
| Renewable Resource Adder | 811,412 |
| Interest | 8,022 |
| Total Idaho Deferral | $\$ 2,170,096$ |

In Schedule 94 the Company proposes the following rates by delivery voltage:

| Secondary Distribution Rate | $0.107 ¢ / \mathrm{kWh}$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Primary Distribution Rate | $0.100 ¢ / \mathrm{kWh}$ |
| Transmission Rate | $0.098 ¢ / \mathrm{kWh}$ |

The proposed Schedule 94 ECAM rates would have the following rate impacts:
Residential Customers - an increase of $1.29 \%$, i.e., approximately $\$ 0.91$ per month for the average residential home using 850 kWh per month.

Irrigation Customers (Schedule 10): $1.55 \%$ increase

General Service

Schedule 23/23A: $1.34 \%$ increase
Schedule 6/6A/8/35: $1.70 \%$ increase
Schedule 9: 2.13\% increase
Schedule 19: 1.57\% increase
Public Street Lighting
Schedules 7/7A, 11, 12: 0.46\% increase

## STAFF ANALYSIS

ECAM Deferral
Staff notes that this is the first ECAM filing made by the Company subsequent to approval of the mechanism in Commission Order No. 30904. As a result, the ECAM filing in this case differs in several respects from Company filings that will be made in subsequent years. (1) This filing includes adjustments for Net Power Cost Differential, Load Growth Adjustment, and SO2 Sales for the 5-month period of July 1, 2009 through November 30, 2009; future filings will be for the 12 -month period of December 1 through November 30 of the application year. (2) The Renewable Resource Adder will only be included in the ECAM until the costs and benefits can be included in base rates in the Company's next general rate case. A rate case will eliminate the need for this special adjustment. (3) In future years there will be a "true up" between the deferral balance and amounts actually recovered; any over- or under-recovery that occurs as a result of this ECAM filing will result in an adjustment to future ECAMs.

The Commission Staff has reviewed the Company's ECAM filing and audited the Company's actual results as they pertain to the ECAM. Staff recommends changes to the Company's proposal as defined and discussed below.

Net Power Cost Differential - The Net Power Cost differential is the driving force behind the creation and need for a power cost adjustment mechanism. Normally this differential is the single largest cost component of the mechanism. In this case it is a small portion of the total deferral. Two primary reasons for this are (1) the review period is only five months instead of twelve months and (2) the actual system load was lower than the base load assumed in the Company's last general rate case. The lower system load is probably associated with the current economic downturn.

Staff reviewed transaction activity in the FERC accounts used to record net power costs. Specifically, base and actual NPC include amounts booked to the following FERC accounts:

Account 447 (sales for resale, excluding on-system wholesale sales and other revenues not modeled in GRID), Account 501 (fuel, steam generation, excluding fuel handling, start up fuel/gas, diesel fuel, residual disposal and other costs not modeled in GRID), Account 503 (steam from other sources), Account 547 (fuel, other generation), Account 555 (purchased power, excluding BPA residential exchange credit pass-through if applicable), and Account 565 (transmission of electricity by others). Staff's analysis did not find any transaction that was not reasonable or significantly out-of-trend with previous activity. Staff notes, however, that the audit period in this case included only five months of transactions; future audits that encompass an entire year will provide better data for trend analysis and transaction evaluation.

The Idaho share of net power costs increased by $\$ 121,504$; the Idaho customers' share of the increased cost is $\$ 109,354$ after $90 / 10$ sharing. This amount represents $5.43 \%$ of the Company's proposed total ECAM deferral.

Load Growth Adjustment - The Load Growth Adjustment is by far the largest component of this ECAM deferral. During the five month review period actual Idaho loads were down 85,810 MWh or $7.95 \%$ from the same 2007 normalized five month period used to calculate Idaho base load. At an approved adjustment rate of $\$ 17.48 / \mathrm{MWh}$, this results in an adjustment of $\$ 1,499,793$. The Idaho customer share is $\$ 1,349,814$ after $90 / 10$ sharing. These are the same results presented by the Company.

The theory behind the LGAR is that the Company should not be allowed to collect growth related power supply costs through an ECAM surcharge and then also collect base revenue from that new load to cover the same power supply costs. The same theory has been applied when loads decline. The Company should not be required to provide a credit to customers when power supply costs decline due to declining load and also suffer the loss of base revenue from the lost load. In this case, power supply costs increased slightly at the same time load decreased significantly. Rather than offsetting lost revenue that the Company already gave back in an ECAM credit, the Load Growth Adjustment simply reimbursed the Company for lost revenue due to lost load. This is very similar to decoupling or the Fixed Cost Adjustment Mechanism (FCA) in place for Idaho Power Company.

While Staff does not propose to remove the Load Growth Adjustment in this case given that a symmetrical mechanism was approved by the Commission, we note that decoupling has not been approved in Idaho for PacifiCorp. Staff also notes that all three Idaho utilities have ECAM/PCA's in place with similar provisions. Staff believes that further investigation is necessary in conjunction
with Company filings for all three mechanisms to determine if a Load Growth Adjustment is appropriate when the adjustment exceeds the magnitude of the ECAM/PCA surcharge/credit or is otherwise reasonable when loads decline.

SO2 Credits - In Commission Order No. 30904 the Commission accepted a stipulated settlement that required that the ECAM include and share revenues from the sale of SO2 credits between the Company and its customers ( $90 \%$ customers/ $10 \%$ Company). This applied to all SO2 sales beginning July 2009. The Company calculated the Idaho portion of the SO 2 credit sale proceeds by multiplying total sales by the Idaho energy allocation factor of $6.5865 \%$. The Idaho portion of the SO 2 credit sale proceeds was then further reduced to an Idaho tariff customer portion based on the percent of the Idaho tariff load to total Idaho load in each month. (Shu Direct Testimony p. 5, lines 18-23 through p. 6, lines 1-5 and Company Exhibit l, lines 13-17). The Company calculated the Idaho tariff customer portion to be $\$ 108,506$ after the $90 / 10$ sharing.

Staff agrees that SO2 sales proceeds should be allocated to Idaho based on the energy allocation factor. However, Staff believes further adjustment by the percentage representing the tariff customer portion of total Idaho Load is not consistent with prior rate case treatment of SO2 credit sale proceeds to tariff customers. Ratemaking treatment of SO 2 credit sale proceeds prior to the ECAM resulted in $100 \%$ of the sale proceeds reducing the approved rate increase whether contract customers were affected or not. Staff believes the $10 \%$ sharing represents the appropriate Company share as the sale of SO2 credits are moved from base rates to the ECAM. This final Company proposed reduction in Idaho SO2 proceeds, which have already been reduced to $90 \%$ of the originally allocated amount, results in an even smaller allocation to Idaho tariffed customers and an even larger share retained by the Company. This should not occur simply because an ECAM has been implemented. Therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission reject the Company's proposal to further reduce Idaho SO 2 credits. Eliminating the reduction results in a net SO 2 credit of $\$ 142,609$ after $90 / 10$ sharing, increasing the Idaho tariff customer credit by $\$ 34,104$.

Renewable Resource Adder - The Renewable Resource Adder is a relatively short term adjustment included in the ECAM by Commission order. This adjustment allows the ECAM to include a cost for renewable resources that have come on-line since base power costs were set in the Company's last rate case, Case No. PAC-E-08-07. The costs are included at $\$ 55 / \mathrm{MWh}$. The costs of these resources are not included in base rates but generation from the resources reduces actual Net Power Costs. In the Company's next general rate case the costs and benefits of these resources
will be included in base rates which will eliminate the need for this special adjustment. The Idaho customer share of this cost is $\$ 811,412$. These are the same results presented by the Company.

Goose Creek Transmission Sale Credit - Commission Order No. 30904 required the Company to include an Idaho customer benefit for the sale of Goose Creek Transmission assets in its ECAM calculation. The amount that was to be included as an Idaho customer benefit was established as $\$ 156,434$. The Company inadvertently left this credit out of its filing. Shortly after the filing was made the Company contacted Staff and identified the error. Staff has included the credit in its calculations.

Interest - As required by Commission Order No. 30904, the Company included interest on monthly deferral balances at the Commission approved customer deposit interest rate. This rate is $2 \%$ for 2009. The Company calculated the interest amount to be $\$ 8,022$. Due to the addition of the Goose Creek Sale Credit and the adjustment for SO2 sales, Staff calculates a slightly different interest amount than the Company calculated. Staff calculates interest of $\$ 7,329$ resulting in an adjustment of $\$ 693$.

Incorporating the Staff adjustments discussed above, Staff calculates the ECAM components and Total Idaho Deferral to be:

| NPC Differential | $\$ 121,504$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Load Growth Adjustment | $1,499,793$ |
| SO2 Credit | $(158,455)$ |
| Sub-Total | $\$ 1,462,842$ |
|  | $90 \%$ |
| Customer Responsibility | $\$ 1,316,558$ |
| Renewable Resource Adder | 811,412 |
| Goose Creek Sale Credit | $(156,434)$ |
| Interest | 7,329 |
| Total Idaho Deferral | $\$ 1,978,865$ |

The Staff adjustments reduce the deferral amount from the Company calculation of $\$ 2,170,096$ to $\$ 1,978,865$. The sum of all Staff adjustments reduced the ECAM deferral by $\$ 191,231$. Attachment A shows Staff's calculations in more detail.

## ECAM Rates

The methodology for calculating ECAM rates is generally defined in the Settlement Stipulation accepted by the Commission in Order No. 30904. The details of the rate design were
accepted by participating parties in discussions after Order No. 30904 was issued. The rates were to be energy rates $(\phi / \mathrm{kWh})$ and they were to be differentiated based on delivery losses. In Company Exhibit No. 3, the Company proposes three different energy rates that vary by delivery voltage. In general the lower the delivery voltage the higher the losses associated with serving the load. Higher losses translate into higher ECAM rates and lower losses, due to higher delivery voltages, translate into lower ECAM rates. Attachment $B$ to these comments shows the calculation of the three loss differentiated rates on the right hand side of the box at the bottom of the Attachment. Staff calculates the ECAM rates for customers taking service at the secondary distribution voltage level to be $.00098 \$ / \mathrm{kWh}(0.098 \$ / \mathrm{kWh})$. The ECAM rate for those taking service at the Primary Distribution voltage level is $0.00091 \$ / \mathrm{kWh}(0.091 \phi / \mathrm{kWh})$. Finally, customers taking service at the Transmission voltage level should pay an ECAM rate of $0.00089 \$ / \mathrm{kWh}(0.089 \phi / \mathrm{kWh})$. These rates applied to the Company's customer Classes produce the percentage increases shown on the right hand side of the "Revenues" column of Attachment B. The Staff proposed ECAM rate adjustment results in an average rate increase to tariff customers of $1.34 \%$.

It may be noted that the application of these three rates to the estimated metered energy sales produce a revenue amount of approximately $\$ 1,981,000$ which is approximately $\$ 2,000$ above the deferral amount. This occurs because the rates are rounded to five decimal places like all Rocky Mountain Power energy rates. This is not a problem because this difference, or any other difference, between the deferral amount and amounts actually recovered is carried back into the following years deferral balance as a true up.

## CONSUMER ISSUES

## Customer Notice and Press Release

The Customer Notice and Press Release were included in Rocky Mountain Power's Application. The Application was received on February 1, 2010. Staff reviewed the customer notice and press release and determined they were in compliance with the requirements of Rule 102, Utility Customer Information Rules (UCIR), IDAPA 31.21.02.102. The customer notice was mailed to Rocky Mountain's customers with cyclical billings beginning February 1, 2010 and ending March 1, 2010.

## Customer Comments

Customers were given until March 10, 2010 to file comments. As of March 10, 2010, two comments had been received. Both commenters opposed any increase in rates.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission Staff recommends that the Commission accept an Idaho ECAM deferral balance of $\$ 1,978,865$ for the July 1, 2009 through November 30, 2009 deferral period. This number includes a Goose Creek Transmission Sale credit, an adjustment to the SO2 sale credit, and an adjustment to the Company's interest calculation as previously discussed in these comments.

Staff also recommends that the Commission approve the following loss differentiated energy rates to be included in Schedule 94:

Secondary Distribution Rate
$0.098 \phi / \mathrm{kWh}$
Primary Distribution Rate
$0.091 \mathrm{~d} / \mathrm{kWh}$
Transmission Rate
$0.089 ¢ / \mathrm{kWh}$
Staff further recommends that the rates become effective April 1, 2010 as requested by the Company.

As previously discussed in these comments, Staff also recommends that the application and implementation of the Load Growth Adjustment be further evaluated either in the Company's next general rate case or in a separate case before the next annual ECAM filing.

Respectfully submitted this

Technical Staff: Keith Hessing<br>Cecily Vaughn<br>Marilyn Parker

[^1]Idaho ECAM Deferral (PAC-E-10-01) With Staff Adjustments
Incly 2009 through November 2009
Include Regulatory Liability as Ordered
Include Regulatory Liability as Ordered
All Idaho SO2 Credits to Idaho Customers
$\stackrel{\text { ® }}{\stackrel{\circ}{\circ}}$

$(158,455)$
$1,462,842$
$1,316,558$



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336,350\end{array} \& 219,010\end{array}\right)\)\begin{tabular}{r}
(0.17) <br>

 

$37,665)$ \& 17,608 \& $(12,77)$ <br>
\hline

 

354,204 \& 264,049 \& 172,532 \& 144,866 \& 143,855 <br>
$(177,854)$ \& $(45,039)$ \& 1,310 \& $(14,199)$ \& $(10,108)$ <br>
$\$ 17,48$ \& $\$ 17,48$ \& $\$ 17,48$ \& $\$ 17,48$ \& $\$ 17,48$ <br>
\hline 312,050 \& 787,195 \& $(22,902)$ \& 246,779 \& 176,671 <br>
\hline
\end{tabular}


 Line $8=$ Line 5 * Sum of Lines 6 and 7
Line $10=$ Line $6+$ Line $7-$ Line 9
Line $12=-$ Line $10 \times$ Line 11 (2) below
Line $8=$ Line $4=$ Line 2 Line 3
Line $5=$ Line $4-$ Line 1

| Jul-09 | Aug-09 | Sep-09 | Oct-09 | Nov-09 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 23.64 | 21,87 | 13.80 | 17.50 | 15.99 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| $115,657,309$ | $108,989,204$ | $88,855,313$ | $78,447,370$ | $70,858,584$ |
| $5,323,973$ | $5,022,310$ | $4,596,422$ | $4,508,840$ | $4,753,268$ |
| 21,72 | 2170 | 19,33 | 17,40 | 14,91 | $\begin{array}{llll}(37,665) & 961,608 & (12,777) & (145,227)\end{array}$


 Line $18=$ Line $8+$ Line $12+$ Line 17 20 Customer / Company Sharing ratio $\qquad$
$\begin{array}{ll}21 & \text { Renewables Generation (MWhs) } \\ 22 & \text { Renewable Adder Rate per MWh } \\ 23 & \text { Total Renewable Resources Adder }\end{array}$
15 Idaho Allocation
16 Idaho Tariff Customers Percent
17 Idaho SO2 Offset
10 Difference Base Load to Actual Load
11 Load Growth Adjustment Rate (\$/MWH)
12 Load Growth Adjustment Revenues
12 Load Growth Adjustment Revenues 13 SO 2 Allowances Sales
1 Base NPC Rate (\$/MWh) - See (1) below
2 Total Company Adjusted Actual NPC (\$) Actual Retail Load (MWh)
Actual NPC $(\$ / M W h)$
5 NPC Differential $\$ / M W h$
7 Actual Idaho Tariff Contract Load (MWh) -
8 NPC Differential for Deferral ( $\$$ )

$$
9 \text { Base Load - See (1) \& (3) below }
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 18 \text { Total NPC Differential + LGA + SO2 } \\
& 19 \text { Customer / Company Sharing ratio } \\
& \text { on Customar / Comany Sharing } 190 / 101
\end{aligned}
$$


Idaho Allocation
Idaho Tariff Custo
Renewable Reso
28 Recovery of Deferred Balances
29 Deferred Balance (\$)
29 Deferred Balance (\$)
31 ECAM Surcharge Rate (\$/MWh)

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\text { Line } 15=\text { Line } 13 \times \text { Line } 14
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\text { Line } 17=\text { Line } 15 \times \text { Line } 16
$$

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\text { Line } 20=\text { Line } 18 \times \text { Line } 19
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& \text { Line } 23=\text { Line } 21 \times \text { Line } 22 \\
& \text { Line } 25=\text { Line } 23 \times \text { Line } 24 \\
& \text { Line } 26=\text { Line } 16 \\
& \text { Line } 27=\text { Line } 25 \times \text { Line } 26
\end{aligned}
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\text { Line } 29=\text { Line } 42
$$

$$
\text { Line } 31=\text { Line } 29 / \text { Line } 30
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 33 \text { Actual Tariff Contract Sales (MWh) - See (2) below } \\
& 34 \text { Recovery of Deferral (\$) Line } 34=\text { Line } 31 \text { * Lines } 32+33
\end{aligned}
$$

[^2]36 Beginning Balance
37 incremental Deferral
38
Renewable Resources Adder

$2.00 \% \quad 2.00 \% \quad 2.00 \% \quad 2.00 \%$
(1) Base NPC Rate and Load from Case No. PAC-E-08-07 $\$ 982$ million
(2) Customers served under tariff contracts 400 and 401 are not impacted by the ECAM until January 1, 2011
(3) Includes only the loads which are part of the calcutation
(1) Base NPC Rate and Load from Case No. PAC-E-08-07 $\$ 982$ million

Attachment A
Case No. PAC-E-10-01
Staff Comments
03/10/10


[^3]
## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE THIS $10^{\text {TH }}$ OF MARCH 2010, SERVED THE FOREGOING COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION STAFF, IN CASE NO. PAC-E-10-01, BY MAILING A COPY THEREOF, POSTAGE PREPAID, TO THE FOLLOWING:

TED WESTON<br>ID REGULATORY AFFAIRS MANAGER ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER<br>201 S MAIN ST STE 2300<br>SALT LAKE CITY UT 84111<br>E-MAIL: ted.weston@pacificorp.com<br>DATA REQUEST RESPONSE CENTER<br>PACIFICORP<br>825 NE MULTNOMAH STE 2000<br>PORTLAND OR 97232<br>E-MAIL: datarequest@pacificorp.com

YVONNE R HOGLE
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[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Tariff contract loads (Monsanto and Agrium) are not subject to any ECAM surcharges/credits until January 1, 2011. Reference Case No. PAC-E-07-05, Order No. 30482.
    ${ }^{2}$ Start-up fuel is accounted for separately from the primary fuel for steam-powered generation plants. Start-up costs are not accounted for separately for natural gas plants, and therefore all fuel for natural gas plants is included in the determination of both base NPC and actual NPC.

[^1]:    i:umisc:comments/pace10.01swkhcvmp comments

[^2]:    Balancing Account (\$)

[^3]:    ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER
    ACT OF PROPOSED REVENUES ON NORMALIZED PRESENT REVENUES
    FROM ELECTRIC SALES TO ULTIMATE CONSUMERS
    DISTRIBUTED BY RATE SCHEDULES IN IDAHO

