1 BEFORE THE WASHINGTON S	Page 66 Page 68
2 UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATIO	
	3 will be made available to my colleagues, and they will
⁴ WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	4 review them as part of this rate case proceeding.
⁵ Complainant,) DOCKET NO.	UE-152253 5 Before we go any further, we have a short video
$\binom{6}{7}$ VS.)	6 that describes the UTC processes and describes how the
BACIFIC POWER & LIGHT)	7 commission makes its determinations. So why don't we
9 Respondent.)	8 go ahead and show that video right now, and then we
10 Respondent.)	9 will take public comment.
11	10 (SHORT VIDEO PLAYED.)
PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING, V	OLUME II MR. DANNER: All right. I hope that the volume
Pages 66 - 90	12 there was sufficient so people could hear the video.
14	13 I want to point out tonight that I'm here to
April 25, 2016 6:00 p.m. 129 North Second Street 16 Yakima, Washington	14 listen, so I'm not here to answer questions. But we do
129 North Second Street	15 have people here tonight, the state's public counsel,
17	16 Simon ffitch is here. He represents residential
18	17 customers and small business customers, so if you have
19	18 questions about this rate case, you can ask him.
20	19 Bryce Dalley will you please stand? is from
21	20 Pacific Power and also is available for questions.
22	21 In addition, commission has regulatory staff who
23	act as an independent party, and Jason Ball from our
	23 staff is here, along with Jennifer Cameron-Rulkowski
24	
	24 who is an attorney general assistant attorney
24 25 DANI JEAN CRAVER, CCR NO. 3352	25 general who is assigned from this case from the
25 DANI JEAN CRAVER, CCR NO. 3352	25 general who is assigned from this case from the Page 67 Page 69
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	D 70	T	
1	Page 70		Page 72
1	Washington here in Yakima. We are a CAP agency, a	1	The poverty rate over all ages in Yakima County is
2	Community Action Program agency, one of 30 in the	2	about 23 percent. Washington average from the same
3	state, providing Weatherization Assistance Programs.	3	category is listed at 13.6. We're an agriculturally
4	And my associate was to be here tonight from the	4	based community area, medium family income at about
5	Northwest Community Action Center, but I see she's not	5	44,000 here in the Yakima area, Washington average
6	able to come. We both hold contracts, PPNL contracts,	6	59,000.
7	to provide both energy assistance and weatherization,	7	75 percent of the school-age kids in the Yakima
8	so we work together closely.	8	area and the Yakima Valley are eligible for free or
9	She serves the south half of Yakima County; I	9	reduced lunch programs, so those are some of the
10	serve the north half of Yakima County, as it's a big	10	criteria we use to kind of characterize our particular
11	county. I also serve Grant and Adams Counties, but not	11	situation.
12	with PPNL funding. And I'm speaking on behalf of the	12	The Community Action Programs have the ability to
13	low-income clients that we represent in our service	13	effectively reach people in poverty. We've been doing
14	area.	14	it for a lot of years. Unfortunately, poverty is
15	First of all, I'd like to thank Pacific Power for	15	increasing here, but we are not unique in that regard,
16	the support over the years. We've had a good	16	obviously, nationwide. We say, Business is good, and
17	partnership with Pacific Power. Especially noteworthy	17	that's usually not a good thing for us and for the
18	is the relationship over they years with Becky Eberle,	18	folks that we serve.
19	who is the program manager for the contract holders for	19	We just like to be on record. We support a
20	these programs from Portland.	20	collaborative effort to work with PacifiCorp on a
21	We've worked out glitches through the years, and	21	formation of a work group to look at the demographics
22	it's been a productive, positive relationship over	22	of the PPNL service area, the usage study of our
23	time. Pacific Power funding is one of several funding	23	client for our particular clients and take a good
24	sources that we leverage together to pull off projects	24	look at an evaluation of the program delivery to see if
25	to weatherize homes.	25	there are things that we could do that are better.
	Page 71		Page 73
1	Page 71 Rate increases, when they do arrive, and the	1	Page 73 We're not always saying throwing money at the
1 2	-	1 2	-
	Rate increases, when they do arrive, and the		We're not always saying throwing money at the
2	Rate increases, when they do arrive, and the impact on low income often are disproportionate.	2	We're not always saying throwing money at the problem fixes things, we're saying that maybe there's a
2 3	Rate increases, when they do arrive, and the impact on low income often are disproportionate. Percentage hit to a low-income family is a big part of	2 3	We're not always saying throwing money at the problem fixes things, we're saying that maybe there's a better way to do it to access more people. More people
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1	what we're able to accomplish using PacifiCorp. All	1	The thing we run into also is the fact we only get
2	the fund sources that I coordinate result in our	2	to go to a house one time. We'll never go back because
3	program being able to weatherize about 100 houses a	3	of the need. So we have to be sure we're doing the
4	year.	4	best job we can for those folks at the time and with
5	MR. DANNER: 100 houses a year?	5	the best equipment that we can muster. And if someone
6	MR. PONTI: 100 houses a year in weatherization.	6	follows them into that home, that hopefully that home
7	MR. DANNER: And how many houses are out there in	7	has had the investment in it, whether it's a rental
8	need of weatherization?	8	home or an unoccupied home.
9	MR. PONTI: I wish that I could give you that for	9	MR. DANNER: And the request for the work group,
10	Yakima County, and I can work on that. I think that	10	is that something that has been proposed by a party to
11	it's been so big and more people come into the system	11	this case, this Energy Project proposal?
12	all the time that I hate to speculate on that.	12	MR. PONTI: We understood that through a
13	For us, it's almost an endless target. Houses get	13	conversation we had with the Energy Project, that there
14	older by the day, less money is put into them. I think	14	was an approach this was a phone conversation last
15	part of our mission is to keep people in their homes,	15	week as we prepared for comments, was the Energy
16	keep that housing stock viable.	16	Project said they were going to advocate, and maybe it
17	I have a joke with my peers on the west side of	17	was just that they were going to advocate to the
18	mountains, at least mobile homes eventually have the	18	commission that we put this together for PacifiCorp.
19	decency of melting to the ground over there because of	19	It had been done for some of the other utilities,
20	the moisture. Here they're preserved forever. People	20	to look at the specific needs of different utilities in
21	live in housing that's not up to standard.	21	different areas. So that's all I can comment on that.
22	And like I say, we have to defer homes, because we	22	I don't know of actual work being done.
23	are a conservation-based program, and many, many are	23	MR. DANNER: That's something we can take under
24	beyond conservation measures. They need repairs.	24	advisement as we proceed.
25	That's a whole different conversation than is before	25	All right. I have no other questions. Is there
	Page 75		Page 77
1	this group.	1	anything else you'd like to add?
2	But I think that I could put some figures together	2	MR. PONTI: No. Thanks for the opportunity.
3	via WASHCAP, which is our association of community	3	MR. DANNER: All right, Mr. Ponti. Thank you very
4	action, I think I could get some guidance on that. I	4	much.
5	just hate to speculate.	5	Next I'd like to call up and I am sorry if I
6	MR. DANNER: Okay. So the Energy Project is a	6	have trouble reading this, John Klingle did I get
7	formal intervenor in this proceeding, so they will be	7	that right?
8	participating in our hearings on May 2nd and 3rd. So	8	MR. KLINGLE: Yep, you've got it right. My name
9			
	there is a federal program, LIHEAP, the Low-Income Home	9	is John Klingle, and I do live here in Yakima, just a
10	Energy Assistance Program is what it's called, has that	10	is John Klingle, and I do live here in Yakima, just a couple miles from here, and I've been in this room many
10 11	Energy Assistance Program is what it's called, has that been keeping pace with demand or has that been	10 11	is John Klingle, and I do live here in Yakima, just a couple miles from here, and I've been in this room many times, as I was a city councilman.
10 11 12	Energy Assistance Program is what it's called, has that been keeping pace with demand or has that been declining?	10 11 12	is John Klingle, and I do live here in Yakima, just a couple miles from here, and I've been in this room many times, as I was a city councilman. MR. DANNER: Okay. And you are a customer of
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1	Demo 70		Dama 00
I	Page 78 they just finished up at the Pomona Heights substation,	1	Page 80 it says offer requires \$120 payment. Slightly
2	where they put a new transformer in, and they have	2	deceptive.
2 3	rebuilt their 230-kV equipment. I asked for that	3	I'm not convinced that these particular programs
	transformer a number of years ago, because Selah's	4	are cost efficient and that the people who actually use
4 5		5	
	system being overloaded, and I'm glad to see it's		them come up with nearly the savings that are designed
6	working very nicely.	6	or are supposed to get.
7	The 230-kV rebuild there has put in some more	7	On a regular basis, I get a mailing from Pacific
8	circuit breakers as well as a lot of isolation	8	Power that tells me how I compare to my neighbors. I
9	switches, which all got replaced with new ones, have	9	don't need it. I don't care how I compare to my
10	higher capacities to prepare for the next line.	10	neighbors. I always I'm always shown as being very
11	It will be going up Wanapum, which will be	11	efficient, but they compare me to all electric
12	scheduled in the next whoever knows, however long it	12	customers, and I'm not all electric. So I think
13	takes them to get done, to provide for Pacific Power's	13	savings could be had in the company by not sending out
14	ability to provide power to us here in Yakima that	14	mailings we really don't need or want, because I have
15	meets FERC guidelines, as it does not presently. So	15	yet to find a customer that really wants them.
16	that will be another capital project that will be	16	So I see that there are savings available in the
17	coming onto the books.	17	company, but they're not always popular with some
18	Also presently is a new transformer going in at	18	segments of the folks who advocate for us, and
19	the River Road substation to replace some ancient	19	sometimes I don't think they're advocating for me at
20	equipment up there. So that will be coming onto the	20	all.
21	books in the near future.	21	And so I would encourage you to at least consider
22	With all these projects coming online, it's not	22	at least some rate increase for Pacific Power,
23	all that needs to be done. When I look at the system,	23	recognizing that there is capitalization coming in the
24	I see that the 115-kV line from Selah to Orchard	24	near future that will be going onto the books. And
25	substations needs to be upgraded to much larger	25	having a littler rate increase now and a littler
	Page 79		Page 81
1	conductors, as in -1 conditions may provide that that	1	increase next year is a lot better than having a big
2	line would be way too hot to provide adequate service	2	one in 2018.
3	to all the folks if the line from Union Gap to the Nob	3	Questions?
4	Hill substation happens to go down. And I have		
		4	MR. DANNER: Thank you. So if I may summarize,
5	actually had that go down, because I've reported	4 5	MR. DANNER: Thank you. So if I may summarize, what I'm hearing you say is you understand that there
5 6	actually had that go down, because I've reported insulators that have been broken, so I know it can		what I'm hearing you say is you understand that there are capital improvements that have to be made. Your
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-	Page 82		Page 84
1	be certainly different than the last two people.	1	bucks over and above everything else I have to pay.
2	Because I'm here, I feel that this upgrade is	2	That's the power pole's cost to me.
3	or this increase is not necessary.	3	We irrigate alfalfa and pasture land with four
4	I did have a question, but you said you didn't	4	different irrigation pumps. All pumps are aboveground.
5	answer questions. And my question was, when you get a	5	At the end of the irrigation season, when we are not
6	request like this for an increase in rates, do you look	6	pumping, we get a bill for, quote, "3 PH Annual Load
7	into their financial situation, the company, such as	7	Size Charge," unquote. And that's for each pump. We
8	income statements, retained earnings, cash flow, profit	8	are not using electricity at that time with a charge.
9	and loss, and all that stuff, to determine whether they	9	The bill comes in November, long after the
10	really need an increase? Maybe you can let me know	10	irrigation season is over. Last year this additional
11	that by mail. I'd like to know.	11	charge cost us \$1,946.68. In my mind, that alone is a
12	MR. DANNER: As it said in the video, we certainly	12	rate increase which we receive every year.
13	do review all the financial information of the company,	13	The most noticeable change for power customers
14	and if it's not provided in the case, sometimes we will	14	since Warren Buffett invested in Pacific Power Corps in
15	simply go and ask for it and make a data request of the	15	2006 for 5.1 billion cash, plus assuming a 4.3 billion
16	company. We do look at that.	16	debt for the total of 9.4 billion investment, is the
17	MS. SCHNEIDER: I missed that in the video. I	17	price of power steadily increasing and more quickly
18	didn't hear that. But anyway, what my purpose is for	18	than in other utilities in the region?
19	asking that, you'll find out later.	19	I have testified at least four previous times
20	In spite of the rate increases over the years, all	20	regarding rate increases. These hearings seem to have
21	services have not increased. Several years back the	21	become habit forming since Buffett acquired PacifiCorp.
22	power company used to send out employees to investigate	22	I need electric power. I am stuck purchasing it
23	the safety of power poles. They did that on my	23	from Pacific Power as there is no competition. Pacific
24	property.	24	Power is it or nothing. If I could afford it, I would
25	I was driving out to our corrals on a lane which	25	invest in solar power. At least I would get the
	Page 83		Page 85
1	nanna a nawar nala with a transformar. A man was		
-	passes a power pole with a transformer. A man was	1	satisfaction of not having to testify at these hearings
2	there working on digging out around the pole, and I	1 2	every other year and would use power as needed.
	there working on digging out around the pole, and I asked him what he was doing, and he said he informed		
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-	Page 86		Page 88
1	valley. And most of my tenants are on fixed incomes	1	the answers to you on that.
2	and can't afford increases.	2	MR. AKIEANA: Okay. Thank you.
3	The City of Toppenish has more than doubled our	3	MR. DANNER: So, let's see, Donna Phillips, did
4	water, sewage, and garbage just in the short time I've	4	you wish to speak tonight?
5	owned the units, and I normally will split the increase	5	MS. PHILLIPS: No, thank you, sir.
6	with the tenants, because I know it's very hard on them	6	MR. DANNER: Is there anyone else in attendance
7	to assume the normal increases a good business person	7	tonight that would like to make a comment for the
8	would make. But I am trying to be compassionate with	8	record in this case?
9	my tenants, because they're all good people. And I try	9	Okay. Hearing none, that concludes the public
10	to help them as much as possible.	10	testimony tonight.
11	But with the increases that we have to endure from	11	Now, for people who are not here, maybe viewing on
12	the City of Toppenish with their water, sewage, and	12	television or hearing about this otherwise, we will
13	garbage problems that they've had in the past and	13	still be taking comments by e-mail, by mail, also on
14	assuming that debt, they've increased the rates way	14	the UTC web form, and by telephone until May 3rd.
15	beyond what is legally feasible. And when we've	15	And so if you have friends or others that you know
16	complained about that, they said, Well, the federal	16	who might want to comment in this case, the information
17	government's forcing them to break federal laws and	17	is on the second page of the public counsel handout
18	passing the increase on to us.	18	tonight, and so we will certainly welcome their
19	And then with the power company's increases on top	19	comments in this proceedings even if they're unable to
20	of that, I think it's just putting a great hardship on	20	have attended tonight.
21	a lot of people and, you know, if these constant	21	The UTC will be having a hearing on this case in
22	increases keep I understand the need for them on	22	Olympia on May 2nd and May 3rd in which we will be
23	your side of it, but I'd like to see some programs	23	hearing from the company and from the other parties in
24	maybe initiated to help some of those people that need	24	this case, meaning the Energy Projects, Boise White
25	the help with this.	25	Paper commission staff, and of course the attorney
	Page 87		Page 89
1	MR. DANNER: Okay. Thank you very much. Just to	1	general's public counsel office.
2	clarify, the UTC does not have authority over the	2	So I believe that takes us to the end of tonight's
3	Toppenish decisions.	3	public comment hearing. So without further adieu,
4	MS. WEBBERTON: I know. I just brought that up	4	unless there's other issues, then we are going to
5	because I need you to understand that we're getting hit	5	adjourn.
6	from a lot of different sides, and sometimes it can be	6	Thank you very much.
7	very much a burden on a lot of people, especially the	7	(PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED AT 6:47 P.M.)
8	seniors or the people on fixed incomes.	8	,
9	MR. DANNER: I appreciate your comments, and I do	9	
10	understand that that was the context in which you	10	
11	raised that. Thank you very much.	11	
12	MS. WEBBERTON: Thank you.	12	
13	MR. DANNER: And again, I'm going to have trouble	13	
14	reading this, Wesley Akieana, please come forward.	14	
15	MS. AKIEANA: I just had a question regarding	15	
16	solar energy. I understand that the federal government	16	
17	has a 30 percent tax credit through 2019. And they	17	
18	recently expanded that program to 26 percent in 2020	18	
19	and then 22 percent in 2021.	19	
20	And I understand or I believe the Pacific Power	20	
20	credit program for Washington State is scheduled to end	20	
21	in June of 2020. Has Pacific Power discussed about	22	
	extending the program credits to residential customers?	22	
23			
24	MR. DANNER: Okay. I'm going to ask you to refer	24	
25	that question to the company or staff, and we'll give	25	

-	Page 90	
1	CERTIFICATE	
2	STATE OF WASHINGTON)	
3	COUNTY OF YAKIMA)	
4		
5	This is to certify that I, Dani Jean Craver,	
6	Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of	
7	Washington, residing at Yakima, reported the within and	
8	foregoing proceedings; said proceedings being taken	
9	before me on the date herein set forth; that the	
10	witnesses were first by the chairman duly sworn; that	
11	said proceedings was taken by me in shorthand and	
12	thereafter under my supervision transcribed, and that	
13	same is a full, true, and correct record of the testimony	
14	of said witnesses, including all questions, answers, and	
15	objections, if any, of counsel.	
16	I further certify that I am not a relative or	
17	employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties,	
18	nor am I financially interested in the outcome of the	
19	cause.	
20	IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have set my hand this 4th	
21	day of May, 2016.	
22		
23	DANI JEAN CRAVER CCR NO. 3352	
24	CCR NO. 3332	
25		