

1 Q. Please state your name, business address and present position with PacifiCorp (the
2 Company).

3 A. My name is Mark T. Widmer, my business address is 825 N.E. Multnomah, Suite
4 600, Portland, Oregon 97232, and my present position is Principal System
5 Planner.

6 **Qualifications**

7 Q. Briefly describe your education and business experience.

8 A. I received an undergraduate degree in Business Administration from Oregon State
9 University. I have worked for PacifiCorp since 1980 and have held various
10 positions in the power supply and regulatory areas. I was promoted to my present
11 position in 1998.

12 Q. Please describe your current duties.

13 A. I am responsible for the coordination and preparation of net power cost and
14 related analyses used in retail price filings. In addition, I represent the Company
15 on power resource and other various issues with intervenor and regulatory groups
16 associated with the six state regulatory commissions to whose jurisdiction we are
17 subject.

18 **Purpose of Testimony**

19 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

20 A. I will provide information on how input data is normalized in the Company's
21 production cost model and will present the results of the production cost model
22 study for the twelve-month period ending June 30, 2001. "Normalization" is
23 described in detail in my testimony as is the rationale for normalizing input data.

1 **Determination of Net Power Cost**

2 Q. Please explain how net power costs are calculated?

3 A. The Company calculates net power costs on a normalized basis using its
4 production cost model, PD/Mac. The model is used to simulate the operation of
5 the power supply portion of the Company under a variety of stream flow and
6 associated energy market conditions. The results obtained from the various
7 stream flow conditions are averaged and the appropriate cost data is applied to
8 determine an expected net power cost under normal conditions for the test period.
9 The use of normalized net power costs stabilizes the prices paid by the Company's
10 retail customers and places the risks and responsibility of managing energy costs,
11 over which the customer has no control, on the Company.

12 Q. Please explain the production cost model and how it is used to estimate net power
13 costs.

14 A. The development of expected net power costs begins with the selection of either a
15 forecasted or historic test period. My discussion will focus on the use of a
16 historical test period. I have divided the description of the power cost model into
17 three categories:

- 18 1. The inputs that go into the model.
- 19 2. The process of normalizing the model inputs.
- 20 3. The output provided by the model.

21 **Model Inputs**

22 Q. Please explain the inputs that go into the model.

1 A. Inputs into the production cost model include retail loads, thermal plant data,
2 hydroelectric generation data, firm wholesale sales, firm wholesale purchases,
3 firm wheeling contracts, Pacific Northwest regional data, and non-firm wholesale
4 sales and purchase market data.

5 Q. Please describe the retail load that is used in the model.

6 A. The retail load represents the monthly firm retail energy loads that the Company
7 served within all of its jurisdictions for the twelve-month period ended, December
8 31, 1998. These loads have been adjusted to reflect normal temperature
9 conditions.

10 Q. Please describe the thermal plant input data.

11 A. The amount of energy available from each thermal unit and the unit cost of the
12 energy is needed to calculate net power costs. To determine the amount of energy
13 available, the Company averages four years of each unit's historical operating
14 equivalent availability reduced by the unit's four-year average maintenance.

15 The unit cost of energy for each unit is determined by using a four-year
16 average of historical burn rate data and historical normalized coal prices. By
17 using four-year averages for maintenance, historical availability and burn rate
18 data, annual fluctuations in unit operation and performance are smoothed. The
19 four-year-period used by the Company for this filing is 1995 through 1998.

20 Q. Please describe the thermal generation included in the Company's net power cost
21 studies.

22 A. The Company's thermal peak capability by plant are shown below:

Plant	Peak Capability (MW)
Blundel	23
Carbon Units 1-2	175
Cholla Unit 4	380
Colstrip Unit 3	70
Craig Units 1-2	165
Dave Johnston Units 1-4	780
Gadsby Units 1-3	235
Hayden Units 1-2	78
Hermiston	240
Hunter Units 1-3	1116
Huntington Units 1-2	895
Jim Bridger Units 1-4	1415
Naughton Units 1-3	700
Wyodak	345

1 Q. Please describe the hydroelectric generation input data.

2 A. The hydroelectric generation in the Pacific Northwest is directly related to stream
3 flow conditions, making it an integral part of determining the Company's net
4 power cost. Fifty years of monthly hydroelectric generation for Company-owned
5 hydro plants in the Northwest and Mid-Columbia purchased resources are an input
6 into the model. The hydro data that is an input into the production cost model is
7 from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Hydro Regulation computer
8 program (Hydro Regulation). Data from the Hydro Regulation is based on actual
9 stream flows for the period August 1928 through July 1978. The Hydro
10 Regulation simulates the hydroelectric generation at each facility on the major
11 rivers in the Pacific Northwest based on inputs provided by each member of the
12 Northwest Power Pool, Idaho Power Company, and the Assured Operating Plan of
13 the Canadian Utilities. The purpose of the Hydro Regulation is to maximize the
14 firm energy capability of the Pacific Northwest hydroelectric system, and is based

1 on hydroelectric plant efficiencies, storage capabilities and requirements,
2 minimum flow requirements (including fish requirements), regional loads and
3 resources, and non-power operating constraints.

4 Q. Is the input of hydro generation located outside of the Northwest modeled in the
5 same manner as the Pacific Northwest hydro generation?

6 A. No. The input of hydro generation located in Utah and Southeast Idaho was
7 calculated as the actual average monthly hydroelectric generation for the years
8 1974 through 1998. A shorter time frame is used for the Utah and Southeast
9 Idaho hydro resources than the Company's other hydro resources because their
10 relative size is small, there is no overall area model analogous to the Hydro
11 Regulation model in the Northwest and there is a lack of reliable data for the
12 earlier years.

13 Q. Please describe the input data for firm wholesale sales, purchases, and wheeling.

14 A. The data for firm wholesale sales, purchases, and wheeling are all based on
15 contracts to which the Company is a party. Each contract specifies the basis of
16 quantity and price. The contract may specify an exact quantity of capacity and
17 energy or a range bounded by a maximum and minimum amount, or it may be
18 based on the actual operation of a specific facility. The price may also be
19 specifically stated, may refer to a rate schedule, a market index such as COB or
20 PaloVerde, or may be based on some type of formula.

21 Q. Please describe the Pacific Northwest regional input data.

22 A. There are several types of regional data required as inputs to the model. The most
23 significant is the Pacific Northwest regional non-firm load and resource balance.

1 The non-firm regional balance can be either surplus or deficit. A surplus occurs
2 when the amount of energy available within the region is in excess of the region's
3 firm load and a deficit occurs when the region's firm load exceeds available
4 resources. The regional balance is closely related to the region's hydro capability,
5 and is therefore considered to be a water year dependent variable. The inputs
6 include fifty years of monthly water data. The non-firm balances are developed
7 by comparing the region's current loads and resources to the resources available
8 under each of the fifty water year conditions. As indicated earlier, the Company
9 uses data prepared for the Hydro Regulation as its data source. Other data used to
10 represent the Company's interactions within the region include: the amount of
11 thermal resources considered to be high cost, and the regional storage capabilities.

12 Q. Please describe the non-firm wholesale sales and purchase input assumptions.

13 A. The production cost model requires inputs relating to four non-firm wholesale
14 sales markets. These markets are the Pacific Northwest, California (via the
15 Pacific Northwest / Pacific Southwest Intertie), the Desert Southwest, and
16 Nevada. The size of each market is determined by the available firm transmission
17 reduced by any firm wholesale sales scheduled over the respective transmission
18 path, forced outages, or other known restrictions. Non-firm wholesale sales prices
19 are set to reflect prices expected under normal conditions and are based on
20 historical nonfirm wholesale prices, water conditions and reservoir levels in the
21 Pacific Northwest, levels of competition experienced and natural gas prices.
22 Prices for non-firm purchases are based on normalized hydro conditions and fuel
23 prices.

1 **Normalization**

2 Q. Please explain what is meant by normalization and how it applies to the
3 production cost model for historical test years.

4 A. Normalization is the process of modifying actual test year data by removing all
5 known abnormalities and making adjustments for all known changes.

6 Normalization produces test year results that are representative of expected
7 conditions with none of the abnormalities that occur in each actual year. The
8 following are examples of normalization adjustments made by the Company to
9 adjust input data for the production cost model:

- 10 1. The system load net of special sales is adjusted to reflect loads that would
11 have occurred under normal temperature conditions in the Company's
12 service area.
- 13 2. The Company's thermal plant data is normalized by making adjustments
14 for major known and measurable changes that affect the output of the
15 plant. Fuel costs for each plant are based on the fuel costs incurred during
16 the historical test period, adjusted for known and measurable changes.
- 17 3. Firm wholesale power purchase and sales under long-term contracts with
18 other entities are normalized by making adjustments for contractual
19 changes in price and quantity.
- 20 4. Power purchases from qualifying facilities are normalized by making
21 adjustments for known changes in price and quantity.

1 5. Transmission availability is normalized by making adjustments for known
2 changes to transmission paths such as upgrades to the Pacific Northwest /
3 Pacific Southwest intertie or line reratings.

4 6. The availability of energy from Company-owned and purchased
5 hydroelectric generation is normalized by running the production cost
6 model for each of the fifty different water years identified in the Hydro
7 Regulation. The resultant fifty sets of thermal generation, non-firm sales
8 and purchases, and hydroelectric generation are then averaged using a
9 weighting method which accounts for 115 years of stream flow data as
10 measured on the Columbia River at The Dalles.

11 Q. You stated that hydroelectric generation is normalized by using historical water
12 data. Please explain why the regulatory commissions and the utilities of the
13 Pacific Northwest have adopted the use of production cost studies that employ
14 historical water conditions for making these normalization adjustments.

15 A. In any hydroelectric-oriented utility system, water supply is one of the major
16 variables affecting power supply. The operation of the thermal electric resources
17 both within and outside the Pacific Northwest are directly affected by water
18 conditions within the Pacific Northwest. During periods when the stream flows
19 are at their lowest, it is necessary for utilities to operate their thermal electric
20 resources at a higher level, thereby experiencing relatively high operating
21 expenses, primarily due to fuel costs. Conversely, under conditions of high
22 stream flows, excess hydroelectric production may be used to reduce the
23 generation of the more expensive thermal electric plants, which in turn results in

1 lower operating expenses of some utilities and an increase in the revenues of other
2 utilities, or any combination thereof. No one water condition can be used to
3 simulate all the variables that are met under normal operating conditions. Utilities
4 and regulatory commissions, therefore, have adopted production cost analysis that
5 simulates the operation of the entire system using historical water conditions, as
6 being representative of what can reasonably be expected to occur.

7 **Model Outputs**

8 Q. What variables are calculated from the production cost study?

9 A. The variables that are generally dependent upon water supply are calculated for
10 each month of the study and are outputs of the model. These variables are:

- 11 1. The amount of thermal generation required;
- 12 2. Secondary sales both within the Pacific Northwest region, and in markets
13 outside the region;
- 14 3. The secondary energy purchased — the availability of secondary energy is
15 based on the level of surplus hydroelectric generation available in the
16 Pacific Northwest as well as the Company's load and resource balance;
- 17 4. Interchange energy and hydroelectric storage, and transactions as
18 performed under the Pacific Northwest Coordination Agreement; and
- 19 5. The hydroelectric energy spilled due to the lack of a market.

20 Q. Would you please describe the service area that the Company's production cost
21 study encompasses and explain why it is necessary to analyze such an extensive
22 area.

1 A. The Company's six-state system is fully integrated with members of the
2 Northwest and Rocky Mountain Power Pools, making it necessary to analyze the
3 effect on the Company's power supply operations brought about by the operations
4 of all the utilities in this area. The wholesale sales markets available to the Pacific
5 Northwest region, mainly those in California and the Desert Southwest, must also
6 be represented in order to evaluate their direct effect on the operations of each of
7 the utilities within the Pacific Northwest.

8 Q. Would you please give an example of the interaction of operations between the
9 utilities within this study area?

10 A. As one example, assume that the Company has an energy surplus in one month as
11 a result of the integrated operation of regional hydroelectric facilities. Pursuant to
12 the provisions of the Pacific Northwest Coordination Agreement to which the
13 Company is a party, this surplus must first be made available to the other parties
14 to the Agreement who are energy deficient. Once this obligation has been
15 satisfied, any remaining Company surplus could then be made available to
16 wholesale sales markets inside or outside the Pacific Northwest. Because
17 wholesale sales markets are highly competitive, the regional energy surplus
18 situation must be examined before the ultimate disposition of any Company
19 surplus can be determined.

20 Q. Do you believe that the production cost model appropriately represents the
21 Company's operating relationship with the other utilities and markets?

22 A. Yes.

1 Q. Do the results of the production cost model match the actual net power cost of the
2 Company?

3 A. No. The results of the production cost model are not intended to match actual
4 costs on a year by year basis, but are intended to provide results which are fair and
5 reasonable and simulate the operation of the system under normal conditions. The
6 fundamental difference between using normalized and actual net power costs is
7 the placement of risks and rewards associated with over-running and under-
8 running net power costs. Using actual information places the risks and rewards on
9 customers, while using normalized information places the risks and rewards on
10 the Company and its shareholders.

11 Q. What has the Company's experience been using the production cost model in
12 other jurisdictions?

13 A. The production cost model has been used for regulatory filing and reporting
14 requirements in all of the jurisdictions in which the Company operates. It has not
15 been the subject of major controversy in the other states in which the Company
16 serves as the various parties have been comfortable and familiar with the model
17 and the reasonableness of the results it produces.

18 Q. Please describe Exhibit____(MTW-1), Table 1.

19 A. Table 1 is a schedule of the Company's major sources of energy supply by major
20 source of supply, expressed in average megawatts, owned and contracted for by
21 the Company to meet system load requirements, for the twelve-month test period
22 ended June 30, 2001. The total shown on line 13, represents the total normalized
23 usage of resources during the test period to serve system load. The total system

1 load is represented by lines 13 through 15. Line 14 consists of wholesales sales
2 made to neighboring utilities within the Pacific Northwest, the Pacific Southwest,
3 and the Desert Southwest as calculated from the production cost model study.

4 Line 15 represents the Company's System Load.

5 Q. Please describe Exhibit____(MTW-1), Table 2.

6 A. Table 2 shows the major sources of peak generation capability for the Company's
7 winter and summer peak loads and the Company's normalized energy load for the
8 twelve-month test period ended June 30, 2001.

9 Q. How are the results of the production cost study used in this rate proceeding?

10 A. The resulting purchased power expense, fuel and wheeling expenses, and
11 wholesale sales revenues are included in Mr. Larsen's Exhibit.

12 Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?

13 A. Yes.