

1 Q. Please state your name and business address for
2 the record.

3 A. My name is Joe Leckie. My business address is
4 472 West Washington Street, Boise, Idaho.

5 Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?

6 A. I am employed by the Idaho Public Utilities
7 Commission (Commission) as a senior auditor in the
8 Utilities Division.

9 Q. What is your educational and experience
10 background?

11 A. I graduated from Brigham Young University with a
12 Bachelors of Science degree in Accounting. I worked for
13 the accounting firm Touche Ross in its Los Angeles office
14 for approximately one year. I then attended law school
15 and graduated from the J. Rueben Clark School of Law at
16 Brigham Young University with a Juris Doctorate degree. I
17 am licensed to practice law in the State of Montana and
18 practiced there for approximately 25 years. I have been
19 employed at the Commission as an auditor since March 2001.
20 I have attended the annual regulatory studies program
21 sponsored by the National Association of Regulatory
22 Utility Commissioners (NARUC) at Michigan State University
23 in August of 2001. I have attended several other training
24 courses sponsored by NARUC on regulatory accounting and
25 auditing.

1 Q. Would you please summarize your contribution to
2 Staff's recommendations in those areas of the rate case
3 that you personally reviewed?

4 A. I personally reviewed a broad cross section of
5 the Company's investments and expenses, and I recommend
6 the following adjustments effecting revenue requirement:

- 7 1) Removal of \$33,976,054 (system) from Company
8 adjusted rate base to account for the
9 differences in the cost and in-service dates of
10 the 2010 capital addition requested by the
11 Company.
- 12 2) Removal of \$15,970,759 (system) from rate base
13 to reduce the value of the Company's coal fuel
14 stockpile inventory.
- 15 3) Removal of \$1,000,000 (system) from the
16 Company's rate base for a portion of the cost of
17 the Dunlap I Wind Project. It is the portion of
18 the Dunlap Ranch land that is not currently used
19 and useful.
- 20 4) Removal of \$240,497 (system) from rate base to
21 properly account for liquidated damages received
22 by the Company associated with the 2009 Bridger
23 Unit #2 overhaul.
- 24 5) Removal of \$662,119 (system) of incremental O&M
25 expenses claimed by the Company for future

1 operation of the High Plains, McFadden Ridge I,
2 and Dunlap I wind facilities.

3 6) I additionally reviewed the Company's proposal
4 to establish a regulatory asset or liability
5 resulting from the Company's accounting change
6 regarding the deductibility of capital repairs
7 for tax purposes. The Company also wants to
8 normalize income tax expenses. I support the
9 Company proposal on both issues.

10 Q. Are your adjustments shown and included in
11 Staff's proposed revenue requirement?

12 A. All of my adjustments are included in Staff's
13 proposed revenue requirement as shown in Staff witness
14 Vaughn's Staff Exhibit No. 108.

15 Q. Would you please explain your recommendation to
16 remove \$33,976,054 (system) from the Company's adjusted
17 rate base?

18 A. In the initial filing by the Company, rate base
19 included not only plant placed into service by the Company
20 though December 31, 2009 (the end of the test year); but
21 also plant that was expected to be placed into service by
22 December 31, 2010. The total plant expected to be placed
23 into service in 2010 was \$1,852,283,166. See Company
24 witness McDougal, Exhibit 2, page 8.6.2. Staff reviewed
25 these projects and requested that the Company update the

1 dollar amounts and the expected in-service dates for each
2 project. The Company provided the information for Staff's
3 Exhibit No. 101. The updated information indicated that
4 some in-service dates changed and that the forecasted cost
5 for some projects also changed. The difference between
6 the updated cost and the original forecasted cost is in
7 Column (h) "Change in Cost" of the Exhibit. The total of
8 all the updated costs is \$1,818,307,112 (Column (g)). The
9 difference between the original cost and the updated cost
10 is \$33,976,054 (Column h). Staff has included this amount
11 as an adjustment reducing the Company's rate base.

12 The \$33,976,054 is a Company system total.
13 Idaho's share of this amount is \$2,031,303.

14 Q. Does this reduction in rate base have any effect
15 on the depreciation expense?

16 A. Yes, depreciation expense on a total Company
17 basis is reduced by \$875,226 and Idaho's share of the
18 depreciation expense reduction is \$52,583. Also,
19 accumulated depreciation is reduced by the same amounts.

20 Q. Please summarize the adjustment to the coal fuel
21 stockpile the Company described in its Application as an
22 adjustment to Miscellaneous Rate Base.

23 A. The Company increased coal fuel stockpile in
24 Account 151, Fuel Stock, by \$24,644,591 on a system basis
25 with \$1,581,176 allocated to Idaho. The Company stated

1 that this increase was due to the cost of coal and the
2 number of tons stored at each site (McDougal direct
3 testimony at page 33, lines 4-5.)

4 Q. Did you examine the increase in coal fuel
5 stockpile proposed by the Company?

6 A. Yes. In response to Confidential Audit Request
7 dated April 27, 2010, the Company provided a schedule of
8 fuel stockpile values and tons at each plant. I used this
9 schedule to estimate the average cost per ton for each
10 stockpile at each plant as of December 31, 2010. See
11 Staff Confidential Exhibit No. 102, Column (f). The
12 average cost per ton is the Dec-2010 projected coal
13 stockpile cost, Column (e) divided by the pro forma
14 tonnage, Column (d). The average cost per ton was
15 compared to the cost per ton of contracted coal for each
16 plant and found to be a reasonable cost per ton for
17 valuing the total value of the stockpile.

18 Q. Since you agree with the Company on the average
19 cost per ton of each stockpile, do you also agree with the
20 Company on the increase in tonnage of the stockpiles as
21 proposed by the Company for each location?

22 A. No. As shown in Staff Confidential Exhibit
23 No. 102, Column (g), there were some noticeable changes in
24 the stockpile tonnage at the different plant sites with a
25 significant tonnage increase at several plants. The

1 Company provided no acceptable explanation or
2 justification for these increases. Therefore, Staff
3 believes the tonnage of the stockpiles should be no
4 greater than the 2009 actual tons level, Staff
5 Confidential Exhibit No. 102, Column (b).

6 In determining the value of each sites'
7 stockpile, if the stockpile increased in tonnage
8 between 2009 and 2010, the 2009 actual tonnage is used.
9 (See Confidential Exhibit 102, Column (b)). The 2009
10 tonnage is then valued at the average cost per ton as of
11 December 31, 2010. Column (b) is multiplied by Column (f)
12 to determine the value of Staff's Stockpile Values in
13 Column (i). If the stockpile decreased in tonnage
14 between 2009 and 2010, the 2010 tonnage and dollars are
15 used. (See Confidential Exhibit No. 102, Columns (d)
16 and (e)). The Company's stockpile value of \$188,279,981,
17 Column (e) is \$15,970,759, Column (j) more than Staff's
18 stockpile value of \$172,309,222, Column (i). Therefore,
19 Staff is recommending a \$15,970,759 reduction to the
20 Company's rate base on a system basis, and an allocated
21 reduction to the Idaho rate base of \$1,015,344.

22 Q. Staff Exhibit No. 102, Column (h) shows
23 reductions to six coal fuel stockpiles. Does your
24 adjustment accept the Company's 2009 to 2010 tonnage
25 reductions for these six stockpiles?

1 A. Yes. The reduction of stockpile size was a
2 decision made by the Company. Staff's adjustment only
3 questions the necessity of increasing the tonnage size of
4 the stockpiles from 2009 actuals to 2010 pro formas. The
5 customers should receive the benefit of the Company's
6 ability to operate the six coal sites at the reduced
7 tonnage levels; but should not bear the cost of the
8 increase tonnage without just and reasonable cause for the
9 increase.

10 Q. Why have you recommended that the rate base for
11 the Dunlap I Wind Project be reduced by \$1,000,000?

12 A. The Dunlap I Wind Project was constructed on
13 real property purchased by the Company in 2008 and
14 referred to as Dunlap Ranch. The original property
15 included deeded property of approximately 15,000 acres
16 or 23 sections of land and the right to lease one
17 additional section plus two (2) smaller portions of
18 property owned by the State of Wyoming. The Company also
19 has leased two sections of property owned by the United
20 States Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Company used
21 the deeded property for the placement of the Dunlap I Wind
22 Project which consists of 74 wind tower sites. The State
23 of Wyoming land was crossed by the transmission line
24 serving the wind generators but no generators were sited
25 on either the State of Wyoming or the BLM land. The 74

1 sites use property from only 10 of the 23 sections of land
2 that was purchased. The transmission facilities are
3 located on 5 of the 23 sections purchased. This leaves 8
4 sections of land without any generation or transmission
5 facility within its 640 acres. Additionally, one section
6 only has 2 generation sites located on it and these are
7 located in the upper north east corner occupying less than
8 20 acres.

9 Staff recognizes that not all property will be
10 equally suitable for the placement of wind generation, and
11 that there may be other restrictions on the property that
12 would curtail the number of wind generation sites.
13 However, it appears to Staff that some of the land
14 purchased is not currently used and useful in providing
15 utility service. *Idaho Code* § 61-502A.

16 The Company included in rate base the entire
17 purchase price for the Dunlap Ranch as used and useful,
18 and as part of the cost for the Dunlap I wind facility
19 (the purchase price for the Dunlap Ranch is in Company's
20 Confidential Responses to IPUC Production Request 180).
21 Page 1 of the Agreement to Sell and Purchase is shown as
22 Confidential Exhibit No. 103, page 1. Staff is
23 recommending that \$1.0 million of that purchase price be
24 excluded from rate base at this time and put into
25 Account 105, Property Held for Future Use.

1 Q. You are recommending that the total Company's
2 rate base be reduced by \$240,497 to properly account for
3 liquidated damages received by the Company as part of
4 the 2009 Bridger Unit #2 overhaul. What are your reasons
5 for this recommendation?

6 A. The Company contracted to overhaul Bridger
7 Unit #2 in 2009. As part of that overhaul, the contractor
8 doing the overhaul became liable to the Company for
9 \$625,000 in liquidated damages. After the overhaul was
10 completed, the Company accounted for the repairs to
11 Unit #2 by capitalizing the complete cost of the overhaul
12 and adding the complete cost to rate base.

13 The Company accounted for the liquidated damages
14 by reducing the cost of other jobs the contractor was
15 doing. An amount of \$264,254 was accounted for as a
16 credit against the total cost of repairs to the Bridger
17 Unit #1 Reheater. The balance of the liquidated damages
18 was credited to other various smaller repairs and are not
19 included in the accounting for any of the projects
20 included by the Company in this case.

21 The appropriate accounting for the liquidated
22 damages should have been to reduce the total cost of the
23 Bridger Unit #2 overhaul by \$625,000. Since the Bridger
24 Unit #1 Reheater project is part of the 2010 capital
25 projects included by the Company in rate base for this

1 case, the credit of \$264,254 applied to the total cost of
2 this project undervalues its total cost.

3 The matching principles of accounting require
4 the total liquidated damages of \$625,000 be credited to
5 the total cost of the Unit #2 overhaul, and a reduction to
6 the amount included in rate base. With the total amount
7 of the damages credited to the Unit #2 overhaul, the total
8 cost of Unit #1 Reheader should not have received a credit
9 of \$264,254. Therefore, the total cost of Unit #1
10 included in rate base should be increased by \$264,254.
11 The difference between these two changes of \$360,746 is a
12 reduction in the Company's accounting for these two
13 projects.

14 The Company owns two thirds (2/3) of the Jim
15 Bridger facility, therefore the Company's rate base should
16 be reduced by 2/3 of the reduction of \$360,746. This
17 equals a total reduction in the Company's rate base
18 of \$240,497 (system).

19 Q. Will this reduction in the Company's rate base
20 request have any effect on the total Company's
21 depreciation expense and accumulated depreciation?

22 A. Yes, the rate base reduction of \$240,497 will
23 reduce the depreciation expense by \$5,690 (system). The
24 composite depreciation rate for this capital expense
25 is 2.366%. Accumulated depreciation is also reduced by

1 this same amount.

2 Q. Why have you recommended that \$662,119 be
3 reduced from the Company's request for an increase in its
4 operation and maintenance expenses (O&M expense)?

5 A. The Company has requested an increase in its O&M
6 expenses in the amount of \$7,333,392 (system) to cover its
7 anticipated increase in O&M expenses for the following
8 facilities: High Plains Wind, McFadden Ridge I Wind,
9 Dunlap I Wind, Wind Administration, DJ Scrubber. The
10 individual amounts requested for each facility are in
11 Exhibit No. 2 of Company witness McDougal's testimony,
12 page 4.6. These increases are intended to capture the
13 increase in costs to operate these facilities that were
14 recently placed in service. Some of the increases in
15 costs are due to contractual obligations that become
16 effective in 2010 and are not included in the case. These
17 contractual obligations are for land lease payments, plant
18 maintenance, weed control, pest control, and road and
19 vehicle maintenance. The Company is legally obligated for
20 each of these payments and the actual amount of the
21 expenses is capable of being determined. I have
22 determined that these contractual expenses are an
23 acceptable known and measurable increase in the test year
24 expenses.

25 The other increases in expenses claimed by the

1 Company are budgeted amounts for "labor, employee expense,
2 and electrical parts, breakers, fuses, filters, gaskets,
3 gear oils, propane etc." These expenses are not
4 sufficiently known and measurable and should not be
5 included in the Company's test year expenses. The Company
6 has not shown that the 2009 test year expenses are
7 insufficient to cover these costs.

8 Staff in Exhibit No. 103, page 2, shows the
9 specific increases proposed by the Company with the
10 removal of those expenses that are not known and
11 measurable.

12 Staff Exhibit No. 103, page 2, details the
13 difference between the Company's total O&M request and
14 Staff's recommendation. That difference of \$662,119
15 (system) is a reduction to the Company's total requested
16 revenue requirement.

17 Q. What is your assessment of the Company's request
18 to establish a regulatory asset or liability for interest
19 paid to or received from the Internal Revenue Service
20 (IRS) on adjustments made to the repairs deductions taken
21 in the Company's 2008 and 2009 federal income tax returns?

22 A. The Company is asking to have a regulatory asset
23 or liability account established for any changes in taxes
24 and the interest it may receive or be liable to pay for
25 changes in the repair deductions it is taking in its 2008

1 and 2009 income tax returns with the IRS. Because of the
2 change it is implementing in the repair deduction, and as
3 explained in Company witness Fuller's testimony
4 (pages 2-6) there is the potential for either a refund
5 with interest for overpayment of taxes or a cost with
6 interest for underpayment of taxes. The final outcome is
7 subject to a subsequent review and determination of the
8 Company's repair deduction by the IRS. The establishment
9 of the regulatory asset or liability accounts will allow
10 the Company to track what the refund/cost will be and then
11 include that refund/cost in the next rate case. Staff
12 supports this accounting treatment. It allows the
13 customers to receive the benefit of any refund, and
14 protects the Company from any cost that may result from an
15 IRS audit.

16 Staff recommends that no interest accrue on
17 either the regulatory asset or liability account between
18 the time any refund or cost is determined and the matter
19 is considered in a rate case.

20 Q. The Company also requested Commission approval
21 of its proposal to move to full normalization treatment of
22 income taxes for purposes of setting rates. What is
23 Staff's recommendation on this change?

24 A. Staff agrees that the Company's income taxes
25 should be fully normalized. The Company's analysis of the

1 reasons for such a change are in Company witness Fuller's
2 testimony (pages 6-11). Witness Fuller, in his testimony,
3 clearly provides reasonable justification for the
4 Commission's approval. The primary justification from
5 Staff's perspective is that the full normalization of
6 income taxes matches the tax benefits and the tax burdens
7 of the tax liability with the customers paying the
8 associated costs. Normalization allows all ratepayers to
9 receive benefits from an asset at the same effective tax
10 rate.

11 Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony in this
12 proceeding?

13 A. Yes, it does.
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Case No. PAC-E-10-07

**Exhibit No. 102 prepared and sponsored by
Joe Leckie is Confidential and only available
to those persons who have signed Protective
Agreements**

Case No. PAC-E-10-07

Exhibit No. 103, page 1, prepared and sponsored by Joe Leckie is Confidential and only available to those persons who have signed Protective Agreements

**Pacificorp
PAC-E-10-07**

Schedule on Adjustment to the Incremental Generation O&M

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
Facility	2009 Actuals	Accepted 2010 O&M	Increase Accepted	Company Request	Difference	
High Plains	\$ 401,303		\$ 2,362,060	\$ 2,621,060	\$ (259,000)	
Contracts		\$ 1,873,363				
Land Lease; Utilities		\$ 890,000				
		<u>\$ 2,763,363</u>				
McFadden Ridge I	\$ 203,806		\$ 592,655	\$ 648,655	\$ (56,000)	
Contracts		\$ 540,461				
Land Lease; Utilities		\$ 256,000				
		<u>\$ 796,461</u>				
Dunlap I	\$ -		\$ 2,262,111	\$ 2,435,111	\$ (173,000)	
Contracts		\$ 2,049,111				
Land Lease; Utilities		\$ 213,000				
		<u>\$ 2,262,111</u>				
Wind Administration	\$ 1,662,029	\$ 1,662,029	\$ -	\$ 174,119	\$ (174,119)	
DJ Scrubber	\$ -	\$ 1,454,447	\$ 1,454,447	\$ 1,454,447	\$ -	
Total	<u>\$ 2,267,138</u>	<u>\$ 8,938,411</u>	<u>\$ 6,671,273</u>			
Company's Request	\$ 2,267,138	\$ 9,600,530	<u>\$ 7,333,392</u>			
Difference			\$ (662,119)		\$ (662,119)	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE THIS 14TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2010, SERVED THE FOREGOING **NON-CONFIDENTIAL DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JOE LECKIE**, IN CASE NO. PAC-E-10-07, BY MAILING A COPY THEREOF, POSTAGE PREPAID, TO THE FOLLOWING:

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