Exhibit No. \_\_\_ T (DJR-1T)

Docket UE-111190

Witness: Deborah J. Reynolds

## · BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

**DOCKET UE-111190** 

Complainant,

V

PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT COMPANY,

Respondent.

**TESTIMONY** 

**OF** 

**DEBORAH J. REYNOLDS** 

STAFF OF WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Electric Cost of Service, Revenue Allocation and Rate Design Low-Income Bill Assistance Program

**January 6, 2012** 

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1		I. INTRODUCTION
2		
3 <b>Q</b>	•	Please state your name and business address for the record.
4 . A.		My name is Deborah Reynolds. My business address is the Richard Hemstad
5		Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW, Olympia, WA 98504-7250. My e-mail
6		address is dreynold@utc.wa.gov.
7		
8 . <b>Q</b>	) <b>.</b>	By whom are you employed and in what capacity?
9 A.		I am employed by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
.0		("Commission") as a Regulatory Analyst in the Energy Section of the Regulatory
1		Services Division. My employment at the Commission began in 1999.
12 ·		
3 <b>Q</b>	<b>).</b>	Please describe your education and your professional qualifications?
14 A	.•	I have a Bachelor of Science degree in General Studies emphasizing ecology and
15		statistics and a Master of Regional Planning degree, both from Washington State
16		University. I attended the National Association of Regulatory Utility
17		Commissioners' Annual Regulatory Studies Program in August 2004, the New
18		Mexico State University's rate case basics workshop in May 2008, Electric Utility
19		Consultants, Inc.'s cost of service and rate design workshops in August 2008, the
20		International Energy Program Evaluation Conference and training in August 2009, as
21		well as a number of other utility related seminars, conferences, and training
22		opportunities.
23		

As a Regulatory Analyst for the Commission, I am responsible primarily for reviewing and evaluating conservation programs, conservation resource planning, cost of service, rate spread and rate design, decoupling, reliability, service quality, low-income issues, and other analyses in general rate case and tariff filings of electric and natural gas utilities regulated by the Commission. I also provide technical assistance to companies on energy regulatory matters.

I have participated in the development of Commission rules and examined utility reports for compliance with Commission regulations. I have also presented Staff recommendations at numerous open public meetings. I have filed testimony on decoupling in Avista's consolidated general rate case, Dockets UE-090134, UE-090135 and UG-060518, and Staff comments on conservation target filings in Dockets UE-100170, UE-100176, and UE-100177. I have filed revenue allocation, rate design and decoupling testimony in Puget Sound Energy's general rate case, Dockets UE-11048 and UG-111049.

#### II. SCOPE AND SUMMARY

23 .

## Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A. I provide Staff's recommendations on electricity revenue allocation and rate design for Pacific Power & Light Company ("PacifiCorp" or the "Company"), given the Staff recommended revenue increase presented by Mr. Michael Foisy. I also provide a plan for Low-income Bill Assistance that has been discussed with the Company, Public Counsel and the Energy Project.

Exhibit No. (DJR-3), Low-Income Bill Assistance Plan

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19

1		III. REVENUE ALLOCATION AND RATE DESIGN
2		
3		A. Electric Revenue Allocation - Cost of Service and Rate Spread
4		
5	Q.	Please explain revenue allocation and rate design.
6	A.	Revenue allocation, also known as "rate spread", is the process of determining the
7		portion of total revenues to be collected from each rate schedule. Rate design takes
8 .		the total revenue to be collected from each rate schedule and determines the specific
9	÷	charges within the schedule, such as the basic charge per month, the demand charge
10		per kilowatt, and the exact cents per kilowatt-hour.
11		
12	•	William Conference Laboratorial Description of the Conference of t
12	Q.	What is the philosophy behind allocating revenues to the rate schedules?
	Q. A.	The basic philosophy is to charge customers for the costs they impose on the total
12 13 14		
13 14		The basic philosophy is to charge customers for the costs they impose on the total
13		The basic philosophy is to charge customers for the costs they impose on the total system. The premise of cost causation is present in many aspects of determining
13 14 15		The basic philosophy is to charge customers for the costs they impose on the total system. The premise of cost causation is present in many aspects of determining rates in a price-regulated industry. A precise calculation of the costs to be recovered
13 14 15		The basic philosophy is to charge customers for the costs they impose on the total system. The premise of cost causation is present in many aspects of determining rates in a price-regulated industry. A precise calculation of the costs to be recovered by the customers on each rate schedule is possible, given any one set of allocation
13 14 15 16		The basic philosophy is to charge customers for the costs they impose on the total system. The premise of cost causation is present in many aspects of determining rates in a price-regulated industry. A precise calculation of the costs to be recovered by the customers on each rate schedule is possible, given any one set of allocation assumptions. However, the Commission has often stated that factors in addition to
13 14 15 16 17		The basic philosophy is to charge customers for the costs they impose on the total system. The premise of cost causation is present in many aspects of determining rates in a price-regulated industry. A precise calculation of the costs to be recovered by the customers on each rate schedule is possible, given any one set of allocation assumptions. However, the Commission has often stated that factors in addition to cost weigh in the rate spread decision, including the appearance of fairness,
113 114 115 116 117 118		The basic philosophy is to charge customers for the costs they impose on the total system. The premise of cost causation is present in many aspects of determining rates in a price-regulated industry. A precise calculation of the costs to be recovered by the customers on each rate schedule is possible, given any one set of allocation assumptions. However, the Commission has often stated that factors in addition to cost weigh in the rate spread decision, including the appearance of fairness,

The utility must collect data on the use of electricity across a broad spectrum of all customers. This is known as a load study. While it is not feasible to precisely measure every customer's load, statistical sampling provides sufficient data for the intended purposes. For each customer sampled, the data collected should include, at a minimum, the electricity consumed during short time intervals around the clock and over an entire year. The purpose is to group customers into like patterns of use, to determine the time periods at which those customers demand the greatest amount of kilowatts, to compare the peak periods of a group to the lowest use periods within the same group, and to compare each group of customers to the other groups. The utility must also collect data on how it produces and buys electricity to meet customer needs.

A company's costs and plant balances, or rate base, are sorted into the basic functions of doing business such as generation, transmission, and distribution. Then the expenses and rate base are further classified as customer-related, energy-related, or demand-related. Customer-related costs are those that vary as customers are added to or subtracted from the system. Energy-related costs vary by total consumption. Demand-related costs vary by the power required to meet the relative demands of customers on each rate schedule at the time of the total peak demand on the system.

The customer consumption data from the load study is used to determine allocation factors for each cost category. Those allocation factors are then applied to the various classifications of costs to determine the cost responsibility of the customers on each rate schedule.

22 .

A.

- Q. Does Staff accept the Company's method to allocate electric plant and expenses
   to the current rate schedules?
- 4 A. Yes. Mr. Meredith presents the Company's cost of service study in Exhibit No. \_\_\_\_

  (RMM-5). That cost of service study fairly presents the costs imposed on the system

  by the customers on each rate schedule.

7

- Q. Please explain the current revenue to cost ratios per rate schedule that result
   from the Company's cost of service study.
- 10 A. The current relationships between the cost of providing service and the revenue 11 appear on Exhibit No. (RMM-5), Tab 4.0, page 1. Column M shows the 12 percentage change from current revenues to match revenue to the current cost of 13 service study. The numbers in each of the rate schedule rows show each schedule's 14 percentage difference of costs recovered from costs incurred. For example, in row 1, 15 revenues from residential customers under Schedule 16 could increase 3.68 percent 16 to precisely recover the costs allocated to those customers. And in row 7, revenues 17 from street lighting customers on Schedules 15, 52, 54 and 57 could decrease 14.94 18 percent to precisely recover the costs allocated to those customers.

19

1	Q.	Please explain the current revenue to cost percentages that result from the
.2 .		Company's cost of service study.
3	A.	Staff calculated the existing revenue to cost percentages shown in column N of its
4	÷	Exhibit No (DJR-2). Residential service in Schedule 16 is below parity at 96
5		percent of the Company's calculated cost of service, and street lighting service is
6.		above parity at 118 percent of the Company's calculated cost of service.
7		Ideally, each class's parity percentage should equal 100 percent indicating
8		that the rate of return on the rate base allocated to each schedule would be the same.
9		A parity percentage of less than 100 indicates that the customers on that schedule are
10 ·		not paying enough to recover the costs allocated to that schedule. Therefore, those
11		customers should typically get a greater than average rate increase. Conversely,
12		schedules with a parity percentage greater than 100 are contributing more than
13		necessary to recover the costs allocated to them. Those customers deserve a less
14		than average rate increase, or even a rate decrease, to bring their rates in line with the
15		costs allocated to them.
16		
17	Q.	Is it possible to achieve a parity percentage of 100 for every rate schedule?
18	A.	It is arithmetically possible with a given set of assumptions. But it is not so easy to
19		do in practice. The assumptions and results of the cost of service study are a subject
20		of debate between the various consumer advocates. Each advocate can, and often
21		does, present a different cost of service study.
22		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Exhibit No. \_\_ (DJR-2) is an excerpt from Exhibit No. \_\_ (RMM-5), Tab 4.0, page 1. Staff hid rows and columns so that the material would match the Company's exhibit. Column N as shown was calculated using existing revenue divided by existing cost of service, found in a table that is in rows hidden on Staff's exhibit.

1 .	Q.	Does Staff consider the Company's cost of service study a fair representation of
2		the class contributions to the overall rate of return?
3	A.	Yes. Staff's adjustments to electric revenue requirement revise the absolute
4		numbers, but the relative proportion of each schedule's contribution to the total cost
5 .		of service remains the same.
6		
7	Q.	What increase to revenues does PacifiCorp propose for each rate schedule?
8	A.	PacifiCorp proposed an overall revenue increase of 4.3 percent. In order to move all
9 .		rate schedules closer to parity, PacifiCorp proposed in Exhibit No (WRG-3) an
10		increase of 4.3 percent to the following schedules:
11	٠,	o Schedules 16/17/18, Residential;
12		O Schedules 24/33/36/40/47/48/54 Commercial and Industrial;
13 .		PacifiCorp proposed a lesser increase of 1.0 percent to the Public Street
14		Lighting Schedules 15, 51, 52, 53 and 57 in response to the results of the cost of
15		service study.
16		
17	Q.	What is Staff's proposed revenue allocation?
18	A.	As shown on Exhibit No (DJR-2), Column P, Staff applied its proposed average
19		increase of 1.1 percent to all schedules except for street lighting. The schedules
20		receiving an increase will remain within 10 percent of parity. <sup>2</sup> Street lighting
21		schedules, however, even without an increase, still have a parity percentage of 116

 $<sup>^2</sup>$  Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power & Light Company, Docket UE-100749, Order 06, at  $\P$  316 (March 25, 2011). "...all major customer classes are within 97 to 107 percent of parity."

1		percent. The Company should address street lighting schedules more fully in its nex
2		general rate case filing.
3		
4	Q.	Does Staff accept the Company's proposed revenue allocation?
5 .	A.	In spirit, yes. Staff's overall 1.1 percent increase is applied to schedules other than
6		street lighting, and 0.0 percent is applied to the street lighting schedules. This is
7 .		similar to the Company's proposed equal percent increases to schedules other than
8		lighting with a one percent increase to the lighting schedules. Exhibit No (DRJ
9		2), Column O shows Staff's recommended revenue allocation using Staff's
10		recommended revenue requirement.
11 .		
12		B. Electric Rate Design
13		
14	Q.	Please describe the basic concept of rate design.
15	<b>A.</b> ,	Rate design concerns the various rate elements within a rate schedule. These
16		elements may include the monthly basic charge, demand charges, reactive power
17		charges, and energy charges.
18		
19	Q.	What are the principles of sound rate design?
20	A.	Sound rate design should be guided by the following policy objectives: simplicity,
21		appropriate price signals, stability, gradualism, fairness, justness, reasonableness,
22		and sufficiency. <sup>3</sup>
,		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> James C. Bonbright, et al., *Principles of Public Utility Rates* 382-388 (2nd ed. 1988).

Simple rates are made up of units of service like kilowatt hours or therms that are easy for customers to understand. If rates are complicated, the price signal may get lost in the noise. Different rate designs are appropriate for customers with different levels of sophistication. Residential customers may be best served by a fixed monthly charge and a charge per unit of use, whereas large commercial customers may be best served by per unit charges for both demand and energy.

Fair rates should create a system where each customer and each customer

Fair rates should create a system where each customer and each customer class pays for the costs they impose on the system. This principle, called cost causation, is actually very difficult to achieve, because customers within a given class have similar but not identical use characteristics. It is also difficult to keep fair rates simple. For example, rate designs that include demand charges increase the number of elements that make up a customer bill. This complicates the bill, but more accurately reflects the costs imposed on the system by a particular customer.

Gradualism means that changes in rates to achieve a particular goal are made in steps, rather than all at once, thus mitigating substantial impacts to any one rate schedule or customer within a schedule. The idea of gradualism may be used to evaluate overall bill changes as well as changes in components of bills, such as the customer basic charge. A side effect of gradualism is that it blunts the incentive for customers to change energy use behaviors that more abrupt price changes may prompt.

Sufficiency means that rates provide a reasonable opportunity for a utility to recover its costs of providing service plus a fair return on its investment. The Commission has suggested that the right balance point for recovery of fixed costs via

17 -

<i>:</i>	the customer basic charge is about one-fourth of the fixed costs allocated to
	residential customers, or about eight to ten percent of a customer's average annual
	bill. <sup>4</sup>

As the costs of the electric system increase, more attention has been directed toward energy efficiency through the exploration of rate designs that encourage customers to use the least amount of energy possible to achieve the same desired comfort levels. Utilities are encouraged to increase the per unit charge as much as possible, with the idea that customers will reduce their use when they see their bills increase. This effect, known as price elasticity, is hard to measure and even harder to predict.

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## 12 Q. Is there a standard format for residential electric rate design?

13 A. Yes, the standard format is a two-part rate tariff, consisting of a small basic charge 14 and volumetric rates that recover both fixed and variable costs.

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A.

# Q. What factors should be considered in reviewing price signals resulting from rate design?

A review of price signals should consider low, high, and average use customer experience under the current tariff, and what happens to typical customer bills under multiple conservation scenarios. It should also compare price signals under other rate designs. The review should also compare the message the customer gets from the price signal to the impact of that price signal on a company.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> WUTC v. Puget Sound Energy, Inc., Dockets UE-060266 and UG-060267, Order 08, ¶ 139 (January 5, 2007).

1		Proponents of conservation suggest that maintaining higher use charges are a
2		stronger incentive for customers to conserve. However, that very situation has the
3		opposite effect on a company's incentive to sell more units of its most profitable
4		product. This exacerbates the utilities disinterest to invest in conservation measures.
5		It is very difficult, however, to generalize about incentives to conserve, even among
6		the same class of customers.
7		
8	Q.	Did Staff review PacifiCorp's proposed electric rate design?
9	A.	Yes. The Company's proposed rate design is presented by Mr. Griffith at Exhibit
10		No(WRG-1T), beginning at page 2. The Company's revised rates are presented
11		in Mr. Griffith's Exhibit No (WRG-3).
12		
13 .	Q.	Please summarize the Company's proposed electric rate design.
14	A.	PacifiCorp proposes an equal percentage increase to all elements of rates for all
15		schedules where applicable, as described in Mr. Griffith's testimony. Exhibit No
16		(WRG-1T), page 3, lines 19-23. This includes a smaller but equal increase for street
17		lighting schedules.
18		
19	Q.	Does Staff accept the Company's rate design proposal?
20	Α.	Yes. Staff accepts the equal percentage increase to all components of rate design
21		where applicable in this case. This would exclude increases for street lighting
22		schedules. An average residential customer using 1300 kilowatt-hours-per-month
23		would see its electric bill increase by \$1.33, for a bill total of \$104.41. This impact

1 includes a residential basic charge increase from \$6.00 to \$6.07 per month. An equal 2 percentage increase to all components of rate design maintains the ratio of revenues 3 collected by each rate component. An equal percentage increase also maintains each 4 rate class within 10 percent of parity without causing rate shock and yields a 5 reasonable compensation for the service rendered. 6 7 IV. LOW-INCOME BILL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 8 9 Q. What has the Commission required concerning low-income bill assistance 10 (LIBA)? 11 In the previous general rate case, the Commission ordered the Company to meet with A. 12 "[t]he Energy Project, Staff and the affected agencies" to engage in a collaborative 13 process to discuss the current allocation of the LIBA surcharge collections, the 14 interval for eligibility certification, and the level of administrative fees. The 15 Commission also required Staff to report on the results of this process by September 25, 2011.<sup>5</sup> 16 17 18 Q. What were the results of these discussions? 19 The discussions resulted in a proposal to gradually increase multiple aspects of the A. 20 program over the next five years as shown in Exhibit No. (DJR-3). The main 21 changes to LIBA: 1) certify a share of the client population to be eligible for a two-22

year period, thus increasing the annual number of participants in the program; 2)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> WUTC v. PacifiCorp, Docket UE-100749, Order 06, at 124:387.

1		increase agency funding for each client certification; and 3) increase the average
2	·	benefit by 10 percent following this general rate case and by twice the percentage of
3		any general rate increase during the next five years. This will increase the total
4		program funding from \$1.5 million in 2011 to \$1.7 million in 2012. At the end of
5		the five year plan, the total program funding could be \$2.8 million.
6		
7	Q.	How will certifying clients as eligible for LIBA for two years increase the annual
8		number of participants in the program?
9	A.	Beginning in 2012, ten percent of clients will be certified as eligible for a two-year
10		period, and in each of the following three years, an additional five percent of clients
11		will be certified for two years up to 25 percent in 2015. This results in an increase in
12		the total number of participants in the program from 4,720 to 5,900 as shown in
13		Column F, Exhibit No(DJR-3). This is helpful in part because it does not
14		increase the burden on the agencies, who continue to certify the same number of
15		clients each year, as shown in Columns D and E of the exhibit. At the same time, it
16		extends the program to more households, which both the Company and the agencies
17		have advocated in past program increases.
18		
19	Q.	Please explain how this works in a particular year.
20	A.	As an example, in 2016, the agencies will certify 3,540 clients for one year and an
21		additional 1,180 clients for two years, totaling 4,720 clients certified and
22		participating during 2016. An additional 1,180 participants during 2016 will have

been certified the previous year, bringing the total number of customers participating
 in 2016 to 5,900.

#### Summary of 2016 Participants

2016 Participants certified in 2016 for one year		3,540	
2016 Participants certified in 2016 for two years	+	1,180	
2016 subtotal of clients certified	=	4,720	
2016 Participants certified in 2015	+	1,180	
Total 2016 Participants	=	5,900	,

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6 Q. At the end of the five-year period, then, 25% of the LIBA participants will not

7 have to come in to be certified to get a second year of participation?

A. That is correct. The 25% figure reflects the portion of the clients who are put onto the two-year certification at intake in 2016. However, the number of LIBA participants who will be on a two-year certification in that year is even higher. Of the 5900 participants, 1180 will be in the first year of a two-year certification and an additional 1180 will be in the second year of a two-year certification. This means that 40% of the customers participating in 2016 will be in some phase of a two-year certification.

15

16

# Q. Why not simply convert all participants to two-year certification?

17 A. There are two reasons to continue certifying some participants for one year. First,

18 there are many more households who are eligible to participate than can get onto the

19 program in any given year. Second, the eligible population is more mobile than the

20 average customer and their incomes tend to be more variable. Locking everyone into

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Staff Investigation, Docket U-101973.

1		two-year-certification could bar potential participants who really need short-term
2 -		help from access to bill assistance.
3		
4	Q.	How will two-year participants be selected?
5	Α.	The main focus will be on households whose income is not likely to change, such as
6 ·		elderly or disabled customers on "fixed" incomes.
7		
8	Q.	Are there enough customers who fit this description?
9	A.	We do not know. The agencies will review previous years' participants to identify
10		likely candidates for two-year certification in the next program year.
11		
12	Q.	How will the agency compensation per client increase?
13	A.	Upon approval of this plan, the agency compensation per client will increase to
14		\$65.00. It will increase by \$2.50 each year after 2012 up to \$75.00 in 2016 as shown
15	•	in Column B, Exhibit No (DJR-3). This increase is in part justified by the rate of
16		inflation since 2004 when the agency compensation was set at \$48.00 per client.
17		
18	Q.	How will the average benefit increase?
19	A.	Upon approval of this plan, the average benefit will increase by 10 percent as shown
20		in Column H, Exhibit No (DJR-3). In the following years, the average benefit
21		will increase by two times the percentage of any residential general rate increase
22		between 2013 and 2016. <sup>7</sup> The average benefit per household is difficult to predict in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> There are a number of moving pieces which may affect the need for increased or decreased bill assistance in a given year, such as customer growth, the health of the economy and federal funding for energy assistance.

PacifiCorp's system of three tiers of rate discounts. Participant's bills are reduced each month over the winter months so an overall average benefit depends on how many households are in each tier and on various consumption factors including how cold it is in that particular winter.

17.

#### 6 Q. When and how will the rate discounts in Schedule 17 be changed?

A. Upon approval of this plan, changes to the rate discounts found in Schedule 17 will be filed by the Company in compliance with the general rate case determination. In that filing, the Company will design the rate discounts to deliver approximately the average benefit of \$290 listed in Column H, Exhibit No. \_\_ (DJR-3). Staff suggests that any other aspects of the five-year plan that would be contained within Schedule 17, such as the number of participants in each of the five years, be filed at the same time, and urges the Commission to allow at least four weeks for the company to file the tariff, and four weeks for Staff to review the tariff. In future filings, Staff suggests that the Company continue filing Schedule 17 with its general rate case filings, and use the most recent three years of program participation and any actual future rate increases resulting from general rate cases to determine the average benefit to be delivered by the proposed rate discounts. Column N of the exhibit shows assumed rate increases for illustrative purposes. Actual changes to the rate

This proposal is intended to free parties from the need to file testimony about LIBA in each general rate case between now and 2016. As always, parties are not restricted from requesting low-income discounts as part of a general rate case. *RCW* 80.28.068.

general rate case. *RCW* 80.28.068.

8 "The commission will state in its final order authorizing or requiring a compliance filing the date by which the compliance filing must be made and the effective date that should appear on any tariff sheets that are required as part of a compliance filing. The commission may state the amount of time it will require to examine any proposed compliance tariff sheets between their filing and their proposed effective date." *WAC* 480-07-883 (3) (a).

1		discounts, and the timing of the changes, must be determined by final commission
2		order in future general rate cases. <sup>9</sup>
3 .		
4	Q.	Why is it appropriate to increase the average benefit by two times the
5		percentage of a general rate increase?
6	Α.	These increases are making up for a comparatively low benefit level in the
7 -		Company's program and will improve the program's ability to protect low-income
8		customers from the effects of a rising energy burden. Our intent is to increase the
9		average benefit level that LIBA provides to a level more comparable to that provided
10		by other investor-owned companies.
11		
12	Q.	How will the monthly surcharges in Schedule 91 be affected by these changes?
13	A.	The Schedule 91 monthly surcharges are paid by all customers to support LIBA.
14		The annual increases in number of clients served and in the agency compensation per
15	* * *	client will cause the revenue requirement and therefore the monthly surcharges for
16		Schedule 91 to increase over the five years on an annual basis as estimated in
17		Columns K and L, Exhibit No (DJR-3). In the first year, the residential
18		surcharge will increase from 55 cents to 63 cents per month. Increases in later years
19		will be determined by future general rate cases or annual filings.
20		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> "Upon request by an electrical or gas company, or other party to a general rate case hearing, the commission may approve rates, charges, services, and/or physical facilities at a discount for low-income senior customers and low-income customers. Expenses and lost revenues as a result of these discounts shall be included in the company's cost of service and recovered in rates to other customers." *RCW* 80.28.068. The general rate case language was added to the statute in 2009, long after the beginning of LIBA. S.S.B. 5290, Section 1, 61<sup>st</sup> Leg., Reg. Sess. (Wash. 2009).

1 .	Q.	What if the Company does not come in for or receive a general rate increase in
2		a given year? Will the program funding still change?
3	A.	Yes, the program funding will need to change even if the Company does not receive
4	4	a general rate increase because the agency compensation per client increases
5 .		annually and more customers are being served each year. Because the number of
6		two-year certifications increases by 5% each year, even though the agencies will
7		always be certifying the same number of clients, the number of participants will
8		increase. In the second year (2013), there will be 472 additional participants; in the
9 ·		third year, 708, and so on until 2016. Therefore, Schedule 91 should be filed
0		annually on or around May 1.10 It should not be filed with the initial intervening
1		general rate case filings. Rather, if a general rate increase results in an increase to
2		the rate discounts in Schedule 17, the Commission could require the Company to file
13		the surcharges in Schedule 91 as a compliance filing with a specific separate
4		effective date following the general rate case final order. <sup>11</sup>
15		

Does this conclude your testimony? 16 Q.

17 A. Yes.

18

 $^{10}$  RCW 80.28.068 allows requests for discounts to low-income rates and services, such as those found in Schedule 17, in a general rate proceeding. In practice, the Commission has allowed recovery of costs to occur through a tariff rider such as Schedule 91.

The Commission may require a compliance filing of a tariff that was not suspended in an initial rate case order. Docket UE-111190, Order 01, at 3:18. Also, WAC 480-07-880 (1) and 480-07-883.