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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
 1
             UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
 2.
     WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
                                   ) DOCKET NO. UE-050684
     TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,
 4
                     Complainant, )
                                     Volume IX
 5
                                     Pages 1040 to 1160
                                   )
               vs.
 6
     PACIFICORP d/b/a PACIFIC
 7
     POWER & LIGHT COMPANY,
 8
                    Respondent.
 9
     In the Matter of
                                   ) DOCKET NO. UE-050412
10
    the Petition of
11
     PACIFICORP d/b/a PACIFIC
                                   ) (Consolidated)
     POWER & LIGHT COMPANY
12
     For an Order Approving
13
     Deferral of Costs Related to )
     Declining Hydro Generation.
14
15
16
                A hearing in the above matter was held on
17
     January 20, 2006, from 9:00 a.m to 12:00 p.m., at 1300
18
     South Evergreen Park Drive Southwest, Room 206, Olympia,
     Washington, before Administrative Law Judges ANN E.
19
     RENDAHL AND THEODORA M. MACE and CHAIRMAN MARK H. SIDRAN
20
     and COMMISSIONER PATRICK J. OSHIE and COMMISSIONER
21
22
     PHILIP B. JONES.
23
    Joan E. Kinn, CCR, RPR
24
25
   Court Reporter
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Τ	The parties were present as follows.
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	JUDGE RENDAHL: We're back on the record this
3	morning, Friday, January the 20th, continuing our
4	hearings on PacifiCorp's general rate case and hydro
5	deferral filings in Docket Numbers UE-050684 and
6	UE-050412, and this morning we will be taking up the
7	testimony of Mr. Martin, a witness for the company, and
8	is Mr. Martin here, if you can come and join us here.
9	Good morning, thank you for being here, I
10	appreciate it.
11	(Witness LARRY O. MARTIN was sworn.)
12	JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay, please be seated.
13	Mr. Wood.
14	
15	Whereupon,
16	LARRY O. MARTIN,
17	having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness
18	herein and was examined and testified as follows:
19	
20	DIRECT EXAMINATION
21	BY MR. WOOD:
22	Q. I will identify as your exhibits Exhibit
23	181-T, which is your prefiled direct testimony, and
24	Exhibit 182, which is your Exhibit LOM-2, which is the
25	exhibit accompanying your direct testimony. Were these

- 1 exhibits prepared by you or under your supervision and
- 2 direction?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Do you have any changes to make?
- 5 A. I have one edit on it would be 181-T, page
- 6 20, lines 22 and 23.
- 7 O. Go ahead.
- 8 A. Okay. At the end of the sentence it
- 9 currently reads, illustrates the book, tax, and
- 10 regulatory treatment. It should read, illustrates the
- 11 book and tax, striking the words and regulatory, and
- 12 then continuing with treatment. So it's basically just
- 13 taking out, and regulatory.
- Q. With this one change, are the exhibits we
- 15 have identified true and correct to the best of your
- 16 knowledge?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 MR. WOOD: I understand the parties, Your
- 19 Honor, have waived cross, but there may be questions
- 20 from the Bench of Mr. Martin.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: That's correct.
- MR. TROTTER: Your Honor, if I may, we would
- 23 like to move for the admission of Exhibits 183 and 184,
- 24 which are documents we had identified as cross exhibits.
- 25 If they go in without objection, we have no questions of

- 1 Mr. Martin.
- 2 MR. WOOD: And we have no objection, and I
- 3 will also move 181-T and 182.
- 4 JUDGE RENDAHL: All right, are there any
- 5 objections to admitting what's been marked as Exhibits
- 6 181-T through 184?
- 7 Hearing nothing, those exhibits will be
- 8 admitted.
- 9 Okay, so Commissioner Jones, would you please
- 10 go ahead.

- 12 EXAMINATION
- 13 BY COMMISSIONER JONES:
- Q. Good morning.
- 15 A. Good morning.
- 16 Q. Thanks for coming up.
- 17 A. Thanks.
- 18 Q. Could you turn to page 2 of your testimony,
- 19 Exhibit 181-T, I think we'll start there, page 3 where
- 20 you start the discussion of the consolidated tax
- 21 adjustment.
- 22 A. Okay.
- Q. Perhaps this is better directed to ICNU, but
- on lines 8 and 9 you quote the ICNU's adjustment is
- 25 going to decrease the Washington part of the revenue

- 1 requirement by \$7.967 Million. Is that an NOI
- 2 adjustment or the revenue requirement number?
- 3 A. That would be the revenue requirement figure.
- 4 Q. Because the numbers that we have in front of
- 5 us suggest to me that that is an NOI number, the total
- 6 revenue requirement number would be on the order of
- 7 \$13.433 Million.
- 8 A. I would need to check it and go back, but at
- 9 the time the testimony was prepared, that was the figure
- 10 that we understood was the revenue requirement figure.
- 11 Q. Would you please check that and respond on
- 12 that point, whether or not that's an NOI or a revenue
- 13 requirement adjustment number.
- MR. WOOD: Commissioner, we would be happy to
- do it, but I don't know whether ICNU would prefer to
- 16 respond itself because we're trying to interpret their
- 17 testimony in this case. I don't want to speak for them.
- 18 I know Mr. Sanger is on the phone.
- 19 COMMISSIONER JONES: Well, Mr. Sanger can
- 20 respond, but it's listed in your testimony as you quote
- 21 revenue requirement.
- MR. WOOD: Oh, we have no objection to
- 23 responding but just so it's understood this is our
- 24 interpretation of what ICNU is proposing.
- 25 COMMISSIONER JONES: Sure.

- 1 MR. SANGER: Yeah, the number that is in
- 2 Mr. Martin's testimony I believe came from Mr. Selecky's
- 3 testimony.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: Mr. Sanger, can you speak up,
- 5 please.
- 6 MR. SANGER: Yes, I can attempt to do that.
- 7 The number that is in Mr. Martin's testimony
- 8 came from Mr. Selecky's testimony, and I believe it is
- 9 the revenue requirement number. We can respond to that
- 10 Bench request or the company can.
- 11 COMMISSIONER JONES: Thank you.
- 12 JUDGE RENDAHL: That will be Bench Request
- 13 Number 26 concerning whether the figure on line 9 is an
- 14 NOI number or a revenue requirement effect number.
- 15 BY COMMISSIONER JONES:
- 16 Q. Moving on to your testimony as we go into the
- 17 background on pages 3 and 4, as I understand this
- 18 consolidation at the holding company level, it is not,
- 19 as you state in your testimony, is it a requirement that
- 20 the company, that the holding company file a
- 21 consolidated tax return, or is it elective on the part
- of the company?
- 23 A. It is technically an elective process and for
- 24 not only the holding company but the subsidiaries that
- 25 join in the return. As I pointed out in the testimony,

- 1 however, there are certain items, there's a variety of
- 2 items that even if you don't elect to consolidate
- 3 treatment, if you meet certain ownership thresholds, the
- 4 IRS will treat you as though you're consolidated anyway.
- 5 So the simple example, which doesn't ever apply to
- 6 PacifiCorp because we're large, would be the tax
- 7 brackets. If you meet certain ownership thresholds, the
- 8 tax brackets will be allocated among all the members in
- 9 the consolidated group whether you consolidate or not.
- 10 Q. So de facto, if you will, a holding company
- in almost all cases files on a consolidated basis?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. At the same time, as I understand your
- 14 testimony, the stand-alone, PacifiCorp as a stand-alone
- 15 entity is required to report on a stand-alone basis to
- 16 the IRS as well?
- 17 A. Yes. In other words, in a consolidated
- 18 return, you're not somehow ignoring the individual
- 19 entities that make up a consolidated return, you're
- 20 really pulling them together. So there are what are
- 21 known as consolidation schedules that are included in
- 22 the return that list out literally every entity and all
- 23 their items of income and expense and coming down to
- 24 taxable income for every entity in the return, so that's
- 25 how you report their stand-alone piece.

- 1 Q. I would like to make another Bench request,
- 2 and that is to provide the most recent federal income
- 3 tax return for PHI that includes the PacifiCorp federal
- 4 tax return. That would be for the year I would think
- 5 2004, Mr. Martin, the actual filing?
- 6 A. Yeah, it would be, well, the most recent
- 7 would be fiscal year, what we would call fiscal year
- 8 '04.
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 A. Ending March 31, '05.
- 11 Q. Okay.
- 12 MR. WOOD: Your Honor, I would ask, happy to
- 13 provide that, but ask that that be provided as a
- 14 confidential exhibit, because normally the tax returns
- 15 of utilities are protected under federal and other law
- 16 from disclosure.
- 17 COMMISSIONER JONES: Sure.
- 18 JUDGE RENDAHL: All right, so that would be a
- 19 response to Bench Request Number 27, and the company can
- 20 file that under the protective order as confidential in
- 21 this case, so that's the most recent federal tax return
- 22 for PHI for --
- 23 COMMISSIONER JONES: Correct.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: -- fiscal year '04 --
- 25 COMMISSIONER JONES: For fiscal year '04.

- JUDGE RENDAHL: -- '04 ending March of '05.
- THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 3 COMMISSIONER JONES: The fiscal year for
- 4 PacifiCorp ends in March, does it not?
- 5 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 6 COMMISSIONER JONES: And the name that will
- 7 be on it will be PHI and subsidiaries.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: All right, thank you.
- 9 BY COMMISSIONER JONES:
- 10 Q. In one part of your testimony, I can't find
- 11 it exactly, oh, here it is, could you turn to page 14,
- 12 please, and this is a description of the risks, what you
- 13 quote as the risks of Mr. Selecky's proposal. And I
- 14 apologize today because we don't have the benefit of
- 15 hearing Mr. Selecky first, which is usual in proceedings
- 16 like this, to hear his proposal in full, which we
- 17 haven't, so I'm relying on your description of
- 18 Mr. Selecky's proposal. But as I understand it, part of
- 19 the -- most of the or a lot of the controversy around
- 20 this issue of consolidated federal taxes revolves around
- 21 the intercompany loan between PHI and Scottish Power,
- 22 does it not?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. And when the purchase -- when the purchase
- 25 was entered into, one of the ways in which Scottish

- 1 Power funded the acquisition of PacifiCorp was through
- 2 of course the injection of capital into PHI and the
- 3 creation of PHI, but it was funded largely through this
- 4 intercompany loan, was it not?
- 5 A. I would -- yes and no, I would say yes in
- 6 part I guess is the way it is.
- 7 Q. In part?
- 8 A. In other words, it is a big dollar figure,
- 9 but in the context of the overall acquisition, there was
- 10 also a lot of equity, if you will, a lot of stock that
- 11 was done as well.
- 12 Q. And the original amount at the time of the
- 13 acquisition was roughly \$4 Billion U.S. or approximately
- 15 A. For the actual total acquisition?
- 16 Q. No.
- 17 A. Or the debt?
- 18 Q. Just the debt.
- 19 A. Oh, yes, the debt.
- 20 Q. And that has been paid down, as you note in
- 21 your testimony response in describing Mr. Selecky's
- 22 proposal, down to \$2.375 Billion, which is as you say
- 23 about one half of the prior amount.
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. Is that correct?

- 1 A. Yes. I would make one edit to that,
- 2 Commissioner, is that rather than say pay down is they
- 3 chose to convert it to equity.
- 4 Q. So it was a conversion to equity?
- 5 A. Conversion to equity, yes.
- 6 Q. And whose decision, looking at this at a
- 7 higher level, who were the decision makers in deciding
- 8 how to finance the structure in terms of debt and
- 9 equity, who made the decision as to how much debt and
- 10 how much equity to structure?
- 11 A. I don't know the individual persons, but it's
- 12 a Scottish Power decision, because they -- ultimately
- 13 they were the acquiring company.
- 14 Q. And is it safe to say that these decisions
- 15 are made more at the Scottish Power level --
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. -- than at the PacifiCorp level?
- 18 A. Yeah, that's exactly -- that's what I mean by
- 19 that.
- 20 Q. Okay. And I think I understand your
- 21 testimony after that, and you believe that careful
- 22 maintenance of ring fencing, both the establishment of
- 23 ring fencing and the maintenance of ring fencing from a
- 24 non-reg and from the regulated operations protects the
- 25 risks that PacifiCorp has?

- 1 A. Yes, exactly. And, you know, ring fencing
- 2 can be looked as a protection in it's really a two-way
- 3 street. In the case that we're talking about here is
- 4 protecting them from outside claims, but it also, if you
- 5 will, the ring fencing provides for protection for
- 6 instance when rate payers buy assets that are put into
- 7 generation, et cetera, there are accelerated tax
- 8 benefits for depreciation on those. We don't share
- 9 those outside to the other members of the affiliated
- 10 group, those remain with PacifiCorp, and it's entirely
- 11 stand-alone. So it really goes both directions, if you
- 12 will, it protects the company on both sides.
- 13 Q. If you could turn to page 9 of your testimony
- 14 where you start this description of the benefits burdens
- 15 test. Is this one of the -- this is obviously, as you
- 16 state here the concept of benefit burdens on line 20,
- 17 concept of the benefits burden test is similar to cost
- 18 causation, so this is obviously something that you would
- 19 urge the Commission to look at as we consider this issue
- 20 of consolidation of federal taxes?
- 21 A. Absolutely. In my view coming from my
- 22 professional standpoint, taxes are computed as a
- 23 percentage of some other number, and whether it's a
- 24 revenue figure or an expense figure, and we happen to
- 25 be, you know, primarily looking at expense figures as

- 1 you pointed out, and that to obtain a tax benefit, you
- 2 necessarily need to take the expense that goes along
- 3 with it. And what we're -- what I'm pointing out in my
- 4 testimony is that rate payers have not born in their
- 5 cost of service the interest deduction that's creating
- 6 this tax benefit and, as you pointed out, the debt used
- 7 in the acquisition, nor has the acquisition premium been
- 8 placed into rate base. So in no fashion have rate
- 9 payers born the burden of that debt at the parent
- 10 company, and it's -- and so in my view it would be
- 11 unfair and inappropriate for rate payers to then
- 12 singularly grab the tax benefit that's determined off of
- 13 that.
- Q. So your point is, as you just stated, is
- 15 primarily that the Washington state rate payers or any
- 16 state rate payers have not born the burden of the loan
- 17 or any other burden at the parent company level, and
- 18 therefore it's unfair to take a benefit associated with
- 19 interest tax deduction on an intercompany loan to the
- 20 parent and just take that out without a consideration of
- 21 the burden?
- 22 A. Exactly.
- Q. I'm a little confused on I think one part of
- 24 your testimony you talk about a "contribution" that a
- 25 subsidiary company makes, a contribution -- in normal

- 1 years a contribution of income is made to the parent
- 2 company, but in some years as well isn't a net operating
- 3 loss incurred at the subsidiary level?
- 4 A. Yes, depending on the subsidiary, you know,
- 5 subsidiaries can go from one year providing, if you
- 6 will, or maybe contributing isn't the best word but
- 7 providing income to a group, or they can be providing a
- 8 loss to the group. You know, it's just if you look at
- 9 the entire group, they're all pooled together and
- 10 amalgamated and, you know, just depending on their
- 11 particular operations in business they may have a loss
- 12 or they may have income. Does that answer your
- 13 question?
- 14 Q. Yes.
- 15 And under federal tax law, how far forward in
- 16 terms of an NOL carry forward, how long is that
- 17 permitted to be carried forward under federal tax?
- 18 A. The easy answer is up to 20 years, but I say
- 19 it that way because there's all kinds of different NOL's
- 20 when you start getting into the technicalities, there's
- 21 regular tax, alternative minimum tax, NOL's, et cetera.
- Q. Well, we don't want to get into all those.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: And when you refer to NOL,
- 24 that's net operating loss for the record.
- THE WITNESS: Yes.

- 1 COMMISSIONER JONES: Thank you.
- 2 BY COMMISSIONER JONES:
- 3 O. There's been a lot of discussion of this
- 4 issue in the state of Oregon, hasn't there?
- 5 A. Yes, there has.
- 6 Q. Both before the commission and through the
- 7 legislative process, correct?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Are there any other exhibits that you would
- 10 like to submit or that you think would be relevant to
- 11 this Commission that we should refer to as we consider
- 12 this issue? Such as I understand there's a white paper
- done by the Oregon Commission, there's a recent opinion
- 14 of the attorney general on this case
- 15 A. I think the simple answer is no, I don't
- 16 think they need to be submitted as additional exhibits.
- 17 And I base that upon I think at this point in time it's
- 18 still preliminary even in the state of Oregon. There
- 19 has been a lot of discussion, there's been decisions,
- 20 but even in their own process they're recognizing for
- 21 instance that just now we're just working through
- 22 temporary rules on filing, we're just beginning the
- 23 process to develop permanent rules. And the issues list
- 24 for that process, well, is coming together, I'm trying
- 25 to think of the, I'm sorry, I'm forgetting the date that

- 1 we're supposed to go over the issues list, but it's
- 2 pages long of things that need to be decided to try and
- 3 figure it out.
- 4 So I guess I would be hesitant to put undue
- 5 weight on things that have been coming out of Oregon
- 6 until they start settling down. And at that point, then
- 7 there would be probably some justification in doing so.
- 8 And there's a lot of, for instance, you know, one issue
- 9 that's been discussed about in the first workshop is
- 10 that, you know, after we go through this entire process
- 11 of developing permanent rules, then we have to put those
- 12 rules to the IRS to make sure that whatever we have come
- 13 up with does not violate what's known as normalization
- 14 in the internal revenue code. So even after all that
- 15 process, it still needs to go through some higher
- 16 review, if you will.
- 17 Q. Mm-hm.
- 18 A. So I think it's -- it would be speculative at
- 19 best right now to try and decide based upon what's in
- 20 Oregon as to where the outcome is going to be, you know,
- 21 where it's going to come out.
- Q. Finally, could you turn to page 7 of your
- 23 testimony.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And there on lines 6 through 10 where you

- 1 talk about in previous Washington state rate cases
- 2 before this Commission whether or not what you're
- 3 proposing or what ICNU is proposing is consistent or
- 4 inconsistent, but this is true to the best of your
- 5 knowledge that in every other rate case that PacifiCorp
- 6 has calculated and reported to this Commission that it
- 7 has always been done on a stand-alone basis?
- 8 A. Absolutely.
- 9 Q. Never on a consolidated basis?
- 10 A. That is correct. On all the years I have
- 11 reviewed, several prior years, that is true.
- 12 Q. What is the, in your view before you step
- 13 down from the stand, at least I'm curious as to why in
- 14 your view this issue is becoming a hot or a current
- 15 issue at this time. What do you think is sparking the
- 16 interest on the part of stakeholders or regulatory
- 17 commissions in this interest? It's a very complicated
- 18 issue, it has a lot of subtle precedences, I see it, but
- 19 it is a controversial and somewhat contentious issue
- 20 now, what has caused this to become such a contentious
- 21 issue now?
- 22 A. Well, maybe the catalyst I would say would be
- 23 most likely the PG&E-Enron issue. And when you combine
- 24 that with a rate payer population that, as you pointed
- 25 out this is a complex issue, even my friends that I talk

- 1 to casually, they don't understand corporate taxation.
- 2 See, individuals, virtually every individual I have ever
- 3 met is on a cash basis, what you pay, you know, what you
- 4 pay, that is your tax into the government. Corporations
- 5 are accrual basis, which means primarily we have to
- 6 recognize taxes as an expense to our operations before
- 7 and sometimes long before we have to pay them in to the
- 8 government. That's a hard concept for people to get
- 9 their heads around. And so, you know, coming from a
- 10 cash basis individual taxpayer, it's pretty natural to
- 11 say, well, what you pay in, that should be your tax.
- 12 And so I think that there's that.
- I think there's also budgetary pressures. I
- 14 know as part of the PG&E-Enron, you know, part of the
- 15 issue is, well, these taxes are going to Enron, but they
- 16 never got to the state treasurer or tax collector, so I
- 17 think there's a host of issues. But I would say that
- 18 that was probably, the PG&E-Enron situation was probably
- 19 the catalyst.
- 20 And then I think some of it is just by virtue
- 21 of the complexity, that people don't understand why it
- 22 wouldn't be on a cash basis. And I think that's where
- 23 the challenge comes to those of us who do know to try
- 24 and in my view bring reason to it, that if you're only
- 25 recovering off the cash portion of the taxes, you're

- 1 leaving the company, the utility in this case, at a
- 2 significant disadvantage, you're not recovering all of
- 3 their costs, and those costs will have to be paid.
- 4 They're not fictitious in any way, those are real costs,
- 5 they're, you know, those are audited costs, costs that,
- 6 you know, the SEC requires in their, you know, to be in
- 7 the financial statements and so on. So hopefully that
- 8 gives you some insight.
- 9 COMMISSIONER JONES: Thank you, that's all I
- 10 have.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: Are there any other questions
- 12 for Mr. Martin from the Bench?
- 13 All right, well, thank you very much for
- 14 coming up this morning, Mr. Martin.
- THE WITNESS: My pleasure.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: You may be excused, and we'll
- 17 be off the record for a moment while we change
- 18 witnesses.
- 19 (Discussion off the record.)
- 20 JUDGE RENDAHL: Mr. Cavanagh, could you raise
- 21 your right hand, please.
- 22 (Witness RALPH CAVANAGH was sworn.)
- JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay, thank you.
- Mr. Wood, are you sponsoring Mr. Cavanagh?
- THE WITNESS: I asked Simon.

- 1 JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay, well, whoever wishes to
- 2 sponsor Mr. Cavanagh.
- 3 MR. WOOD: I have offered to handle the
- 4 normal questioning. Obviously Mr. Cavanagh represents
- 5 NRDC and is not a PacifiCorp witness, but I have offered
- 6 to handle the formalities here.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay.

- 9 Whereupon,
- 10 RALPH CAVANAGH,
- 11 having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness
- 12 herein and was examined and testified as follows:

- 14 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 15 BY MR. WOOD:
- 16 Q. Mr. Cavanagh is sponsoring Exhibit 671-T,
- 17 which is his exhibit which is also identified as RCC-1T,
- 18 and Exhibit 672 which is identified as RCC-2.
- 19 Mr. Cavanagh, were these exhibits prepared by you or
- 20 under your supervision and direction?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you have any changes to make to the
- 23 exhibits?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. Are the exhibits true and correct to the best

- 1 of your knowledge?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 MR. WOOD: Your Honor, I would offer the
- 4 identified exhibits.
- 5 JUDGE RENDAHL: All right, so you're offering
- 6 Exhibits 671-T and 672 and 681-T at this time, or are we
- 7 waiting on that?
- 8 MR. WOOD: That's the joint testimony?
- 9 JUDGE RENDAHL: Yes.
- 10 MR. WOOD: I thought I would wait until
- 11 Ms. Omohundro joined us.
- 12 JUDGE RENDAHL: All right.
- Any objections to admitting 671-T and 672?
- MR. FFITCH: No objections, Your Honor.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: All right, hearing no
- 16 objection, those exhibits will be admitted.
- 17 And is the witness available for
- 18 cross-examination?
- 19 He's available for cross-examination.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: All right.
- 21 Mr. ffitch.
- MR. FFITCH: Thank you, Your Honor.

23

24

- 1 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 2 BY MR. FFITCH:
- 3 Q. Good morning, Mr. Cavanagh.
- 4 A. Good morning.
- 5 Q. I would like to start by clarifying a few
- 6 points about your proposal. As I understand it, first
- 7 of all, you have asked the company to divide PacifiCorp,
- 8 excuse me, Pacific Power & Light Company's total revenue
- 9 requirement into fixed and variable costs, have you not?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And could I ask you to turn, please, to your
- 12 own testimony, which has been marked as Exhibit 671, and
- 13 go to page 3, please. Do you have that?
- 14 A. Sure.
- 15 Q. And I'm looking at testimony starting at line
- 16 27, and there you state that:
- 17 My testimony shows based on the
- 18 company's response to NRDC's discovery
- 19 request that more than 60% of the
- 20 company's proposed revenue requirement
- 21 from the five major rate classes
- 22 represents fixed costs of distribution,
- transmission, and generation, \$154.8
- 24 Million out of \$257.4 Million.
- 25 Is that correct?

- 1 A. Yes, the numbers are in Exhibit 672.
- Q. Thank you, that was going to be my next
- 3 question. And those numbers were again provided by the
- 4 company in response to your data request?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Now your thesis in your testimony is that
- 7 these fixed costs should be recovered by the company
- 8 independent of its sales volumes; do I understand that
- 9 correctly?
- 10 A. The authorized fixed costs, so whatever the
- 11 Commission determines in this case as an appropriate
- 12 authorized revenue requirement associated with fixed
- 13 costs should in my judgment be recovered independently
- of sales volumes, yes.
- 15 Q. All right. Now can I please direct you to
- 16 the joint testimony, which has been marked as Exhibit
- 17 681, and that's your joint testimony with Ms. Omohundro.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. PacifiCorp. Now I'm going to direct you to
- 20 page 1 of that testimony; do you have that?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. And at line 9 there is an item 2 which
- 23 states:
- 24 For the purposes of applying the
- 25 mechanism, the company would calculate

- 1 fixed cost revenues per customer,
- 2 correct?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Have you performed that calculation in this
- 5 case so that we can see how it would work anywhere in
- 6 your testimony or exhibits?
- 7 A. I have not performed it myself, because I
- 8 don't know what revenue requirement the Commission will
- 9 authorize.
- 10 Q. All right. And you haven't performed it
- 11 based on any of the proposed revenue requirements in the
- 12 case?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. All right. So we don't really have an
- 15 example in the record of how this revenue per customer
- 16 would work?
- 17 A. Well, what we have in the record is a
- 18 reference to an earlier version of this mechanism that
- 19 was in force for Puget for between 1991 and 1995, which
- 20 was also a revenue per customer decoupling mechanism, so
- 21 there certainly is precedence in this state and it's
- 22 cited in my testimony.
- Q. And can you direct us to the details of that
- 24 mechanism in your exhibits?
- 25 A. The Commission orders establishing the

- 1 mechanism and then reviving and finally suspending it
- 2 are cited in my testimony, and you will find them at
- 3 pages 9 to 10.
- 4 Q. All right. So it's just the citations to
- 5 those orders?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And again, you haven't provided an example or
- 8 a calculation of this revenue per customer mechanism for
- 9 purposes of this case in your testimony; is that right?
- 10 A. That's right.
- 11 Q. Suppose that you set a distribution revenue
- 12 per customer based on test year fixed costs and test
- 13 year number of customers, you would get a revenue per
- 14 customer that if divided by test year average use per
- 15 customer would produce the test year average rate, would
- 16 you not?
- 17 A. That sounds right.
- 18 Q. I'm going to ask you a couple of hypothetical
- 19 questions here. First, the assumption is if you would
- 20 assume for purposes of these questions that new homes
- 21 use less electricity than average due to better building
- 22 codes and better appliance efficiency standards; is that
- 23 an assumption that, well, first of all, can you accept
- 24 that assumption for hypothetical purposes?
- 25 A. Certainly for hypothetical purposes. I'm not

- 1 sure it's right but -- because there are countervailing
- 2 issues of house size, the kinds of appliances and
- 3 equipment that are going in. I think as Mr. Lazar
- 4 acknowledged in his testimony, he hasn't done the
- 5 calculation, he hasn't looked at specific load data, and
- 6 I haven't either, so I don't know.
- 7 Q. All right. So you're not sure if it's
- 8 plausible that new homes are more energy efficient than
- 9 older homes?
- 10 A. They're more energy efficient in the shell,
- 11 but then there are issues of relative size. Homes are
- 12 getting larger on average, and the question of installed
- 13 equipment in terms of what kinds of devices people have
- 14 and whether new home owners are going to be more
- 15 affluent, have more energy using devices. So it's a
- 16 complicated question, it's not obvious what the answer
- 17 is, and it's not obvious what the answer is going to be
- 18 over time.
- 19 Q. All right. And you don't know the situation
- 20 specifically on --
- 21 A. No.
- Q. -- on that issue?
- 23 A. No.
- Q. Well, let's stick with the hypothetical at
- 25 least, and the hypothetical assumption, do you have that

- 1 in mind?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. If you apply the current rates to these
- 4 customers usages in the new homes, you would get less
- 5 than the average revenue per customer, would you not,
- 6 simply because their usage is less?
- 7 A. So if we stayed with the status quo and they
- 8 did use less electricity than the average, then you are
- 9 correct, you would get less recovery.
- 10 Q. And under your mechanism, the difference in
- 11 revenue per customer would get trued up, would it not?
- 12 A. Under my proposal, you would assign a dollar
- 13 value per customer on average, and then if the customer
- 14 count went up or down, that would affect the total fixed
- 15 cost recovery. That's as distinct from the status quo
- 16 where what determines the total fixed cost recovery are
- 17 changes in retail sales. My proposal would recouple the
- 18 fixed cost revenue requirement to changes in the
- 19 customer count rather than changes in retail sales.
- 20 Q. But there would be a true-up, would there
- 21 not?
- 22 A. Oh, yes, every year.
- Q. And all customers would pay a higher rate
- 24 later to make up the difference?
- 25 A. Or a lower rate. A crucial point to make

- 1 about the true-up mechanism is that it goes both ways.
- 2 It's not an automatic rate increase. My expectation is
- 3 that there would be years of increase and years of
- 4 decrease capped at 2% so that the volatility introduced
- 5 by the proposal is known and limited in advance.
- 6 Q. All right, but if you would stay within the
- 7 parameters of the hypothetical here.
- 8 A. Sure.
- 9 Q. The hypothetical assumption is that the newer
- 10 homes are using less energy, and so you have agreed that
- 11 if you apply the current rates to those new home
- 12 customers, you get less than the average revenue per
- 13 customer?
- 14 A. Under the status quo, yes.
- 15 Q. Under the hypothetical. So in this situation
- in the hypothetical, the true-up would result in all
- 17 customers paying a higher rate later to make up the
- 18 difference, correct?
- 19 A. If and only if total system use were going
- 20 down. If total system use were going up,
- 21 notwithstanding the fact that new customers use less
- 22 than existing customers under your hypothetical,
- 23 everybody's rates would go down. The adjustments in
- 24 rates aren't driven by how much new customers are using,
- 25 they're driven by total consumption on the system and

- 1 whether it is overrecovering or underrecovering the
- 2 authorized fixed cost revenue requirement that the
- 3 Commission has determined.
- Q. Well, if, in fact, the true-up occurs and
- 5 customers pay a higher rate later to make up the
- 6 difference for the reduced revenues, the reduced average
- 7 revenues, that provides the company with more revenue
- 8 than the current rate making system, doesn't it, under
- 9 the assumption that the typical new customer uses less
- 10 electricity than the current average customer?
- 11 A. The reason I'm resisting just saying yes is
- 12 that again the true-up isn't driven by how much new
- 13 customers use, it's driven by whether the total fixed
- 14 cost revenue or the fixed cost amount per customer
- 15 that's authorized by the Commission is either over or
- 16 underrecovered based on total retail sales. And so if
- 17 total retail sales were to go down because of a very
- 18 aggressive conservation effort and that wasn't
- 19 compensated by increases in consumption elsewhere on the
- 20 system, then it's possible that all customers would see
- 21 a modest rate increase. And if new customers are using
- 22 less than existing customers, then yes, that modest rate
- 23 increase would affect them somewhat less.
- I think it's important to emphasize that if
- 25 PacifiCorp's rate proposal, if this proposal was

- 1 accepted in full, the average residential bill would be
- 2 about \$80 a month, and the maximum increase associated
- 3 with the true-up proposal is on the order of about a
- 4 nickle a day. 2% would be the maximum increase that
- 5 could be experienced in a year under the proposal.
- 6 JUDGE RENDAHL: Mr. Cavanagh, if you can slow
- 7 down in your responses, it will be easier for --
- 8 THE WITNESS: My apologies, Your Honor.
- 9 JUDGE RENDAHL: -- the court reporter, thank
- 10 you.
- 11 BY MR. FFITCH:
- 12 Q. Are you familiar with the decoupling
- 13 mechanism used by the Pacific Gas & Electric Company in
- 14 California?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And in California the utility is allowed to
- 17 defer and amortize balances on certain accounts
- 18 associated with distribution costs in what is known as
- 19 the Distribution Revenue Adjustment Mechanism or DRAM,
- 20 correct?
- 21 A. The utility is authorized to file every
- 22 September 1st for a true-up to be effective on January
- 23 1, and it's up to the utility how much to request,
- 24 whether to amortize, the utility has some flexibility in
- 25 that. California doesn't have a limit on rate impact of

- 1 the true-up mechanism comparable to what I'm proposing
- 2 here.
- 3 Q. Well, let me ask the question again, perhaps
- 4 what you were doing is giving the explanation without
- 5 the yes or no answer, but this involves a, this
- 6 California mechanism involves a deferral and
- 7 amortization of balances on certain accounts associated
- 8 with distribution costs, does it not?
- 9 A. It can, but the utility has the option of
- 10 requesting the full recovery every year of the amount of
- 11 the balancing account, so there's no automatic
- 12 amortization or deferral.
- 13 Q. All right. But if it goes this route, the
- 14 mechanism that's used is known as the D-R-A-M, the DRAM,
- 15 the Distribution Revenue Adjustment Mechanism; is that
- 16 right?
- 17 A. Well, that's 1 of 4, because it's California
- 18 and everything is therefore more complicated than it
- 19 needs to be, there are no less than 17 balancing
- 20 accounts, and there are 4 accounts specifically
- 21 associated with the decoupling, their true-up process,
- 22 and the DRAM, the distribution mechanism, is 1 of the 4.
- 23 Q. All right. But would you generally describe
- the mechanism that you are proposing as a full
- 25 decoupling mechanism like that in California?

- 1 A. Vastly simpler with rate constraints and with
- 2 weather risk staying with the company. With those very
- 3 important differences, yes, this is a full decoupling
- 4 mechanism that I am proposing comparable to California.
- 5 Q. All right.
- 6 Can I have you turn, please, to one of your
- 7 cross-examination exhibits, this is Exhibit 687, it's
- 8 the response to Public Counsel Data Request 182.
- 9 A. Sure.
- 10 Q. Do you have that?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Now first of all, it's the case, is it not,
- 13 Mr. Cavanagh, that Public Counsel asked, in data
- 14 requests, asked you the same question that we have here
- 15 as well as the same questions in the other two exhibits,
- 16 686 and 688, those were directed both to you and
- 17 PacifiCorp, correct?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. And it's true, isn't it, that you responded
- 20 to us that you would allow PacifiCorp to provide the
- 21 formal response in this matter, so these responses that
- 22 we have here are in effect your joint responses with the
- 23 company --
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. -- to these requests; is that right?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Thank you. And in this data request, we
- 3 asked you to provide the current accounting and filing
- 4 procedures used for implementing the decoupling
- 5 adjustment for at least one of the utilities you're
- 6 familiar with, and we provided some options there that
- 7 would be acceptable, and you selected Pacific Gas &
- 8 Electric, correct?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And could we please turn to page 2 of the
- 11 exhibit, and there we see a preliminary statement and a
- 12 general description of the Distribution Revenue
- 13 Adjustment Mechanism, correct?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And if we look in the first paragraph there
- 16 under the heading purpose, we see that the statement in
- 17 the second sentence:
- The DRAM will ensure dollar for dollar
- 19 recovery of these commission authorized
- 20 distribution amounts.
- 21 Is that right?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. So this is the basic mechanism used by
- 24 Pacific Gas & Electric for decoupling?
- 25 A. Well, it's one of the four. You will -- the

- 1 other big one is on page 4 of the exhibit, the utility
- 2 generation balancing account.
- 3 Q. All right.
- 4 A. This one deals with fixed cost of
- 5 distribution, that one deals with generation.
- 6 Q. And through these mechanisms, the company
- 7 with the approval of the California PUC modifies rates
- 8 about once a year, correct?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. So you're directing us to page 4 of the
- 11 exhibit for the generation balancing account as the
- 12 other component of this?
- 13 A. The other main component.
- 14 Q. All right. And there are other components
- 15 that are not shown in this exhibit?
- 16 A. They are described in the first exhibit.
- 17 There's also a true-up for the system benefits funds
- 18 that deal with efficiency, renewables, and low income
- 19 services, and one for nuclear decommission.
- 20 Q. All right. Would you agree that the fixed
- 21 costs that you sponsor as calculated by company witness
- 22 Taylor include more than distribution fixed costs?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. In fact, the calculation by Mr. Taylor
- 25 includes production and transmission fixed costs,

- 1 administrative and general costs, and a whole host of
- 2 other costs besides just distribution costs, correct?
- 3 A. And it also includes generation fixed costs.
- 4 Q. All right.
- 5 A. That's I think as I recall the breakdown in
- 6 my first exhibits, it's about 45% distribution, 45%
- 7 generation, 10% transmission.
- 8 Q. Let's move on to how the adjustment actually
- 9 gets reflected in rates, and you should have there a
- 10 copy of Cross-Exhibit 686, that's Data Request 181.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And there we asked that you provide the
- 13 current residential rate schedules of general
- 14 application --
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. -- for each electric utility you were
- 17 familiar with which has a currently effective decoupling
- 18 mechanism in place, and again you have used the Pacific
- 19 Gas & Electric mechanism as your example and provided
- 20 that information to us, correct?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. So let's go to page 2 of the exhibit.
- 23 A. Although if I might just to clarify, Simon,
- 24 it probably is also useful to have open in front of you
- 25 page 5 of Exhibit 688, which shows you the actual

- 1 application for a true-up by PG&E and gives you the
- 2 actual dollar amounts requested for the latest true-up.
- 3 Q. Well, we'll get there.
- 4 A. Okay.
- 5 Q. Let's take it a step at a time starting with
- 6 page 2 of this exhibit, and let me just ask you a couple
- 7 of questions about this rate design. On the first page
- 8 of the schedule, which is page 2 of the exhibit, it
- 9 shows five residential rate blocks in the lower third of
- 10 the page under the heading total rates, correct?
- 11 A. Right.
- 12 Q. And these range in price from 11.4%, excuse
- 13 me, 11.4 cents per kilowatt hour for baseline usage up
- 14 to 33 cents per kilowatt hour, correct?
- 15 A. That's correct.
- 16 Q. Would you agree that these rates are two to
- 17 five times as high as the rates charged by Pacific Power
- 18 in Washington?
- 19 A. I would.
- 20 Q. You would?
- 21 A. I would.
- Q. Okay. Would you agree that PG&E's marginal
- 23 variable power costs are generally lower than these rate
- 24 levels?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. So if PG&E were to have lower retail rates,
- 2 its wholesale revenue, excuse me, retail sales, its
- 3 wholesale revenues would not go up enough to offset the
- 4 lost revenue, correct?
- 5 A. Nowhere close.
- 6 Q. Would you agree that the wholesale power
- 7 market is generally lower than these rates?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And so if PG&E were to have lower sales, its
- 10 wholesale revenues would not go up enough to offset the
- 11 lost revenue?
- 12 A. That's correct.
- Q. Does PG&E have a monthly customer charge, or
- 14 is it just the minimum charge rate shown on this tariff?
- 15 A. There is no monthly customer charge for PG&E.
- 16 Q. Is it your understanding that PacifiCorp --
- 17 A. For residential customers.
- 18 Q. Right, and we are looking at the residential
- 19 service --
- 20 A. Right.
- 21 Q. -- schedule here. Does Pacific Gas &
- 22 Electric, excuse me, does Pacific Power, PacifiCorp in
- 23 this case, have a monthly customer charge rate of \$4.75
- 24 per month?
- 25 A. I honestly don't -- I know there is one, I

- 1 honestly don't know what it is.
- Q. All right.
- 3 A. I know that it -- I know that it recovers
- 4 less than 10% of the fixed charges identified in my
- 5 testimony.
- 6 Q. And are you aware that PacifiCorp has a two
- 7 block inverted rate?
- 8 A. Yes, for residential customers.
- 9 Q. All right. And in that two block inversion
- 10 rate, the first 600 kilowatt hours is about 4.3 cents
- 11 per kilowatt hour, and the second block is about 6.8
- 12 cents per kilowatt hour; is that correct?
- 13 A. Those are the numbers I recall from
- 14 Mr. Lazar's testimony, yes.
- 15 Q. So would you agree that it's more likely on
- 16 average over the next couple of years that the wholesale
- 17 market will exceed the Pacific Power initial block of
- 18 4.3 cents, it's more likely that it will exceed the PG&E
- 19 first block of 11.4 cents per kilowatt hour?
- 20 A. It is more likely, but it would be my
- 21 expectation that the wholesale markets going forward
- 22 would be below retail rates for both companies.
- 23 Certainly the disparity will be greater for PG&E.
- Q. Would you agree that it's more likely on
- 25 average over the next couple of years that the wholesale

- 1 market will exceed the Pacific Power tail block rate of
- 2 6.8 cents per kilowatt hour than that it will exceed the
- 3 Pacific Gas & Electric tail block of 33 cents per
- 4 kilowatt hour?
- 5 A. I think that's a safe bet.
- 6 Q. Okay. Are you proposing that PacifiCorp
- 7 eliminate its monthly customer charge and move to a five
- 8 block residential rate with a tail block of 33 cents per
- 9 kilowatt hour in your testimony?
- 10 A. No. Going out on a limb here.
- 11 Q. Would you agree that if rates for PacifiCorp
- 12 were set at the levels charged by PG&E, there would be
- 13 some significantly stronger incentives for PacifiCorp
- 14 customers to reduce their usage?
- 15 A. There certainly would be a strong behavioral
- 16 signal, but it's important for me to emphasize, as my
- 17 testimony does, that, in fact, price signals do a very
- 18 lousy job of influencing long-term investments in energy
- 19 efficiency. And whether it's 33 cents or 6 cents, there
- 20 will be very significant cost effective efficiency
- 21 opportunities unexploited without an aggressive utility
- 22 role in my opinion, and that is probably why,
- 23 notwithstanding those California rates, California has
- 24 recently launched a very significant expansion of its
- 25 utility sector energy efficient investments.

- 1 Q. Now let's turn to the next page of this
- 2 exhibit, this is page 3 of the exhibit, and we're still
- 3 in 686, and that sets forth all of the components of the
- 4 summarized rate design that we just saw on page 2,
- 5 correct?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Can you tell me which of these rate elements
- 8 is the subject of the decoupling mechanism that PG&E
- 9 uses in California? And before you get to that, just
- 10 some background questions here. We obviously see the
- 11 five rate blocks reflected in the breakdown underneath
- 12 generation, under distribution, and then below that we
- 13 see additional rate elements broken out, do we not, for
- 14 transmission, transmission rate adjustments, et cetera?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. This is all under the general heading of
- 17 unbundling of total rates?
- 18 A. It is.
- 19 Q. So again, my question is, which of these rate
- 20 elements is the subject of the decoupling mechanism that
- 21 PG&E uses?
- 22 A. The PG&E true-up mechanism specifically
- 23 addresses, as I mentioned earlier, nuclear
- 24 decommissioning and public purpose, which are relatively
- 25 small portions of the bill. It also addresses those

- 1 portions of distribution and generation which are deemed
- 2 by the company to be fixed charges, deemed by the
- 3 Commission to be fixed costs of the system, and I am
- 4 assuming virtually all of distribution would fall in
- 5 that category, as would a substantial fraction of
- 6 generation. The two biggest elements of the PG&E
- 7 mechanism, as I mentioned, the dominant elements are
- 8 generation and distribution, as they would be in the
- 9 proposed mechanism for PacifiCorp that I have described
- 10 in my testimony.
- 11 Q. Now the DRAM decoupling adjustment is not
- 12 shown as a separate rate element here, is it?
- 13 A. No.
- Q. So your testimony just a moment ago was that
- 15 it sort of shows up in various places in these other --
- 16 A. The adjustment is made annually, and
- 17 historically it has been very modest. It wouldn't -- if
- 18 you -- if you did cull it out, it would have been on
- 19 average over the lifetime of the California mechanism
- 20 about one quarter of 1% of the bill. And if you look at
- 21 the decoupling adjustment in the most recent filing on
- 22 page 4 of the final exhibit, you will see it's in the
- 23 same range.
- 24 O. Do you think that customers can easily look
- 25 at this rate schedule and determine the impact that the

- 1 decoupling adjustment is having on their electric bill?
- 2 A. No, but I would also note that the decoupling
- 3 adjustment has, in fact, historically and currently had
- 4 a minimal impact on their electric bill of less than
- 5 half of 1%. I wouldn't be in the slightest -- I
- 6 wouldn't mind in the slightest having it culled out, the
- 7 Commission hasn't chosen to do that.
- 8 Q. All right. Now let's go to Exhibit 688, I
- 9 think perhaps this is where you were wanting to point to
- 10 a little bit earlier, and this is the response to Data
- 11 Request 183; do you have that?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And in this request, we ask you to provide
- 14 copies of the filing and associated work papers for one
- 15 decoupling adjustment for one of the utilities you're
- 16 familiar with which has a currently effective decoupling
- 17 mechanism in place, and you provided this information?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Or through the company at least. So if we
- 20 could turn, please, to page 5 of the exhibit, which is
- 21 actually page 4 of the document on the document
- 22 pagination, this is a listing of the balancing accounts
- 23 authorized that are covered in this true-up filing,
- 24 correct?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And there's a whole series of adjustments
- 2 here that PG&E is proposing for its annual true-up,
- 3 right?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And the first of these is labeled the
- 6 Distribution Revenue Adjustment Mechanism, the DRAM, and
- 7 again that's the decoupling adjustment, correct?
- 8 A. Right.
- 9 Q. The amount shown as the forecast balance for
- 10 December 31st, 2005, is a negative \$63,016,090, right?
- 11 A. Right.
- 12 Q. Now can you tell me if that means that
- 13 customer rates would go up or down as a result of this
- 14 application?
- 15 A. Well, you have to look up obviously all of
- 16 the different accounts, and what they sum to, as you can
- 17 see, is a negative number, and that represents a very
- 18 modest reduction. There's \$9 Billion of jurisdictional
- 19 electric revenues for PG&E. The scales of the
- 20 enterprise are different, somewhat different, and in
- 21 this case gratifyingly there's a negative balance, which
- 22 is I would -- I would take to be a refund to customers.
- Q. All right. And that's based on these 17
- 24 different accounts?
- 25 A. That's right.

- 1 O. And how many of these 17 accounts are
- 2 decoupling adjustments?
- 3 A. I would characterize the first 4 as the
- 4 decoupling adjustments.
- 5 Q. Well, just looking at those on a sort of an
- 6 eyeballing basis, it looks like the sum of those is --
- 7 A. Modestly positive.
- 8 Q. -- modestly positive.
- 9 A. I realize that \$20 Million is not modest in
- 10 the PacifiCorp system, but for a \$9 Billion
- 11 jurisdictional revenue requirement, well, you can do the
- 12 math.
- Q. All right.
- 14 A. About a quarter of 1%.
- 15 Q. Now can you direct me to exactly where in
- 16 this exhibit the adjustment to customer rates is shown
- 17 and calculated so that we can understand how these four
- 18 accounts you have pointed to translate into rates for
- 19 the typical residential customer?
- 20 A. Well, I think what I can say, page 5 is the
- 21 summary of the total impact of all the balancing
- 22 accounts. I don't know what the resulting adjustment is
- 23 for individual residential customers. I can tell you
- 24 that the average electric bill for the PG&E system is
- 25 about \$75 and that a one quarter of 1% adjustment, and I

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- 1 know of no reason why it would be disproportionate,
- 2 would be difficult to detect, about 20 cents a month.
- 3 Q. All right. So there's nowhere in this
- 4 exhibit though that shows the specific calculation --
- 5 A. Of the 20 cents a month, no.
- 6 Q. -- of that even though this exhibit contains
- 7 rate summaries, illustrative rates, and other things of
- 8 that nature?
- 9 A. This is everything we have from the filing.
- 10 Q. All right.
- MR. FFITCH: May I have a moment, Your Honor.
- 12 JUDGE RENDAHL: Yes, go ahead.
- MR. FFITCH: No further questions for
- 14 Mr. Cavanagh, thank you, Your Honor.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: All right, for Staff,
- 16 Mr. Trotter, do you have any questions for Mr. Cavanagh?
- 17 MR. TROTTER: I do not.
- 18 JUDGE RENDAHL: Is there any redirect for
- 19 this witness?
- 20 MR. WOOD: No redirect, Your Honor.
- 21 JUDGE RENDAHL: Are there any questions from
- 22 the Bench for the witness?
- 23 Commissioner Oshie.

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25

## 1 EXAMINATION

- 2 BY COMMISSIONER OSHIE:
- 3 Q. Mr. Cavanagh, I think I drew the short straw
- 4 here. I need to better understand what you're proposing
- 5 for PacifiCorp. I think when, and maybe it goes back to
- 6 a question I asked Ms. Omohundro I believe when she was
- 7 here earlier and testifying, and I asked her whether or
- 8 not the adjustments made as a result of decoupling would
- 9 be on a per customer basis or as a class, and I thought
- 10 I recall her testifying that the adjustments that were
- 11 being proposed by PacifiCorp at least would be, for
- 12 decoupling, would be on a class basis. But after, you
- 13 know, reading your testimony and hearing your testimony
- 14 this morning, you seem to be advocating an adjustment
- 15 that would be made per customer on an annual basis.
- 16 A. So, Commissioner, there's, in this area at
- 17 least, no distance between us and PacifiCorp. So the
- 18 proposal is, and I think I have just created the
- 19 confusion that I will now try to dispel, the purpose of
- 20 the per customer element of this is to be able to
- 21 calculate a fixed cost revenue requirement for the
- 22 company between rate cases. Between rate cases, and
- 23 sometimes as we all know many years pass, sometimes only
- a few, but there are changes in the company's costs.
- 25 Current rate making allows the company to increase its

- 1 fixed cost recoveries as its retail sales increase. Our
- 2 proposal would allow increases in the fixed cost revenue
- 3 requirement tracking changes in the customer count. You
- 4 would use changes in the customer count to calculate
- 5 changes in the authorized fixed cost revenue
- 6 requirement, but then it is a calculation based on the
- 7 revenue for the whole class, and any rate adjustment
- 8 would be across the whole class, it wouldn't be targeted
- 9 to individual customers in any kind of discriminatory or
- 10 different light.
- 11 Q. Now so any true-up then, I mean just to make
- 12 sure I, I do understand of course what you just said,
- 13 but that on an individual basis, I mean the true-ups
- 14 would be on a class basis?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Okay. And you calculate, at least you
- 17 estimate perhaps would be a better use of the term, that
- 18 there would be perhaps a 1% swing, and that's based on
- 19 your understanding and perhaps your knowledge of what,
- 20 of the circumstances of PG&E?
- 21 A. No, it's my understanding of the
- 22 circumstances of PacifiCorp, and so what I did --
- Q. Oh, PacifiCorp.
- 24 A. What I did to make -- I looked at actual
- 25 PacifiCorp retail sales in Washington over the past ten

- 1 years and asked the question, in a worst case scenario
- 2 in which you had the biggest reduction in sales recorded
- 3 over that time and you added on the relatively
- 4 aggressive conservation program impacts that I'm
- 5 describing, what would the rate impact of the true-up
- 6 be. In the worst case for the Washington system, my
- 7 calculation was that it would be 2.2% and that it would
- 8 go up and down if we looked at the past and assumed that
- 9 the present or the future were similar. And therefore,
- 10 I felt very comfortable suggesting that you collar the
- 11 annual rate impact of 2%. So that's not an estimate,
- 12 that's a proposed hard constraint on the mechanism.
- 13 Q. Let me inquire briefly, and this is, you
- 14 know, having read Ms. Steward's testimony, you know, one
- 15 of the propositions that she makes is that the company
- 16 is performing all of the cost effective energy
- 17 efficiency measures that are called for in its IRP and
- 18 are receiving compensation for that through their
- 19 systems benefits charge, so do you agree with that or
- 20 not agree with that?
- 21 A. I don't, I don't agree with either -- well, I
- 22 certainly agree that the company is now doing the
- 23 conservation that it has told the Commission it would
- 24 do. I think that the IRP has played a useful role in
- 25 helping to shape the programs. I'm not here to attack

- 1 what the company is doing. And I'm sure if you ask
- 2 Ms. Omohundro or anyone at PacifiCorp, they will rightly
- 3 say conservation is a high priority, we're doing our
- 4 best. What I'm here to predict is that they could do
- 5 better. And, Commissioner Oshie, the best evidence I
- 6 have for that is Chuck Eberdt's Testimony for the Energy
- 7 Project in this case identifying all of the remaining,
- 8 untapped opportunities in low income residential.
- 9 And I will just tell you that I am confident
- 10 that we could make a similar showing for every major
- 11 sector, and all I want to do is unleash the full
- 12 entrepreneurial capacities of this company, which I know
- 13 to be substantial, with a better set of incentives,
- 14 because I don't think they're being, you asked if I
- 15 thought they were being fully compensated is the
- 16 question, they're recovering their costs, the direct
- 17 outlays associated with the conservation programs, but
- 18 every unsold kilowatt hour means a reduction in fixed
- 19 cost recovery, as explained in my testimony, they're not
- 20 being compensated for that. And, of course, they have
- 21 no earnings opportunities associated with these
- 22 programs. So if you take this and you outline it and
- 23 you lay it against everything else the Commission is
- 24 looking at as competition for scarce talent and capital
- 25 within the company, I don't think this is a particularly

- 1 appealing prospect, I would like to make it more
- 2 appealing.
- 3 Q. But if the company is already acquiring the
- 4 cost effective energy efficiency resources, how are you
- 5 suggesting that it could do better? I mean you maybe
- 6 state generally that they can do more, but, you know, if
- 7 I have to, you know, if I rely on Ms. Steward's
- 8 testimony, they're doing everything that they can,
- 9 they're doing everything that they said, all the
- 10 measures that are cost effective and called for in the
- 11 IRP they're already performing, so what's left on --
- 12 A. What's left --
- 13 Q. -- the table other than perhaps what
- 14 Mr. Eberdt is talking about, which is better performance
- of the company for low income programs, weatherization,
- 16 perhaps contributions to the monthly bills of those
- 17 customers, so what else can the company do that's --
- 18 A. Let me try --
- 19 Q. Maybe you can be specific.
- 20 A. Yeah, let me try another way of being
- 21 specific. Ms. Steward's testimony indicates that in
- 22 2004 the company acquired roughly 3.2 average megawatts
- 23 in energy efficiency. That is about one, that's about
- 24 two thirds of 1% of systemwide electric use,
- 25 Commissioner Oshie. And I am betting that neither you

- 1 nor I think for a moment that two thirds of 1% exhausts
- 2 the cost effective efficiency possibilities on the
- 3 PacifiCorp system.
- 4 I note in my testimony that the California
- 5 targets on a system that Mr. ffitch rightly recognizes
- 6 has far higher electric rates, the California targets
- 7 for a utility's acquisition of conservation are now well
- 8 over 1% of system sales per year. Or looked at in terms
- 9 of the, you know, the relative aggressiveness of
- 10 conservation effort, 50% higher than the PacifiCorp
- 11 demonstrated results in 2004. So I do think we can do
- 12 better, and I don't in any way by saying that want to
- 13 undermine the progress we have made already with the
- 14 IRP. What I'm saying, two thirds of 1% is not the best
- 15 we can do.
- Q. Well, if, you know, the rates in California
- 17 are significantly higher, I mean we have had a lot of
- 18 testimony on that this morning, so doesn't that make
- 19 more energy efficiency measures more cost effective and
- 20 therefore more available to the company on a cost
- 21 effective basis to implement?
- 22 A. Commissioner, most people would say the exact
- 23 opposite, because of course the relative cost
- 24 effectiveness of conservation, if conservation is
- 25 compared against marginal generation in both Washington

- 1 and California, relative cost effectiveness about the
- 2 same in both places. The retail rates are much higher
- 3 in California, which you would think would mean that a
- 4 lot of the low hanging fruit would have been plucked so
- 5 people can take advantage of the 30 cents a kilowatt
- 6 hour they're saving in the tail blocks. And so the fact
- 7 is California is being more aggressive in its utility
- 8 targets. When cost effectiveness is the same -- the
- 9 marginal generation costs the same in California as it
- 10 does in Washington, and the higher California rates
- 11 ought to mean that more of the conservation has already
- 12 been done. This is the Saudi Arabia of conservation,
- 13 not California.
- 14 Q. I haven't heard that one before.
- 15 A. Yes, you have.
- 16 Q. So if the company isn't recovering its fixed
- 17 costs as you have testified to this morning, that's a
- 18 risk that it assumes in performing its -- in funding and
- 19 implementing cost effective energy efficiency measures?
- 20 A. But the difficulty -- that is true under the
- 21 status quo, but it's not a risk that the company assumes
- 22 notice when it invests in generation, and this -- the
- 23 fundamental problem here is the asymmetry I think.
- 24 Generation investments associated with increasing sales
- 25 don't have the lost fixed cost element that the

- 1 conversation investment has. This Commission led the
- 2 country in demanding that utilities treat efficiency and
- 3 generation the same, compare them head to head, pick the
- 4 best buys first, don't discriminate against
- 5 conversation, that has been the consistent message of
- 6 this Commission as long as I have been here, and I have
- 7 been here a long time. In this particular area you're
- 8 falling down because there's a fundamental asymmetry.
- 9 The conservation resource if successfully invested
- 10 reduces fixed cost recovery, the generation investment
- 11 increases it, which way is the company going to go if we
- 12 don't fix it.
- 13 Q. I think one final area of questioning. If
- 14 the -- if you're asking the rate payers to pick up on a,
- 15 I don't want to really use the term guarantee, but a
- 16 more assured basis that its fixed costs will be
- 17 recovered, and the company's already investing in what
- 18 it believes to be the cost effective energy efficiency
- 19 resources that might be available, what incentive does
- 20 it have to invest in more? And I know what your
- 21 testimony has been, but I don't see anything offered up
- 22 by either in your testimony or by the company saying
- 23 that, if you implement decoupling, we will put, you
- 24 know, \$5 Million on the table for energy efficiency
- 25 programs or, you know, or \$2 Million or we'll, you know,

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- 1 increase our efforts to explore other cost efficient,
- 2 cost effective efficiency tools, I don't see it.
- 3 A. Commissioner Oshie --
- 4 Q. It's more of, you know, build it and we will
- 5 come, but that's -- and I think that leaves at least if
- 6 you, you're talking about asymmetry, I think that's an
- 7 asymmetrical approach.
- 8 A. But, Commissioner Oshie, this is where I
- 9 would hope the proposal for a three year pilot test
- 10 might appeal to you in particular, because what I hope
- 11 you would say is that this is a pilot test, and for me a
- 12 critical question in evaluating its effectiveness will
- 13 be whether I can see at the close of the test period a
- 14 material change in the company's performance and
- 15 commitment on energy efficiency. No one would welcome a
- 16 statement like that more than me, Commissioner Oshie.
- 17 And the establishment of a three year pilot test puts
- 18 you in a position to say if you don't see that, this
- 19 mechanism isn't going anywhere. I think you will see
- 20 it, and I encourage you to put us to the test formally.
- 21 COMMISSIONER OSHIE: No further questions.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: Commissioner Jones.

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## 1 EXAMINATION

- 2 BY COMMISSIONER JONES:
- 3 Q. Following up on Commissioner Oshie's
- 4 questions, on page 7 of your testimony, Mr. Cavanagh,
- 5 you talk about sustainability of energy efficiency
- 6 programs, and you cite the CPUC order. Just so I
- 7 understand the CPUC order in your recommendation here,
- 8 are you proposing here that the Commission adopt a
- 9 statewide target for energy efficiency in investments,
- 10 or are you just incorporating this by reference?
- 11 A. No, what I'm -- I use this in the testimony
- 12 to try to give you a sense of the potential rate impact
- 13 of an aggressive program. My basic recommendation is
- 14 unleash the company, see what it can do, have the kind
- 15 of skeptical orientation Commissioner Oshie has of show
- 16 me, and let's see what -- I -- they could do better than
- 17 this, and I would be delighted, but I'm putting this out
- 18 as a benchmark for a relatively aggressive program and
- 19 then exploring its rate impact.
- Q. So you're not proposing, seems to me if you
- 21 talk about a symmetrical proposal you should include the
- 22 disincentive as well as the goal, if you will, the
- 23 target for which a company should be striving. I think
- 24 that's what Commissioner Oshie partly was driving at.
- 25 What is, if we have the system benefits charge, if we

- 1 have an IRP, and we acknowledge the IRP of the company,
- 2 and we introduce a entirely new mechanism that has
- 3 impact perhaps on the PCAM on the division of costs on
- 4 an interjurisdictional basis, this is a fairly
- 5 substantial step for the company for the Commission to
- 6 take one could argue. Why not include more substance,
- 7 if you will, on the targeting side on what can be
- 8 achieved and directing, guiding the company to do
- 9 certain things to achieve the objective, especially in
- 10 light of what Commissioner Oshie cited on the existing
- 11 IRP and the existing system benefits charge?
- 12 A. So I repeat, I have absolutely no problem
- 13 with the Commission if it approves a pilot test making
- 14 clear that a crucial criterion in evaluating the test
- 15 will be the extent to which the company can improve on
- 16 its current performance on energy efficiency. We're on
- 17 record as recommending, Commissioner, in your most
- 18 recent rulemaking on least cost planning, that you
- 19 actually direct the company to do a sector by sector
- 20 assessment of cost effective efficiency opportunities.
- 21 In your wisdom, you chose not to accept that
- 22 recommendation. We're on record as making it, and if
- 23 you want to change your mind here, I'm more than
- 24 delighted. But assuming that's still your policy, I
- 25 think the right way forward here is to send a clear

- 1 signal in approving the pilot that this is a crucial
- 2 element of your judgment as to its success or failure.
- 3 Q. Are you proposing that all classes, including
- 4 the industrial sector, on pages 7 and 8 of your
- 5 testimony you quote the Power Council's recent estimate
- 6 of cost effective and achievable energy efficiency in
- 7 the region, and of course we give great weight, at least
- 8 this Commissioner does, to the Power Council's
- 9 estimates, but the Power Council does exclude the
- 10 industrial sector, correct?
- 11 A. Yes, largely. There is an estimate for the
- 12 industrial sector, everyone acknowledges it's a
- 13 placeholder.
- 14 Q. So it's largely residential and commercial?
- 15 A. And the other sectors, there's street
- 16 lighting, there are some others that are not --
- 17 irrigation, but industrial is not very well covered.
- 18 Q. Okay. So in your proposal, you're not making
- 19 any recommendation other than I think in your authorized
- 20 revenue requirement on a per customer basis, this is on
- 21 page 16 of your testimony, you're recommending that we
- 22 separate the categories into residential, one,
- 23 residential --
- 24 A. Right.
- 25 Q. -- and two, all other excluding industrial

- 1 customers served under Schedule 48-T?
- 2 A. Right.
- 3 Q. Two other questions that relate to the
- 4 company's proposal in this case. Do you have any
- 5 specific recommendation on the PCAM and how your
- 6 proposal would affect or would not affect the Power Cost
- 7 Adjustment Mechanism?
- 8 A. I take no position on the PCAM, and I think
- 9 that the proposed pilot test will work whether you have
- 10 it or not. The one respect in which the PCAM is I think
- 11 material in your evaluation of the pilot test is that it
- 12 would affect the potential availability of wholesale
- 13 revenues to offset lost retail sales, the issue that
- 14 Mr. Lazar raises in his testimony. My view is as, for
- 15 the reasons explained in both my testimony and the joint
- 16 testimony with Ms. Omohundro, that the pilot test could
- 17 be run either way. And so I -- the PCAM really would
- 18 not affect my recommendation as to how you should
- 19 execute the pilot test, because it doesn't affect the
- 20 revenues that are associated with my proposal.
- 21 Q. I understand.
- The other significant proposal by the company
- 23 in this rate case is the interjurisdictional cost
- 24 allocation system, are you taking any position on the
- 25 Revised Protocol and how this might affect your proposal

- 1 on decoupling, specifically as it relates to the
- 2 interjurisdictional allocation of generation plant and
- 3 distribution plant?
- 4 A. No, Commissioner, our proposal, my proposal,
- 5 our joint proposal will work with whatever decision you
- 6 make as to what the fixed costs should be and how they
- 7 should be allocated. That is clearly your decision, the
- 8 mechanism would take your decision and apply it.
- 9 Q. You stated earlier that California tends to
- 10 do things in a very complex manner, correct?
- 11 A. I did.
- 12 Q. Including the 17 accounts listed in Exhibit,
- 13 what is it, 688. Are you recommending an approach that
- 14 is perhaps more simple for the simplicities here in the
- 15 Pacific Northwest?
- 16 A. I'm recommending one account, annual
- 17 adjustment, 2% rate collar, weather normalized so the
- 18 weather risk stays with the company, and all of those
- 19 are I hope reassuring and decisive differences in the
- 20 proposal that we're making.
- 21 COMMISSIONER JONES: That's all I have.

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- EXAMINATION
- 24 BY CHAIRMAN SIDRAN:
- 25 Q. We like to think we're simple people here in

- 1 the state of Washington, but I am a little curious about
- 2 California's experience and would like to ask for some
- 3 clarification. I believe you testified to that price
- 4 signals do a poor job of prompting energy efficiency and
- 5 conservation on the part of consumers.
- 6 A. Long-term investment, Mr. Chairman.
- 7 Q. And then I heard you say something to the
- 8 effect that California had recently launched an
- 9 aggressive campaign to promote efficiency and
- 10 conservation; is that correct?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And is that being prompted, is that
- 13 aggressive campaign flowing from the utilities on their
- 14 own volition, or is this coming from the state?
- 15 A. Fair to say both I think, and it -- what I
- 16 can tell you is that the experience -- California
- 17 utilities have been working with decoupling since 1981.
- 18 It was briefly suspended during an interval that none of
- 19 us require -- none of us recall fondly, the great
- 20 California restructuring experiment. It's back now. I
- 21 can tell you that the California utilities are
- 22 enthusiastic leaders in this effort. I can tell you
- 23 that they're also getting very strong support and
- 24 leadership from the commission and that any of them
- 25 would tell you that the existing of the decoupling

- 1 mechanism is a material part of why they can sustain
- 2 that enthusiasm.
- 3 Q. So it sounds like there's 20 some years of
- 4 experience in California, and in your testimony you cite
- 5 some other states --
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. -- including Oregon and Wisconsin that are
- 8 embarking on --
- 9 A. And Idaho.
- 10 Q. And Idaho on decoupling efforts. Is there
- 11 somewhere where there has been a collection, if you
- 12 will, of the results of these efforts that provide some
- 13 ability to evaluate? I mean we're talking here, as I
- 14 understand it, about a proposal for a three year pilot
- 15 so we can see how it works.
- 16 A. Right.
- 17 Q. I would be interested in looking at seeing
- 18 how it has worked in those states that have made efforts
- 19 to implement this, because presumably there's something
- 20 to be learned from those experiences, and we would be
- 21 able to perhaps evaluate some of the pro's and con's or
- 22 what worked and didn't work in those other states.
- 23 A. And so, Mr. Chairman, I have tried to give
- 24 you some of that. The Oregon mechanism, for example, I
- 25 have given you the rate impact and annual experience at

- 1 pages 12 to 13 of my testimony.
- Q. To be clear, I read your testimony and I saw
- 3 it and it was helpful, thank you, to see the rate
- 4 impact, what I didn't see in your testimony was any
- 5 indicia of energy efficiency savings or conservation.
- 6 So I appreciate your testimony in terms of rate impact,
- 7 and that's important. What I don't really know much
- 8 about is the impact on energy efficiency and
- 9 conservation. I do note in your testimony there's one
- 10 sentence where you say California has seen significant
- 11 gains in that regard, I'm just wondering if there's
- 12 anything that you can point us to that would help us
- 13 evaluate the efficiency and conservation consequences.
- 14 A. And there at page 10 of my testimony, the one
- 15 perhaps most persuasive single thing I can show you is
- 16 the words of this Commission in 1993 when after the
- 17 initial adoption of a very similar decoupling mechanism
- 18 for Puget, the Commission accepted the parties'
- 19 representations that the revenue per customer cap had
- 20 achieved its primary goal, the removal of disincentives
- 21 for conservation adjustment, and concluded that Puget
- 22 has developed a distinguished reputation because of its
- 23 conservation programs and is now considered a national
- 24 leader in this area. And there's a good deal more in
- 25 the Commission record there in terms of the -- the test

- 1 of the prop -- does this make a material difference in
- 2 terms of the motivation and performance of a utility,
- 3 the best illustration I know of in the country,
- 4 Mr. Chairman, is Puget in the mid '90's.
- 5 Q. Some would say that Puget maintains that
- 6 distinction at least in this jurisdiction without a
- 7 decoupling mechanism.
- 8 A. And there my concern is the roller coaster
- 9 pattern. Today I feel relatively good about how Puget
- 10 is doing and PacifiCorp. I think they could do better,
- 11 but we're on an upturn. The difficulty is I started in
- 12 '79, many in this room did too, and I know if you look
- 13 at the Power Council's charts, the regional conservation
- 14 achievement, Mr. Chairman, since '79, roller coaster is
- 15 the right description. We're on the upswing, but we
- 16 don't want to plummet again. The principal basis for --
- 17 it's not that we can't do well in episodic spurts
- 18 without the mechanism, it's just that in my judgment for
- 19 the reasons described in the testimony, I think if you
- 20 want to sustain it, if you want to become a durable part
- 21 of the corporate culture that lasts changes over --
- 22 through changes in management and changes in wholesale
- 23 rates which are constantly volatile, if you want this to
- 24 become a core part of the business, we've got to do more
- 25 on the incentive side.

- 1 Q. You mentioned, well, I guess just to go back
- 2 to my prior question, so is there -- has someone pulled
- 3 together the research and evaluation that would allow us
- 4 to look at the results from California and other states
- 5 on the efficiency and conversation side?
- 6 A. And so, Mr. Chairman, the one thing that
- 7 comes to mind here is recognize almost all of the
- 8 historical experience, aside from the Puget case which I
- 9 just cited and the PacifiCorp case which I think is well
- 10 covered in my testimony, is California. And the
- 11 California experience with decoupling certainly has been
- 12 addressed, I have looked at it. In my review, for
- 13 example, I concluded that through the period of the
- 14 suspension, the average rate impact of decoupling was
- 15 about one quarter of 1%, but that you could look at the
- 16 California utilities' aggregate results in terms of
- 17 conservation investment, and here's what they were up to
- 18 the moment when the mechanism was suspended in the mid
- 19 '90's. You had developed a conservation resource in
- 20 California equivalent to about 5,000 megawatts from the
- 21 utility investment at an average cost of under 2 cents a
- 22 kilowatt hour. That's a phenomenal record, matched by
- 23 equivalent savings through efficiency standards.
- 24 But certainly what the California -- I think
- 25 I know as much about this as anybody, Mr. Chairman, so I

- 1 think the best thing for me to do is respond directly.
- 2 You can not find a utility system over a sustained
- 3 period with a remotely comparable conservation mechanism
- 4 during the period that not only this mechanism was in
- 5 place but obviously also integrated resource planning
- 6 rules, strongly influenced by Washington State's I'm
- 7 pleased to say, which established conservation as a
- 8 resource on an equivalent basis with generation.
- 9 Now if you look where we are now, because
- 10 this is the other critical empirical issue, and you say
- 11 which utilities in the country have the most aggressive
- 12 program with the strongest quality controls and the
- 13 strongest accountability, the California savings targets
- 14 as a fraction of system use are the most aggressive in
- 15 the country. They are substantially more aggressive
- 16 even than those of the Power Council, and I too take the
- 17 Power Council targets very seriously and respect the
- 18 expertise of those who set them. But you've got the
- 19 most aggressive program in the country, you've got the
- 20 largest utility investment. California utilities will
- 21 invest \$2 Billion over the next three years to save
- 22 1,500 megawatts at an average cost of 3 cents a kilowatt
- 23 hour, and that gives you a sense of the magnitude, both
- 24 absolute and relative, of what is possible when you get
- 25 the incentives right and you have motivated utilities,

- 1 and that is a clear indication I think that we can do
- 2 better.
- 3 Q. So if we were to take the indicia you have
- 4 just described as California's results --
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. -- and compare it to Puget and comparable
- 7 indicia, what would we find?
- 8 A. What you would find at -- you could find
- 9 years in which Puget and for that matter PacifiCorp have
- 10 been able to equal the performance of the California
- 11 utilities, but you can not find the sustained record.
- 12 That's my principal contention here.
- 13 And also what I would say is that you -- as
- 14 someone who -- and this is -- this is more
- 15 impressionistic but I think it's important. I interact
- 16 regularly with -- I mean my job is to work with the
- 17 senior managements of all of these western utilities on
- 18 energy efficiency. It really makes a palpable
- 19 difference in terms of motivation and in terms of
- 20 sustained commitment and performance whether you're
- 21 doing it because you think you have to because the
- 22 Commission is making you do it or whether you're doing
- 23 it because you think it makes good business sense, and
- 24 ideally you want it to be both. And we can't say what
- 25 -- I can say the Commission is behind it right now in

- 1 Washington, but I can't say it makes good business
- 2 sense.
- 3 Q. You made reference to decoupling in the
- 4 context of helping smooth out some of these issues in
- 5 the context of the frequency of rate cases. If a
- 6 company were to file a rate case annually, for example,
- 7 what impact does that have on the added value of
- 8 decoupling in your mind?
- 9 A. And this is an issue addressed in
- 10 Ms. Steward's testimony, and this is an important point
- of disagreement between us, so I'm glad you have asked.
- 12 I don't think it makes a material difference. The
- 13 difficulty is that all of life is lived between rate
- 14 cases. A new rate case does not give back the money
- 15 that you lost since the last one, it resets the rates
- 16 and you can start losing money again the next day under
- 17 your conservation programs. But that to me is not
- 18 materially helpful. The difficulty is that at every
- 19 moment you're between rate cases, you're losing fixed
- 20 cost recovery on untold base kilowatt hours, and it
- 21 seems to me however often the rate cases are, you want
- 22 to eliminate that unfortunate reality.
- 23 Q. How do you respond to the proposition that
- 24 more -- that mechanisms like decoupling and for that
- 25 matter more frequent rate cases reduce the risk for the

- 1 company and that should be reflected in the rate of
- 2 return?
- 3 A. And I think this is a absolutely critical
- 4 point. Let's first of all note the empirical fact that
- 5 no commission to my knowledge adopting the decoupling
- 6 mechanism has ever coupled it to a reduction in
- 7 authorized return I think for two good reasons. First,
- 8 in general commissions doing it, they're trying to
- 9 encourage the companies to which the mechanism is
- 10 applied, and it isn't tremendously encouraging to have
- 11 your rate of return reduced. But more important, this
- 12 was not, I want to emphasize, Commissioner, this
- 13 mechanism was not PacifiCorp's idea, this was something
- 14 we have pushed very hard. I'm delighted they have come
- 15 with me.
- This is -- there's a downside to this for
- 17 them, and it's not trivial. What they're giving away,
- 18 and this is a point that is sometimes lost in some of
- 19 the testimony, they're giving away an upside in addition
- 20 to being protected from the downside. The upside
- 21 they're giving away is they can't profit any more on
- 22 increases in sales, and for most of the electric
- 23 industry for most of the 20th Century, that was a great
- 24 wave to ride. And PacifiCorp is basically saying, we
- 25 won't ride it any more. The fact that relatively few

- 1 companies are willing to do that helps explain why
- 2 relatively few companies are joining environmental
- 3 advocates to make proposals on decoupling in state
- 4 commissions at the moment. Most of the industry doesn't
- 5 want to give up the upside. So it's important to
- 6 recognize the mechanism's symmetry in terms of both an
- 7 upside and a downside.
- 8 And then you have to ask in the context of --
- 9 and they're keeping the weather risk, this is the final
- 10 point. I think Public Counsel seems to me made a
- 11 persuasive point that if you're shifting weather risk,
- 12 that might be a material factor in terms of the
- 13 company's relative overall profile. We're not doing
- 14 that. The company is retaining the weather risk.
- So if you look at the actual risk, the
- 16 company is protected against non-weather related sales
- 17 fluctuations on the downside, it's giving up all of its
- 18 opportunities to gain from sales increases, it doesn't
- 19 look like a material change in risk to me, and the final
- 20 benefit of a three year pilot test is, if I'm wrong, if
- 21 the entire financial community of New York for the first
- 22 time rises up in jubilation at the adoption of this
- 23 mechanism and fundamentally changes the ratings and the
- 24 profit profiles of PacifiCorp, you will be able to
- 25 adjust. I would love it if that happened, I don't

- 1 expect it, but maybe it's another good reason to do a
- 2 pilot test.
- 3 CHAIRMAN SIDRAN: Thank you, that's all I
- 4 have.
- 5 JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you.
- I just have a few, Mr. Cavanagh.

- 8 EXAMINATION
- 9 BY JUDGE RENDAHL:
- 10 Q. If you look at page, first if you look at
- 11 your joint testimony.
- 12 A. Sure.
- 13 Q. Exhibit 681, part of the proposal as I
- 14 understand it is to have an independent assessment.
- 15 It's first mentioned on line 7 on the first page.
- 16 A. Yes.
- Q. But there's no explanation as to who would
- 18 provide this independent assessment or how it would be
- 19 performed. Do you have any thoughts on that?
- 20 A. I would suggest that the Commission ask the
- 21 parties for a joint recommendation, and I'm confident --
- 22 there are a number of excellent -- happily -- most of
- 23 the firms that are good at this are Northwest firms, and
- 24 we will have no difficulty finding a good one.
- 25 Q. So the independent assessment is independent

- 1 of the company?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. All right. And not intended to be Staff?
- 4 A. Yes, that's right, I think we should hire
- 5 someone.
- 6 Q. Okay, that's my simple clarification.
- 7 A. And I think the company has volunteered to do
- 8 that.
- 9 Q. I will check with Ms. Omohundro as well.
- 10 The other question I have, if you can refer
- 11 to your direct testimony, Exhibit 671, on page 11.
- 12 A. Right.
- 13 Q. The first full paragraph talks about changes
- 14 in loads, the different things that affect retail sales.
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And so the first thing I want to know is how
- 17 familiar are you with the PCAM that's proposed by the
- 18 company in this proceeding?
- 19 A. Not very familiar, and I take no position on
- 20 it.
- 21 Q. Are you familiar with the fact that they have
- 22 included a retail revenue adjustment as a part of the
- 23 PCAM that would reflect changes in load growth?
- 24 A. No.
- Q. If that is a part of the PCAM, if the

- 1 Commission approves the PCAM with that aspect to it, do
- 2 you see any possible in a sense double recovery between
- 3 any aspect of the decoupling mechanism as proposed and
- 4 that retail revenue adjustment that would adjust for
- 5 retail load changes?
- 6 A. I don't. It's a reasonable question
- 7 obviously for the company. My proposal is to track
- 8 actual recovery of fixed costs per customer and true-up
- 9 accordingly. If, obviously if there were some other
- 10 source of fixed cost recovery independent of the
- 11 existing system, it would affect the true-ups. But
- 12 again, the fundamental idea here is that you're truing
- 13 up to make sure that the authorized fixed cost revenue
- 14 requirement per customer is what the company recovers in
- its retail rates, no more, no less.
- 16 Q. And so do you see a way to distinguish and
- 17 track the changes in retail load and in a sense the
- 18 customer count and changes in behavior for efficiency
- 19 and how you would track that --
- 20 A. Okay.
- 21 Q. -- to make sure there's no double recovery?
- 22 And --
- 23 A. Yeah, the glory --
- Q. -- maybe I'm not getting it.
- 25 A. The glory of this mechanism -- no, I think

- 1 you are getting it and you're making an important point.
- 2 It would have been possible -- if we had designed this
- 3 mechanism to try to separate out what was causing
- 4 fluctuations and to account separately for each and
- 5 struggle with how many kilowatt hours each program in
- 6 fact saves, all of these programs, all of these issues
- 7 become relevant and difficult. We didn't do that. The
- 8 true-up here is simply all you're doing is you're
- 9 looking at retail, actual retail revenues, actual
- 10 changes in customer count, and you are making a true-up
- 11 based on the difference, if any, between what's
- 12 authorized and what was actually recovered, that's all
- 13 you're doing.
- 14 So you're not trying to parse questions of
- 15 causation, they're irrelevant. You're just making the
- 16 recovery of the fixed cost revenue requirement
- 17 independent of retail sales. And obviously, my
- 18 argument, that's exactly what you should be doing, but
- 19 you're not trying to figure out what the different
- 20 causes of changes in residential use or commercial use
- 21 might be and alter the rate treatment accordingly.
- 22 That's what makes it a breathtakingly simple mechanism
- 23 and I think also philosophically right because we're
- 24 saying fixed cost recovery ought to be independent of
- 25 retail sales.

- 1 JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay, I have nothing further.
- Judge Mace.

- 4 EXAMINATION
- 5 BY JUDGE MACE:
- 6 Q. I just wanted to ask when you responded to
- 7 Mr. ffitch about more of the detail of the fixed cost
- 8 accounts that would be included in the calculation of
- 9 the revenue requirement per customer --
- 10 A. Yeah.
- 11 Q. -- you referred him to the Puget mechanism,
- 12 and I'm wondering if it's your testimony that this
- 13 proposal, this decoupling proposal in this case is
- 14 modeled directly on the Puget mechanism and if it would
- 15 be the same fixed cost accounts that would be included?
- 16 A. Well, there -- no, I think that's -- that's
- 17 an important distinction. The -- I think the
- 18 fundamental philosophy is the same, but the original
- 19 Puget mechanism had a lot of bells and whistles attached
- 20 to it. It had many features completely independent of
- 21 decoupling. It dealt with hydro power risk, for
- 22 example. It parsed a lot of very hard questions in
- 23 terms of different kinds of -- there were a lot of
- 24 difficult cost accounting issues that mattered in the
- 25 design and application of that mechanism. I am not

- 1 proposing to relive the detail. What I would prefer
- 2 here and recommend is a much simpler mechanism. The
- 3 Puget mechanism of 1991, the one thing I think one could
- 4 say equivocally is that it rivalled California in some
- 5 respects it terms of the details of its administration,
- 6 and I'm trying to learn from all of that and become I
- 7 hope much more constructively simpler in both design and
- 8 execution.
- 9 O. But the Commission wouldn't know what costs
- 10 would be included in that calculation then until the
- 11 company made its compliance filing?
- 12 A. Well, the company -- the Commission will make
- 13 the -- will make its findings on authorized revenue
- 14 requirements for the company in this case, and then our
- 15 proposal is a compliance filing to specify what the
- 16 fixed cost revenue requirement per customer would be for
- 17 the two classes. And yes, at that moment it would be
- 18 transparent exactly how it will work.
- 19 Q. One last question, is there any other state
- 20 in which PacifiCorp operates where a commission has
- 21 authorized decoupling for PacifiCorp?
- 22 A. Yes, Oregon from 1998 to 2001.
- 23 Q. But there's nothing currently in effect for
- 24 PacifiCorp?
- 25 A. The mechanism lapsed there, and there is no

- 1 current mechanism. The Oregon Commission, like this
- 2 one, is taking a hard look at decoupling, they chose to
- 3 move first with the gas industry, and those orders are
- 4 cited in my testimony.
- 5 JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you.

- 7 EXAMINATION
- 8 BY CHAIRMAN SIDRAN:
- 9 Q. I just wanted to follow up on that last
- 10 comment, why did it lapse in Oregon?
- 11 A. It lapsed in Oregon because this, and similar
- 12 problem with California, it was the moment at which
- 13 Oregon was entering its restructuring phase, and you all
- 14 recall there was major legislative changes in the
- 15 structure of the system and significant doubt, at least
- 16 for a while, about whether utilities would retain a
- 17 substantial role in either resource acquisition or
- 18 energy efficiency. Oregon has chosen to put much of the
- 19 energy efficiency implementation responsibility in an
- 20 independent body called the Oregon Energy Trust, an
- 21 approach not taken in Washington, and that has also
- 22 influenced where people are. I can tell you,
- 23 Mr. Chairman, that we are determined to try to get it
- 24 reinstated, we still think it's important in Oregon, and
- 25 we will be carrying that issue back to the commission.

- 1 But because of the Oregon Trust's special
- 2 role there, the commission put a higher priority on the
- 3 gas industry mechanisms. And I do think the gas
- 4 industry experience is also helpful and relevant in
- 5 Oregon, and I have cited the relevant -- there's an
- 6 independent audit that you will want to look at there.
- 7 Actually I should have mentioned that when you asked to
- 8 look at how these mechanisms work. The independent
- 9 audit in Oregon is interesting both in terms of what it
- 10 says about the Oregon mechanism for the gas company, its
- 11 influence on the motivation of the company, and finally
- 12 its implications more broadly for the industry.
- 13 CHAIRMAN SIDRAN: Thank you.

- 15 EXAMINATION
- 16 BY COMMISSIONER OSHIE:
- 17 Q. Mr. Cavanagh, I guess I started your
- 18 cross-examination and, well, other than Mr. ffitch of
- 19 course, for the Bench, and perhaps I will end it. In
- 20 response to questions that were asked by Judge Rendahl,
- 21 I just want to get a little more clarification on how
- 22 this would actually work.
- 23 So make the assumption that we initiate the
- 24 decoupling program that you're proposing, and let's say
- 25 hypothetically the company doesn't invest any more in

- 1 energy efficiency programs, doesn't implement any other
- 2 energy efficiency measures than would already be called
- 3 for in its IRP and what it's being essentially paid to
- 4 do through the recovery of its systems benefits charge,
- 5 so no new investments in energy efficiency, a true-up
- 6 period would have to be dealt with, and from your
- 7 testimony I'm assuming that if the company did nothing
- 8 to improve its energy efficiency over that one year
- 9 period, there would be, at least theoretically, there
- 10 would be no -- there would be nothing to true-up,
- 11 nothing is changed. Now is that how it would work, or
- 12 would there be some consideration of the cost of the
- 13 energy efficiency measures that are already in place
- 14 that have not been somehow considered in the weather
- 15 normalization methodology that would be used by this
- 16 Commission?
- 17 A. And so, Commissioner, I am suggesting a
- 18 mechanism that doesn't require you to do any of that,
- 19 you're just comparing actual fixed cost revenue recovery
- 20 with authorized, and you're truing up. In your
- 21 hypothetical, if nothing changes in terms of sales,
- 22 conservation, business cycle, weather --
- Q. Excuse me, I'm not saying really, I'm not
- 24 saying nothing changes.
- 25 A. Right.

- 1 Q. What I'm saying is that the company has not
- 2 invested in energy efficiency any more than it had
- 3 already invested, and so during the true-up period --
- 4 let's maybe let's let me change the hypothetical, maybe
- 5 it would help your answer.
- 6 A. Okay.
- 7 Q. The company doesn't spend anything from its
- 8 system benefits charge account.
- 9 A. Right.
- 10 Q. So it doesn't do any more for energy
- 11 efficiency during the true-up period.
- 12 A. Drops the ball.
- 13 Q. Doesn't do it.
- 14 A. Yeah.
- 15 Q. And perhaps there's nothing to do
- 16 hypothetically.
- 17 A. And sales go up.
- 18 Q. Well, I'm just, I'm not sure whether sales
- 19 would go up or down, but what would be the purpose of
- 20 the true-up?
- 21 A. Well, if, and this is I think salutary,
- 22 Commissioner, if the company drops the ball and sales
- 23 increase, the company will have to give some money back.
- Q. I'm not saying sales would increase, I'm just
- 25 saying that there's been nothing done, nothing done that

- 1 hasn't already been done.
- 2 A. And so if --
- 3 Q. So the cost, so the energy efficiency, not to
- 4 speak over you but just to make clear that there are
- 5 energy efficiency mechanisms already in place.
- 6 A. And so if nothing changes, the likeliest
- 7 outcome is virtually no impact of the mechanism, not a
- 8 result I will rejoice in, but it's not -- the main thing
- 9 I think to emphasize is that this is a proposal that
- 10 insulates customers against any significant adverse
- 11 risk. It does that by collaring the rate impact, and it
- 12 does that by establishing a relatively limited period
- 13 over which the thing operates.
- 14 But there is one other element of the
- 15 company's performance that I think you're missing that's
- 16 important here. This is also designed to free up the
- 17 company to be an aggressive proponent of energy
- 18 efficiency, not just in the investments in its own
- 19 conservation programs, but at state and federal levels
- 20 where issues surrounding efficiency standards or
- 21 national policy are at issue. Right now PacifiCorp has
- 22 absolutely no business reason and some adverse business
- 23 reasons to be an effective advocate at the state and
- 24 federal level for efficiency policy.
- 25 And I will -- all of you commissioners know

- 1 this, but efficiency policy at the state and federal
- 2 level vitally depends upon an energized utility base.
- 3 If we don't have it, we do a lot worse than if we do. I
- 4 think one of the benefits from a mechanism like this
- 5 from getting the incentives right and you should
- 6 anticipate, don't just look at the conservation programs
- 7 on the ground, do what the Oregon auditors did and look
- 8 at Northwest -- they looked at Northwest Natural Gas's
- 9 performance as an advocate for energy efficiency at the
- 10 state and federal level and found it to be exemplary,
- 11 found them to have emerged as a national leader.
- 12 I think you're entitled to ask at the close
- 13 of this period not just how well PacifiCorp has done as
- 14 an investor in energy efficiency, but how well
- 15 PacifiCorp has done as an advocate for energy efficiency
- 16 at state and federal levels and you -- and I hope you
- 17 will ask to see some convincing evidence that they have
- 18 stepped up there as well.
- 19 JUDGE RENDAHL: Is there anything more for
- 20 Mr. Cavanagh this morning?
- 21 MR. FFITCH: Your Honor, I just have one or
- 22 two follow ups, if I may.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay, please go ahead.
- MR. FFITCH: Briefly, thank you.

- 1 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 2 BY MR. FFITCH:
- 3 Q. Mr. Cavanagh, is it correct that the
- 4 California mechanism that we were discussing, the
- 5 Pacific Gas & Electric, is operated in conjunction with
- 6 a Power Cost Adjustment Mechanism?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. You indicated in some of your answers that
- 9 the proposal that you are making here for a decoupling
- 10 mechanism is weather adjusted, correct?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Can you show me or point me to where in your
- 13 testimony the weather adjustment is described or
- 14 contained?
- 15 A. Yes, I proposed a weather adjustment at page
- 16 16 of my testimony. I have proposed that annual retail
- 17 sales should be adjusted for weather driven fluctuations
- 18 before the true-ups are calculated.
- 19 Q. All right. And the specific mechanism for
- 20 doing that, that's the extent of the discussion of the
- 21 issue?
- 22 A. Well, there and in the attachment to my
- 23 testimony I give PacifiCorp -- PacifiCorp weather
- 24 adjusts its sales reports now, and I have given you both
- 25 the weather normalized report and the actual report, and

- 1 I have done my calculations to rate impact based on the
- 2 weather normalized numbers.
- 3 Q. Suppose that PacifiCorp does a large amount
- 4 of conservation and it's a warm year and retail sales go
- 5 down 5% and your decoupling proposal is in effect, how
- 6 do we separate in analyzing the effectiveness of the
- 7 program the different causes of the changes between
- 8 conservation, between weather, other factors?
- 9 A. My recommendation would simply be to use the
- 10 existing weather normalization methodology, not try to
- 11 game it, not try to redesign it. It's a three year
- 12 pilot, there are going to be no material problems if you
- 13 just -- and obviously the existing weather normalization
- 14 methodology was not devised with any particular
- 15 decoupling system in mind.
- MR. FFITCH: I'm sorry, one moment, please.
- No further questions, thank you.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: All right.
- 19 MR. FFITCH: Thank you, Mr. Cavanagh.
- 20 JUDGE RENDAHL: Is there anything further for
- 21 this witness?
- MR. WOOD: Your Honor, since we have not yet
- 23 introduced the Joint Exhibit 681-T Ms. Omohundro is
- 24 being called back to respond to, should they both remain
- 25 up here since it's a joint exhibit?

- JUDGE RENDAHL: I don't see a need for
- 2 Mr. Cavanagh to remain at the stand, but if we need to
- 3 bring him back for questioning --
- 4 THE WITNESS: I will be here.
- 5 JUDGE RENDAHL: -- if you can be here, that
- 6 would be helpful.
- 7 MR. WOOD: I should ask then either if the
- 8 parties would stipulate the admission of Exhibit 681-T
- 9 or I should ask Mr. Cavanagh the normal qualifying
- 10 questions.
- 11 MR. TROTTER: I thought he already did, but
- 12 we will stipulate.
- 13 MR. FFITCH: Public Counsel will stipulate.
- 14 JUDGE RENDAHL: All right, well, with that,
- 15 why don't we admit Exhibit 681-T.
- And, Mr. Cavanagh, you're excused.
- 17 And what I would like to do is take a ten
- 18 minute break at this point, we will come back at 11:00,
- 19 but I do want to let the parties know that if we go past
- 20 the noon hour, we need to just go through and finish up,
- 21 and if we need to take until 12:30 we will,
- 22 understanding Commissioner Jones will have to leave at
- 23 noon. So with that, let's take our ten minute break and
- 24 we will be back.
- 25 (Recess taken.)

- 1 JUDGE RENDAHL: We're back on the record
- 2 after our morning break, and Ms. Omohundro is back on
- 3 the stand, but before we do that, I think, Commissioner
- 4 Jones, you had wanted to one more Bench request.
- 5 COMMISSIONER JONES: Yes, that is an
- 6 additional Bench request that follows up on my
- 7 questioning of Mr. Martin. As we know, ICNU has
- 8 proposed an adjustment for the consolidated tax income
- 9 issue, and this issue addresses the issue of PHI being
- 10 capitalized by Scottish Power by an intercompany
- 11 acquisition related loan, so I would like all parties to
- 12 address the following three questions.
- 13 The first is more for the company, if they
- 14 could provide for the record a structure of the
- 15 financing package or the structure of the financing in
- 16 1998, 1999 of the acquisition of Pacific Power, i.e.,
- 17 how they structured it between equity and debt,
- 18 including the intercompany loan at that time.
- 19 Second question, how did PHI invest the
- 20 proceeds from this loan, specifically the intercompany
- 21 loan.
- 22 And then the third question would be provide
- 23 your analysis of this financing structure, specifically
- 24 the intercompany loan and its impact on the regulated
- 25 company, PacifiCorp.

- 1 JUDGE RENDAHL: All right, well, that will be
- 2 Bench Request 28, the first part of that to the company
- 3 identifying the structure of financing in 1998 and 1999
- 4 of equity and debt for the loan; is that what you had
- 5 identified?
- 6 COMMISSIONER JONES: Yes.
- 7 JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay. The second part of it
- 8 is how did PHI invest the proceeds from the loan, and
- 9 the third part is provide your analysis of the financing
- 10 structure of the loan and the impact on the regulated
- 11 company, PacifiCorp. Did I capture that?
- 12 COMMISSIONER JONES: Yeah, the third question
- 13 is provide your analysis of the financing structure,
- 14 specifically the intercompany loan on the regulated
- 15 company. I would like all parties to address the issue
- of the capital structure proposed in the financing, but
- 17 I would really like them to focus specifically on the
- 18 intercompany loan.
- 19 JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay, well, that will be
- 20 Bench Request 28.
- 21 Okay, and with that --
- 22 MR. FFITCH: Your Honor, I'm sorry, Your
- 23 Honor, I'm just trying to get into the position to offer
- 24 the cross-exhibits for Mr. Cavanagh, Exhibits 686
- 25 through 688 for Public Counsel.

- 1 JUDGE RENDAHL: Yes.
- 2 MR. FFITCH: And withdraw Exhibits 682
- 3 through 685.
- 4 JUDGE RENDAHL: All right. Is there any
- 5 objection to admitting what have been marked as Exhibits
- 6 686 through 688?
- 7 MR. WOOD: No objection.
- 8 JUDGE RENDAHL: All right, and I will note
- 9 that the exhibits marked as 682 through 685 are
- 10 withdrawn.
- 11 MR. FFITCH: Your Honor, thank you, I had a
- 12 question about the last Bench request. It appears to me
- 13 that the first two questions are, that the company is in
- 14 the best position to answer those. We might, just
- 15 speaking for Public Counsel, we might be able to go back
- 16 into our own file of that case and reconstruct, but
- 17 obviously the company is in a better position to just
- 18 provide that factual information. And then the analysis
- 19 part of it it would seem would be easier to do for other
- 20 parties besides the company after that part of the Bench
- 21 request has been answered. That in effect reminds us or
- 22 provides us with the factual framework of what actually
- 23 happened. So from our perspective, when I heard the
- 24 Bench request, I thought, well, we'll see what
- 25 information we get about the financing package, and then

- 1 we will be able to provide some analytical information,
- 2 so there's a staggering there that seems to make sense.
- 3 JUDGE RENDAHL: So you would prefer the
- 4 company to respond to the first two parts of if and then
- 5 have all parties respond to the third?
- 6 MR. FFITCH: If we could do that within some
- 7 sort of reasonable time frame, that would be helpful,
- 8 Your Honor.
- 9 MR. WOOD: Your Honor, my concern, and I am
- 10 trying to think of how to respond to this request, is
- 11 we're happy to respond to it, we have some concern if we
- 12 provide this information and then we get somebody's
- 13 expert providing 10 pages of testimony that we don't get
- 14 to cross-examine or talk with you or otherwise test, and
- 15 I'm not exactly sure of the scope of question three, and
- 16 I'm concerned about that aspect of it.
- 17 MR. FFITCH: I have an idea that has just
- 18 occurred to me, Your Honor, is that we wouldn't expect
- 19 to provide additional expert testimony, but perhaps we
- 20 could simply have this be an issue that we address in
- 21 the briefs, the third part of it, after having the
- 22 factual Bench Request, part one and part two in the
- 23 record, then we could address the analysis, if any, that
- 24 we wanted to make in the brief.
- 25 JUDGE RENDAHL: Commissioner Jones, would

- 1 that work for you?
- 2 COMMISSIONER JONES: I think it's a fairly
- 3 straightforward -- I agree I don't want the scope of
- 4 this to go beyond -- I don't want it to exceed very much
- 5 beyond the scope of Mr. Martin's testimony and what's in
- 6 Mr. Selecky's proposal. Obviously there's a lot of
- 7 discussion of this in the state of Oregon and others, I
- 8 don't want to get into those issues obviously. But what
- 9 Mr. ffitch proposes I think is reasonable, I think we
- 10 need to have -- go back into the history and get the cap
- 11 structure proposed in that acquisition on the record and
- 12 how the proceeds were invested, and briefly perhaps in
- 13 brief all parties' analysis of that information.
- 14 JUDGE RENDAHL: All right, so with that,
- 15 Bench Request 28, the first two parts of it would be
- 16 addressed to the company, and then the third part of it
- 17 we'll reserve for discussion in brief.
- 18 Okay, with that I think we're ready now to go
- 19 back to Ms. Omohundro, and you remain under oath from
- 20 your prior testimony last week I believe, or was it this
- 21 week.
- 22 THE WITNESS: Last Friday.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: Last Friday, time flies.
- 24 And so, Mr. Wood, are there additional
- 25 exhibits that we need to address for this witness?

MR. WOOD: We have introduced all of this --1 we have already had received all of this witness's 2 3 exhibits. I would note that I had asked myself whether 4 I should direct to this witness the question about the relationship of the PCAM and the, or the PCA and the 5 6 decoupling, the question you asked. I think it may well come up from the Bench anyway, but if it doesn't, I may 7 try to clarify that at the end to make sure the record 8 9 is clear in answer to your question. 10 JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay, well, with that, should 11 we then turn Ms. Omohundro over for cross-examination? 12 MR. WOOD: She's available. 13 JUDGE RENDAHL: All right. 14 Mr. Trotter. 15 MR. TROTTER: Thank you, Your Honor. 16 17 Whereupon, 18 CHRISTY OMOHUNDRO, having been previously duly sworn, was called as a 19 20 witness herein and was examined and testified as 21 follows: 22 23  $\texttt{C} \ \texttt{R} \ \texttt{O} \ \texttt{S} \ \texttt{S} \ \texttt{-} \ \texttt{E} \ \texttt{X} \ \texttt{A} \ \texttt{M} \ \texttt{I} \ \texttt{N} \ \texttt{A} \ \texttt{T} \ \texttt{I} \ \texttt{O} \ \texttt{N}$ 

Q. Good morning, Ms. Omohundro.

BY MR. TROTTER:

- 1 A. Good morning.
- Q. At this point in time we're addressing your
- 3 decoupling testimony; is that right?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. The company has never had a decoupling
- 6 mechanism in this state, has it?
- 7 A. It has not.
- 8 Q. The company in its IRP's which it files with
- 9 this Commission identifies its DSM or demand side
- 10 management needs and prospects, does it not?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. The company has not identified or quantified
- 13 any financial disincentives or net costs to PacifiCorp
- 14 due to acquiring DSM measures absent a decoupling
- 15 mechanism, has it?
- 16 A. It has not, but that is what I address in my
- 17 testimony, the risk of the underrecovery of fixed costs.
- 18 Q. And when the company identifies the need for
- 19 DSM measures in its IRP, it then once it decides on a
- 20 specific resource amount, it goes to the public through
- 21 the competitive bidding process to have interested
- 22 members of the public bid those projects at market
- 23 prices; is that right?
- 24 A. Generally I understand that to be true.
- 25 Q. In the record there are portions of the

- 1 company's IRP's, Mr. Buckley sponsored some of those as
- 2 exhibits, and I'm going to ask you to accept a quote
- 3 from the company's 2004 IRP, which is Exhibit 545, page
- 4 2, this is of course a document prepared by PacifiCorp:
- 5 Demand side management continues to be
- an important and cost effective resource
- 7 for PacifiCorp. DSM additions resulted
- 8 in new generating resources being
- 9 delayed. The first two east side
- 10 resources are delayed one year each, and
- 11 a west side resource is delayed two
- 12 years pushing it beyond the ten-year
- 13 portfolio planning window.
- 14 Can you accept that as an accurate reading?
- 15 A. I can accept that subject to check.
- Q. Okay. And am I correct that resources, new
- 17 generating resources being delayed is a benefit to the
- 18 company?
- 19 A. It's a benefit to customers.
- Q. And to the company?
- 21 A. To the extent that there's regulatory lag in
- 22 getting those resources into rates, it would be a
- 23 benefit to the company.
- Q. From your answer, do I take it that the
- 25 company has no preference whether its rates go up or

- 1 down as long as it recovers its costs?
- 2 A. No, I mean we certainly have a preference
- 3 that our rates are recovering costs but are reasonable
- 4 as they have been in the past.
- 5 Q. And are as low as possible; is that right?
- 6 A. Subject to being able to recover our costs,
- 7 yes.
- 8 Q. Sure. But if you, just to state this maybe
- 9 in more stark circumstances than reality, but if you
- 10 didn't have to build new resources for a number of years
- 11 versus building many resources right away, you would
- 12 prefer the former scenario, would you not?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Now does that quote, and I just wanted to ask
- 15 that the statements about delaying the projects, that
- 16 was a positive statement, not a negative statement,
- 17 right?
- 18 A. I can accept that subject to check. I would
- 19 have to look at the context of the discussion in the
- 20 IRP.
- Q. Okay. With that quoted material I quoted
- 22 you, would that be an example of using DSM as a matter
- 23 of good business sense, that DSM made good business
- 24 sense in that context?
- 25 A. It did, it made sense for customers and for

- 1 the company. But what it didn't do is -- what was not
- 2 addressed was the underrecovery of fixed costs related
- 3 to that DSM.
- 4 Q. And the IRP didn't address that, did it?
- 5 A. I don't think it did.
- 6 Q. Now before you filed your joint testimony,
- 7 681-T, you had the proposal contained in Mr. Cavanagh's
- 8 direct testimony; is that right?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And did you know what Mr. Cavanagh was going
- 11 to propose before he filed that testimony; did he brief
- 12 you on it beforehand?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And so the company had time to consider his
- 15 proposal before filing Exhibit 681-T?
- 16 A. We had a chance to review it. We certainly
- 17 hadn't reached agreement on all the details.
- 18 Q. But you knew what the details were?
- 19 A. Roughly, yes.
- 20 Q. PacifiCorp has made no commitment as to how
- 21 much additional energy efficiency resources it could or
- 22 will acquire if NRDC's recommendation is accepted, has
- 23 it?
- A. It has not made such a commitment in this
- 25 docket, no.

- 1 MR. TROTTER: I believe those are all my
- 2 questions, thank you.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you, Mr. Trotter.
- 4 Mr. ffitch, before you start your
- 5 cross-examination, I wanted to just check on another
- 6 cross-examination exhibit, and that's marked as 384,
- 7 were you intending to offer that as well?
- 8 MR. FFITCH: Yes, Your Honor.
- 9 JUDGE RENDAHL: Mr. Wood, do you have any
- 10 objection to admitting Exhibit 384, which was a
- 11 cross-exhibit to Ms. Omohundro's first set of prefiled
- 12 testimony?
- MR. WOOD: No, I do not.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay.
- 15 And, Mr. Sanger, are you on the line?
- MR. SANGER: Yes, Your Honor, I am.
- 17 JUDGE RENDAHL: All right. And I had noted
- 18 that we had not addressed your Exhibits 385 or 386, were
- 19 those intended to address the decoupling aspect?
- 20 MR. SANGER: No, those were regarding
- 21 Ms. Omohundro's testimony regarding the PCAM.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay, and had you intended to
- 23 offer those?
- MR. SANGER: Yes, I believe so.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: All right.

- 1 Mr. Wood, is there any objection to admitting
- 2 what's been marked as Exhibits 385 through 386?
- MR. WOOD: No objection, Your Honor.
- 4 JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay.
- 5 Thank you for coming back on line to address
- 6 that, Mr. Sanger.
- 7 MR. SANGER: No problem.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay, thank you very much.
- 9 Go ahead, Mr. ffitch.
- 10 MR. FFITCH: Thank you, Your Honor.

- 12 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 13 BY MR. FFITCH:
- Q. Good morning, welcome back, Ms. Omohundro.
- 15 A. Good morning.
- 16 Q. It's deja vu all over again in football
- 17 season.
- 18 I just have a few questions on the decoupling
- 19 proposal for you.
- 20 A. All right.
- Q. Are you generally familiar with the
- 22 California DRAM, the Distribution Revenue Adjustment
- 23 Mechanism?
- 24 A. I'm generally familiar, I'm certainly not as
- 25 familiar as Mr. Cavanagh is with the specifics of the

- 1 mechanism.
- Q. I'm going to have to go, if we keep talking
- 3 about DRAM's much longer, look for a single malt at the
- 4 end of the day.
- Is it your understanding that the proposal
- 6 for Mr. Cavanagh is a California style decoupling
- 7 mechanism similar to Pacific Gas & Electric?
- 8 A. Similar in the sense of what it is attempting
- 9 to do. It's not similar in the sense of how the details
- 10 are administered in the program. I mean the California
- 11 mechanism is much more complicated with the 17 balancing
- 12 accounts. Ours is -- the proposal here by Mr. Cavanagh
- 13 to which we have agreed is a much simpler mechanism
- 14 designed to achieve the same intent, achieve the same
- 15 objective.
- 16 Q. And is the proposal compatible with the
- 17 company's PCAM mechanism as you have proposed it?
- 18 A. Yes, it is.
- 19 Q. Can I ask you to turn to Exhibit 682, which
- 20 is one of Mr. Cavanagh's cross-exhibits, this is the
- 21 response to 182.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: I'm sorry, 682 or 686?
- MR. FFITCH: I apologize, 687.
- 24 BY MR. FFITCH:
- 25 Q. And if you look at page 2 of that exhibit, do

- 1 you have that?
- 2 A. Yes, it's the first page of the tariff; is
- 3 that right?
- 4 Q. Correct. I'm sorry, let me make sure I'm
- 5 looking at the right exhibit myself. I apologize, I
- 6 meant to direct you to 686, page 2 of 686; do you have
- 7 that?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And we were discussing this with
- 10 Mr. Cavanagh, you see that this shows the five block
- 11 inverted rate design for Pacific Gas & Electric?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And the tail block of that is 33 cents per
- 14 kilowatt hour, right?
- 15 A. Right.
- 16 Q. And PacifiCorp is not proposing a five block
- 17 inverted rate in this case, right?
- 18 A. We are not.
- 19 Q. If the company's full rebuttal case were
- 20 granted, can you accept subject to check that under the
- 21 rate design stipulation, the end block rate in the
- 22 residential class would be about 6.7 cents per kilowatt
- 23 hour, this is after -- this is based on Mr. Griffith's
- 24 rebuttal exhibit.
- 25 A. And is that before or after residential

- 1 exchange?
- Q. This is after the application of the
- 3 residential exchange credit.
- 4 A. I can accept that subject to check.
- 5 Q. All right. And is it your understanding that
- 6 PG&E has no customer charge, just a minimum usage
- 7 charge?
- 8 A. I understand that from Mr. Cavanagh's
- 9 testimony this morning.
- 10 Q. And PacifiCorp currently has a monthly
- 11 customer charge, does it not?
- 12 A. Yes, we do.
- 13 Q. Would you agree that Pacific's current and
- 14 proposed rate design, which includes the customer charge
- 15 and also a less steeply inverted rate inversion,
- 16 provides more revenue stability under varying weather
- 17 conditions and in response to customer conservation than
- 18 does the Pacific Gas & Electric rate design?
- 19 A. I don't know, I'm not familiar enough with
- 20 all the elements of PG&E's rate design to be able to
- 21 answer that question. I would add that if the PG&E
- 22 mechanism removes a weather risk from the company,
- 23 that's a big difference than our risk. The big piece of
- 24 our risk is weather related.
- 25 Q. If the decoupling proposal were adopted,

- 1 would the company propose to implement a residential
- 2 rate design similar to Pacific Gas & Electric's?
- A. Not to my knowledge.
- 4 Q. Are you familiar with the term deferred
- 5 accounting in the utility industry?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Would the PCAM be an example of deferred
- 8 accounting, or would it involve deferred accounting?
- 9 A. It utilizes a balancing account, so yes, it
- 10 does utilize deferred accounting.
- 11 Q. And does the PCAM proposal set forth the
- 12 specific FERC accounts that would be subject to deferred
- 13 accounting in this case?
- 14 A. It's a question for Mr. Widmer, but I believe
- 15 it does.
- 16 Q. And does it describe the specific mechanism
- 17 that would be used to implement that deferral?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. So it's your understanding that your
- 20 decoupling or that the proposed decoupling mechanism, I
- 21 can call it your proposed decoupling mechanism, would
- 22 require some form of deferred accounting in this case?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Is it your testimony that the company has
- 25 presented a specific proposal for what FERC accounts

- 1 would be included in the decoupling mechanism or how it
- 2 would be implemented if there were to be a three year
- 3 pilot?
- 4 A. Well, if you look at, and I've got the
- 5 response to NRDC Data Request Number 1 which I believe
- 6 is the exhibit to Mr. Cavanagh's testimony where the
- 7 fixed costs are identified, those could be tracked back
- 8 to specific FERC accounts. So I don't think there's any
- 9 question about which fixed costs would be included.
- 10 And what was the second part of your
- 11 question?
- 12 Q. Whether there was a specific mechanism that
- 13 would be used to implement that?
- 14 A. Yes, and it's basically as Mr. Cavanagh
- 15 described, a fixed cost per customer number to be used
- 16 for the annual true-up process going forward.
- Q. What is that amount?
- 18 A. We have not calculated that amount. We will
- 19 be able to calculate that amount as soon as the
- 20 Commission ultimately determines which fixed costs will
- 21 be allowed in rates in this case.
- 22 Q. Has the company prepared any analysis of the
- 23 impact the proposed mechanism would have had if it had
- 24 been in effect in the past?
- 25 A. We have not, and really that is why we are

- 1 proposing to test the mechanism over a three year
- 2 period.
- 3 MR. FFITCH: Your Honor, I have no further
- 4 questions.
- 5 Thank you, Ms. Omohundro.
- 6 JUDGE RENDAHL: Thank you, Mr. ffitch.
- 7 Is there any redirect for the witness?
- MR. WOOD: No redirect.
- 9 JUDGE RENDAHL: Any questions from the Bench
- 10 for Ms. Omohundro?

- 12 EXAMINATION
- 13 BY CHAIRMAN SIDRAN:
- 14 Q. Just one question, and I should say that, to
- 15 reassure you, I do not view California style, to quote
- 16 Mr. ffitch, as a pejorative. I did hear you say I
- 17 believe that, in response to Mr. Trotter's question,
- 18 that there's no commitment in this docket on the part of
- 19 the company to any particular investment, additional
- 20 investment in the size of demand side management in the
- 21 event that decoupling were adopted, correct?
- 22 A. Correct.
- 23 Q. If we were to adopt this joint proposal in
- 24 some form going forward, how would the company view as a
- 25 condition some type of additional investment

- 1 requirement?
- 2 A. We would certainly look at it, and I think we
- 3 would be interested in it. I think the issue would be,
- 4 you know, can we achieve all the conservation, the
- 5 target, and is it cost effective, and I think that would
- 6 be the issue. But I think with the decoupling
- 7 mechanism, that does remove the company's own
- 8 disincentive if the Commission wants to set targets like
- 9 that.
- 10 CHAIRMAN SIDRAN: Thank you.
- 11 JUDGE RENDAHL: Commissioner Jones.

- EXAMINATION
- 14 BY COMMISSIONER JONES:
- 15 Q. Just one final question, has the company
- 16 looked at the incentive structure in the organization as
- 17 it affects this decoupling mechanism? Mr. Cavanagh
- 18 talked about the change in corporate culture that is
- 19 required to if this is adopted to go from a paradigm of
- 20 increasing revenues to perhaps decreasing revenues or a
- 21 combination of resource acquisitions to meet the
- 22 resource portfolio in the IRP. We have, not in this
- 23 record, but have listened to Mark Dodson of Northwest
- 24 Natural Gas talk about the biggest impact for his
- 25 company, Northwest Natural Gas, was the culture of the

- 1 senior management organization, i.e., how they are
- 2 incented to achieve these objectives. If you have done
- 3 any such analysis or want to offer any comments for the
- 4 record, I would appreciate hearing those, because I
- 5 think it's an important aspect of this program if
- 6 adopted.
- 7 A. It's a good question. I have not actually
- 8 looked at the incentive structures, but I think it's an
- 9 excellent idea, and I think that if the company were to
- 10 adopt decoupling, we would have every reason to pursue
- 11 all the DSM's subject to cost effectiveness test that we
- 12 could, and I would recommend that the incentive
- 13 structures of the company reflect that.
- 14 COMMISSIONER JONES: Thank you.

- 16 EXAMINATION
- 17 BY JUDGE RENDAHL:
- 18 Q. Okay, Ms. Omohundro, I have one question,
- 19 actually two, the same I asked to Mr. Cavanagh, and is
- 20 it your understanding similar to Mr. Cavanagh's that the
- 21 company would hire a consultant or some independent
- 22 assessor of the program?
- 23 A. That would be fine with the company, yes.
- Q. And was that the intent in the testimony with
- 25 the statement of an independent assessment?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And would the company take input from Staff
- 3 in the selection of that independent assessor?
- 4 A. We would welcome it, yes.
- 5 Q. All right.
- 6 And then the question that Mr. Wood said he
- 7 would ask if I didn't, you're familiar with the PCAM the
- 8 company proposes and the revenue adjustment aspect of
- 9 that?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And what is your assessment, can you give any
- 12 assurance that changes in demand would not cause any
- 13 sort of double recovery if the Commission were to
- 14 approve both the PCAM and the decoupler?
- 15 A. Yes, the decoupling mechanism addresses the
- 16 fixed costs of the company. The Power Cost Adjustment
- 17 Mechanism addresses the power cost component. And the
- 18 retail revenue adjustment is really intended to make
- 19 sure more that the company does not overrecover its
- 20 power costs. And so it's in Mr. Widmer's testimony when
- 21 he talks about the calculation there, would be to
- 22 multiply the portion of the retail rate related to
- 23 reduction in revenue requirement, that would change
- 24 retail load, and you would net that against power costs.
- 25 So you don't -- it's trying to avoid the overrecovery of

- 1 net power cost because you have additional contribution
- 2 from additional loads when you sell additional power.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay, thank you.

- 5 EXAMINATION
- 6 BY JUDGE MACE:
- 7 Q. Just a practicality, you're proposing if the
- 8 Commission approves decoupling to make a compliance
- 9 filing within 30 days?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Ms. Steward suggests that this be filed as a
- 12 tariff, and I'm noting that the PG&E DRAM and other
- 13 proposals appear to be part of a tariff. Do you oppose
- 14 putting this in a tariff filing as opposed to a
- 15 compliance filing?
- 16 A. No, not at all.
- 17 Q. And do you intend to consult with the
- 18 stakeholders before you come up with the filing that you
- 19 do make?
- 20 A. Yes, we do.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay, with that, is there
- 22 anything further for Ms. Omohundro this morning?
- Thank you very much for coming back up to
- 24 Washington to talk about decoupling.
- 25 And now let's be off the record while we

- 1 bring Ms. Steward up.
- 2 (Discussion off the record.)
- JUDGE RENDAHL: Good morning, Ms. Steward.
- 4 THE WITNESS: Good morning.
- 5 (Witness JOELLE STEWARD was sworn.)
- 6 JUDGE RENDAHL: Mr. Trotter.
- 7 MR. TROTTER: Thank you, Your Honor. Just
- 8 for the record, Your Honor, Ms. Steward filed rate
- 9 design and rate spread testimony also, and her
- 10 qualifications are in Exhibit 712.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay, thank you for that.

- 13 Whereupon,
- JOELLE STEWARD,
- 15 having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness
- 16 herein and was examined and testified as follows:

- 18 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 19 BY MR. TROTTER:
- Q. Would you please state your name.
- 21 A. Joelle Steward.
- Q. And your employer?
- 23 A. The Utilities and Transportation Commission.
- Q. What is your position at the Commission?
- 25 A. Regulatory analyst.

- 1 Q. In the course of your duties as a regulatory
- 2 analyst, did you prepare testimony relating to I guess
- 3 it's called cross answer testimony regarding the
- 4 decoupling proposal?
- 5 A. Yes, I did.
- 6 Q. And is that Exhibit 701-T?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Do you have any corrections to make to that
- 9 testimony?
- 10 A. I have one minor correction, and it's on page
- 11 9, line 16, change the word decoupling to energy
- 12 efficiency, and that's all.
- Q. With that change, if I asked you the
- 14 questions in Exhibit 701-T, would you give the answers
- 15 there?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 MR. TROTTER: I would move the admission of
- 18 Exhibit 701-T.
- 19 JUDGE RENDAHL: Are there any objections to
- 20 admitting what's been marked as Exhibit 701-T into the
- 21 record?
- MR. WOOD: No objections.
- MR. FFITCH: No objections.
- 24 MR. TROTTER: The witness is available for
- 25 cross.

- 1 JUDGE RENDAHL: Exhibit 701-T is admitted,
- 2 and, Mr. Wood.
- MR. WOOD: No questions, Your Honor.
- 4 JUDGE RENDAHL: Mr. ffitch.

- 6 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 7 BY MR. FFITCH:
- 8 Q. Just one question, Ms. Omohundro --
- 9 A. Steward.
- 10 Q. Ms. Steward, pardon me, could you please turn
- 11 to your Exhibit 701-T to page 11; do you have that?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And I apologize, I had it open a moment ago,
- 14 I don't have a line reference for you, but there you
- 15 state that "the mechanism proposed by Mr. Cavanagh is
- 16 rather generic", do you not?
- 17 A. Yes, on line 17.
- 18 Q. By the use of the term generic, do you mean
- 19 vague, or do you mean applicable to any utility, not
- 20 just PacifiCorp, excuse me, not just Pacific Power &
- 21 Light Company?
- 22 A. I actually mean both. I think it would -- I
- 23 think his testimony could easily be change the names and
- 24 a few numbers and you could apply it to another utility.
- 25 But I also mean that it's rather vaque. I think there

- 1 are many details we would need to work out, and that's
- 2 why I would propose a tariff filing if the Commission
- 3 were to go forward with a mechanism.
- 4 MR. FFITCH: Thank you, I don't have any
- 5 other questions.
- 6 Thank you, Ms. Steward.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: Okay.
- 8 Are there any questions for Ms. Steward from
- 9 the Bench?
- 10 COMMISSIONER OSHIE: I have a couple
- 11 questions.

- EXAMINATION
- 14 BY COMMISSIONER OSHIE:
- 15 Q. Ms. Steward, I think you heard Ms. Omohundro
- 16 testify that the company may be willing to commit
- 17 additional funds for energy efficiency, but she was also
- 18 very careful in her words and stated, at least I heard,
- 19 that it would consider other cost effective energy
- 20 efficiency measures or that they would fund them or
- 21 consider increasing funding so long as they could
- 22 identify, perhaps is a better way to say it, so long as
- 23 they could identify cost effective energy efficiency
- 24 measures other than what they were already implementing.
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And Mr. Cavanagh also testified that,
- 2 although in very general terms, that he believed that
- 3 there were other measures, cost effective energy
- 4 efficiency measures that the company could implement.
- 5 And going back to your testimony, from my reading of
- 6 your testimony I understood you to be saying and
- 7 testifying that the company was at this point in time
- 8 implementing to the extent it has identified cost
- 9 effective energy efficiency programs or measures, they
- 10 are funding them, and they are I guess my take away was
- 11 that there's not a lot of cost effective energy
- 12 efficiency measures still left on the table for the
- 13 company to do that have not already been identified.
- 14 A. I wouldn't say that there probably -- I
- 15 wouldn't make a broad statement that there probably
- 16 aren't measures that they could do that are cost
- 17 effective. There probably are. I'm sure they could
- 18 sell or provide rebates for more compact florescent
- 19 light bulbs, I'm sure there are things that they can do.
- 20 But they have been doing what they have identified in
- 21 their resource planning for DSM. I, listening to
- 22 Mr. Cavanagh, I would highly encourage them to get
- 23 involved in the least cost plan process, they're just
- 24 beginning their next cycle this year, and have them
- 25 include additional efforts if he thinks there are

- 1 additional efforts that could be done in that process so
- 2 we could see the complete balance between supply side
- 3 and demand side.
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 A. And I would also note that the company is
- 6 capturing the cost effective DSM targets that were
- 7 identified by the Northwest Power Plan in the Fifth
- 8 Power Plan as well as their own IRP.
- 9 COMMISSIONER OSHIE: I don't think I have any
- 10 further questions, thank you.
- 11 JUDGE RENDAHL: Commissioner Jones.

- EXAMINATION
- 14 BY COMMISSIONER JONES:
- 15 Q. Just briefly, Ms. Steward, on page 3 of your
- 16 testimony in your fourth recommendation, can you get to
- 17 that?
- 18 A. Page 3?
- 19 Q. Page 3.
- 20 A. Uh-huh.
- Q. Number 4, you say:
- 22 Revenue recovery in the mechanism should
- 23 be limited to distribution in the retail
- 24 cost.
- 25 Could you define what you mean by

- 1 distribution and especially retail cost. I am having a
- 2 problem finding that identified in any of the breakout
- 3 of fixed cost in the exhibits provided.
- 4 A. Yes, actually in a footnote in my testimony
- 5 on page --
- 6 MR. TROTTER: 13.
- 7 A. -- 13, I identify what those costs are or a
- 8 sort of general description for distribution costs which
- 9 are lines, poles, meters, transformers, and substations,
- 10 and their retail costs are meter reading expenses, and
- 11 then those are actually identified in Mr. Cavanagh's
- 12 Exhibit 672.
- 13 Q. Just let me get to that, which column is that
- 14 included in?
- 15 A. It's the distribution retail miscellaneous
- 16 fixed costs, it's the second column.
- 17 Q. For residential 37,083, general service 18,
- 18 that column?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. So you're proposing that the decoupling
- 21 mechanism include fixed costs in that column and which
- 22 other column?
- 23 A. Just that column.
- Q. Just that column. So what's the total of
- 25 that column roughly?

- 1 A. Oy.
- Q. Do your math on the spot, please.
- 3 MR. CAVANAGH: \$67 Million.
- 4 Q. It looks like about \$62 Million.
- Would you accept, Ms. Steward, subject to
- 6 check that it's approximately \$67 Million, you can check
- 7 it?
- 8 A. Oh, yes.
- 9 Q. My other question is, do you agree with
- 10 Mr. Cavanagh on the issue of the independent assessment
- 11 that there are sufficient people who can make this
- 12 assessment, and this assessment should be done outside
- 13 of the Staff and any stakeholder involved and the
- 14 company?
- 15 A. Yes, actually I have no qualms about the fact
- 16 that I'm sure we could all work together to agree on an
- 17 evaluator and an evaluation plan.
- 18 COMMISSIONER JONES: That's all I have,
- 19 thanks.

- 21 EXAMINATION
- 22 BY JUDGE RENDAHL:
- Q. Ms. Steward, I think just to make sure I get
- 24 the perspective, the full perspective on my question,
- 25 are you familiar with the PCAM that the company has

- 1 filed in this case?
- 2 A. Vaguely.
- 3 Q. Are you aware that they include the retail
- 4 adjustments similar to Avista's?
- 5 A. Not to that level of detail, no.
- 6 Q. Okay. If there is an adjustment in the PCAM
- 7 that adjusts the net power costs for changes in retail
- 8 loads in the PCAM, do you see any double recovery effect
- 9 of the proposed decoupling mechanism in addressing the
- 10 changes in customer count, or do you, similar to
- 11 Ms. Omohundro, see that they affect different aspects of
- 12 revenue?
- 13 A. I am not familiar enough with the power cost
- 14 adjustment mechanism to answer that.
- 15 Q. That's fine.
- 16 A. Okay.
- 17 JUDGE RENDAHL: I just wanted to know if you
- 18 knew and I could inquire into that, that's all I have.
- 19 Okay, is there anything further for
- 20 Ms. Steward this morning?
- MR. TROTTER: No, Your Honor.
- JUDGE RENDAHL: With that, thank you very
- 23 much for being here this morning.
- 24 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 25 JUDGE RENDAHL: Here rather than your desk,

and you may be excused. 1 Okay, let's be off the record for a moment. 2. (Discussion off the record.) 3 4 JUDGE RENDAHL: While we were off the record, we determined that there were no questions from the 5 Bench for Mr. Lazar, and so there was a stipulation off 6 the record to admitting Mr. Lazar's Exhibit 691-T through 694, and those will be admitted. 8 9 With that, I think we're done with the 10 testimony portion of the hearing this morning, and I 11 think there are some scheduling issues we need to 12 address. 13 Is there anything from the Commissioners before we go off the record? 14 15 Okay, with that we will be off the record. 16 (Discussion off the record.) 17 (Hearing adjourned at 12:00 p.m.) 18 19 20 21 22 23 24