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IDAHO PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

**STATE OF IDAHO**

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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May 14, 2012

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**Re: Case Nos. GNR-E-12-02; PAC-E-12-09**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission in Order No. 28708, Case No. GNR-E-99-1, established a methodology for the annual adjustable rate portion of avoided costs for those QF contracts using, variable costs associated with Colstrip, a coal-fired generating facility in southeast Montana. For those QF contracts with Colstrip-related fuel costs and variable O&M, future Colstrip variable cost adjustments are to be calculated by using FERC Form 1 Colstrip Unit Coal Costs per megawatt hour (MWh) and adding \$2.00/MWh (the average variable O&M cost of Colstrip plus 20¢/MWh for generation taxes plus a five percent (5%) adjustment for line loss). As computed by Commission Staff the Colstrip related adjustable rate will change from 11.38 mill/kWh to 14.80 mill/kWh. The same calculated rate revision under the avoided cost methodology is used by Avista, PacifiCorp dba Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power Company. This change in the variable rate affects existing contracts under the previous SAR methodology.

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The adjustable portion of the avoided cost rates under the Sumas-based methodology is based on annual average gas prices indexed at Sumas, Washington. As reported by Avista, the indexed gas prices have decreased by \$0.39/MMBtu. The approved gas price of \$4.99/MMBtu plus the \$0.39/MMBtu decrease results in a gas price of \$4.60/MMBtu for the 2012-2013 year. This equates to a SAR fuel cost of 32.66 mill/kWh as used in the model.

In accordance with Order No. 29316, the adjustable portion of the avoided cost rate for PacifiCorp contracts with 1992 amendments has also been recomputed. Beginning on July 1, 2003, the adjustable portion for these contracts was ordered to be equal to the average cost of fuel for the Carbon, Hale, Naughton Huntington and Hunter generating plants, including a variable O&M component of \$1.51 but exclusive of generation taxes and a line loss adjustment. The variable energy rate applicable to deliveries commencing July 1, 2012 extending through June 30, 2013 has been computed to be \$18.52/MWh, an increase from \$16.42 last year.

Accompanying this letter are worksheets showing the computation of the revised adjustable rates for the various affected contracts. If after reviewing the revisions, you accept them as accurate please indicate your approval by letter (or other filing) directed to the Commission in the reserved case docket numbers identified above. The case heading for the generic adjustment, Case No. GNR-E-12-02, will read as follows:

IN THE MATTER OF THE ANNUAL REVISION AND UPDATED CALCULATION OF THE ADJUSTABLE PORTION OF THE AVOIDED COST RATE(S) FOR EXISTING PURPA CONTRACTS FOR AVISTA CORPORATION DBA AVISTA UTILITIES, FOR IDAHO POWER COMPANY, AND FOR PACIFICORP DBA ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER.

The case heading in the PacifiCorp case for PacifiCorp QF contracts with 1992 Amendment language, Case No. PAC-E-12-09, is as follows:

IN THE MATTER OF THE ANNUAL REVISION OF QF VARIABLE ENERGY PRICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH TERMS OF THE 1992 AMENDMENTS TO POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN IDAHO QFS AND PACIFICORP.

Please file your respective responses with the Commission on or prior to May 25, 2012.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please feel free to contact Rick Sterling if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Kristine A. Sasser  
Deputy Attorney General

Enclosures

bls/L:GNR-E-12-02\_PAC-E-12-09\_ avoided cost

**COLSTRIP ADJUSTABLE RATE CALCULATION**

For Period 7/1/12-6/30/13

Colstrip Fuel Cost from Avista FERC Form 1 for CY 2010

line 12	Net Generation (kwh)	1,432,719,000
line 20	Fuel	<u>\$18,339,428</u>
	Fuel cost per kwh	\$0.012800

Fuel Cost per MWh	\$12.8004
Variable O&M, Gen. Tax, 5% line loss per MWh	<u>\$2.0000</u>
Total Colstrip Adjustable Rate	\$14.8004

Reference GNR-E-99-1 O.N. 28708 4/17/2001

**Average Gas Prices at Sumas, Washington from Inside FERC publication  
(\$/MMBtu)**

**Calculating the 2012-2013 Avoided Cost Adjustable Rate**

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Jan	\$6.49	\$4.19
Feb	\$5.51	\$4.11
Mar	\$4.78	\$3.82
Apr	\$3.98	\$4.04
May	\$3.97	\$3.99
Jun	\$3.75	\$4.03
July	\$4.06	\$4.00
Aug	\$3.80	\$3.97
Sep	\$3.11	\$3.72
Oct	\$3.66	\$3.70
Nov	\$3.75	\$3.66
Dec	\$4.98	\$3.93
Average	\$4.32	\$3.93

Actual Annual Adjustment:

$$\$4.99 - (\$4.32 - \$3.93) = \underline{\$4.60}$$

Note:

\$2.80/MMBtu = 2000-01 Approved Rate  
\$4.82/MMBtu = 2001-02 Approved Rate  
\$5.23/MMBtu = 2002-03 Approved Rate  
\$3.33/MMBtu = 2003-04 Approved Rate  
\$5.31/MMBtu = 2004-05 Approved Rate  
\$5.92/MMBtu = 2005-06 Approved Rate  
\$7.80/MMBtu = 2006-07 Approved Rate  
\$6.94/MMBtu = 2007-08 Approved Rate  
\$7.18/MMBtu = 2008-09 Approved Rate  
\$9.00/MMBtu = 2009-10 Approved Rate  
\$4.62/MMBtu = 2010-11 Approved Rate  
\$4.99/MMBtu = 2011-12 Approved Rate

**PacifiCorp  
Total Variable Energy Rate  
for 2012 / 2013**

	Carbon	Naughton	Huntington	Hunter	Totals
Fuel Cost (\$)	\$ 20,346,469	\$ 101,169,233	\$ 94,465,053	\$ 121,472,568	\$ 337,453,323
<small>2011 FERC FORM 1 - Page 402 Line 20</small>					
Generation (MWH)	1,332,218	5,102,251	5,961,371	7,445,083	19,840,923
<small>2011 FERC FORM 1 - Page 402 Line 12</small>					
Average Fuel Cost (\$/MWH)					\$ 17.01 /MWH
Variable O&M					\$ 1.51 /MWH
Total Variable Energy Rate for 2012 / 2013					\$ 18.52 /MWH

For deliveries commencing July 1, 2012 extending through June 30, 2013  
12 PacifiCorp/QFs contracts with approved 1992 amendment language