

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

PACIFICORP D/B/A PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT COMPANY,

Respondent.

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JAMES R. DITTMER (JRD-1T)

REGARDING TEST YEAR END RATE BASE VALUATION
INCLUDING APPROPRIATE COROLLARY ADJUSTMENTS
AND MISCELLANEOUS INCOME TAX EXPENSE ISSUES

ON BEHALF OF PUBLIC COUNSEL

JUNE 21, 2013

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JAMES R. DITTMER (JRD-1T)
DOCKET UE-130043

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EXHIBIT LIST

Exhibit No. JRD-2	Qualifications of James Dittmer
Exhibit No. JRD-3	Summary of Public Counsel Adjustments and Comparison to PacifiCorp’s Direct Filing Washington Electric Operations Adjustments
Exhibit No. JRD-4	PacifiCorp Response to WUTC Data Request 208

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I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

Q: Please state your name and address.

A: My name is James R. Dittmer. My business address is Post Office Box 481934, Kansas City, Missouri 64148.

Q: By whom are you employed and in what capacity?

A: I am a Senior Regulatory Consultant with the firm Utilitech, Inc., a consulting firm engaged primarily in utility rate work. The firm's engagements include review of utility rate applications on behalf of various federal, state and municipal governmental agencies as well as industrial groups. In addition to utility intervention work, the firm has been engaged to perform special studies for use in utility contract negotiations.

Q: On whose behalf are you testifying?

A: I am testifying on behalf of the Public Counsel Division of the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Washington (Public Counsel). Public Counsel has retained Utilitech, Inc. to review and respond to specific aspects of PacifiCorp's general rate case application.

Q: Please state your educational background.

A: I graduated from the University of Missouri-- Columbia, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration, with an Accounting Major, in 1975. I hold a Certified Public Accountant Certificate in the State of Missouri. I am a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Q: Please summarize your professional experience.

A: My professional experience is summarized in Exhibit No. JRD-2.

1 **Q: Have you previously filed testimony before the Washington Utilities and**
2 **Transportation Commission?**

3 A: Yes. I have filed testimony with the Washington Utilities and Transportation
4 Commission (“UTC” or “Commission”) on several occasions over approximately the
5 past 25 years.

6 **Q: What is the purpose of your testimony?**

7 A: I am responding to PacifiCorp’s request for valuing jurisdictional rate base employing
8 test year end data for the most significant rate base components. Additionally, I am
9 sponsoring several adjustments addressing PacifiCorp’s calculation of retail
10 jurisdictional income tax expense to be included in the Company’s cost of service.

11 **Q: Please summarize your major findings and recommendations.**

12 A: I recommend the Commission accept PacifiCorp’s proposed development of rate base
13 employing end-of-test-year values for the most significant of rate base components,
14 including Plant in Service, Accumulated Depreciation and Accumulated Deferred
15 Income Taxes.

16 As development of rate base utilizing end-of-test year values results in
17 bringing the “cost measurement period” closer to the “rate effective period,” I view
18 such methodology as an equitable and reasonable approach to addressing “regulatory
19 lag.” I also recommend two corollary adjustments that are consistent with developing
20 rate base by employing test-year-end valuations. Specifically, I am first proposing an
21 adjustment to “annualize” depreciation expense based upon test-year-end values for
22 Plant in Service. Secondly, I am proposing an adjustment to “annualize” revenues
23 associated with the number of Washington jurisdictional customers.

1 **Q: Have you prepared an exhibit summarizing Public Counsel’s recommendations**
2 **in this case?**

3 A: Yes. Exhibit No. JRD-3 provides a summary of adjustments proposed by PacifiCorp
4 and adjustments proposed by Public Counsel that are being sponsored by me, Mr.
5 Sebastian Coppola, or Ms. Lea Daeschel, who are also appearing in this proceeding
6 on behalf of Public Counsel.

7 **Q: Please explain how your schedules within Exhibit No. JRD-3 Summary of Public**
8 **Counsel Electric Adjustments are organized.**

9 A: Schedule No. 1 of Exhibit No. JRD-3 consists of a Summary of Public Counsel
10 Electric Adjustments. Shown on Schedule No. 1 is a listing of every Washington
11 jurisdictional electric adjustment incorporated within PacifiCorp’s original direct
12 filing. Adjustments sponsored by Mr. Coppola, Ms. Daeschel and me are also
13 summarized on Schedule No. 1 of Exhibit No. JRD-2. PacifiCorp adjustments that
14 Public Counsel is not supporting, modifying or opposing within this direct testimony
15 have a designation of “PC Neutral in Direct.” Public Counsel may adopt another
16 party’s position on adjustments that it does not address within its responsive
17 testimony. For Company adjustments where Public Counsel is proposing an
18 alternative calculation to that undertaken by the Company, such adjustments have
19 been designated as “PC Modified.” There is also one Company adjustment that
20 Public Counsel is specifically opposing. Company adjustment No. 3.8 has been
21 designated as “PC Oppose.” Finally, Public Counsel is proposing several adjustments
22 that were not presented in any manner by PacifiCorp. Those adjustments have been
23 designated as “PC incremental” on Schedule No. 1.

1 Public Counsel adjustments that either modify an adjustment originally
2 proposed by PacifiCorp, or which are incremental to those proposed by PacifiCorp,
3 are summarized on ensuing schedules contained within Exhibit No. JRD-3. In my
4 narrative testimony supporting these adjustments, I refer to the schedule number
5 within Exhibit No. JRD-3, as well as Public Counsel's adjustment number
6 designation.

7 **II. BACKGROUND ON PACIFICORP'S REVIEW OF ALTERNATIVE**
8 **RATEMAKING MECHANISMS**

9
10 **Q: What is your understanding of the genesis of PacifiCorp's proposal in this case**
11 **to move to year-end rate base?**

12 **A:** As a result of the settlement in the Company's 2011 general rate case, the Company
13 agreed not to file another rate case until January 2013, in order to engage in a
14 collaborative discussion of the WCA and alternative ratemaking mechanisms.¹

15 **Q: Did you participate in the collaborative on behalf of Public Counsel?**

16 **A:** Yes, I participated in all meetings which discussed test period conventions and
17 alternative ratemaking mechanisms.

18 **Q: What were the results of these discussions?**

19 **A:** Parties discussed a number of alternative ratemaking mechanisms and test period
20 conventions designed to address regulatory lag. These included attrition adjustments,
21 rate plans, alternative test periods, as well as test year end rate base valuation. No
22 specific agreement was reached between the parties on a particular approach to

¹ *WUTC v. PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power and Light Company*, Docket UE-111190, Order 07, Final Order Approving and Adopting Settlement; Denying, Without Prejudice, the Request for Commission Participation in Workshop; and Extending Deadline for WCA Inter-Jurisdictional Review Filing at ¶¶ 19-20 (March 30, 2012).

1 address regulatory lag; however, I believe PacifiCorp’s decision to propose a test-year
2 rate base valuation is a reasonable one.

3 **III. TEST YEAR END VALUATION OF RATE BASE AND APPROPRIATE**
4 **COROLLARY INCOME STATEMENT ADJUSTMENTS**

5
6 **A. Test Year End Valuation of Rate Base is a Commonly Employed Test Year**
7 **Rate Setting Methodology that Will Reduce Regulatory Lag.**

8
9 **Q: Please describe your experience with developing rate base using end-of-test year**
10 **valuations for Plant in Service, Accumulated Depreciation and Accumulated**
11 **Deferred Income Tax reserves?**

12 **A:** In my experience, in jurisdictions that employ an historic test year, using end-of-test
13 year valuations for major rate base components is very common.² While there have
14 been occasional time periods that represent the exception, in general, utilities’ rate
15 base investment tend to go up over the course of the year. Accordingly, measurement
16 of rate base and attendant return requirements *vis-à-vis* historic test year end rate base
17 valuation that is closer to the “rate effective period” reduces regulatory lag. In a
18 period where costs³ are rising faster than revenues from customer growth and/or
19 energy use, measuring a utility’s cost of providing service closer to the rate effective
20 date will reduce regulatory lag.

² The focus of this portion of my testimony is upon valuing the three most significant rate base components of Plant in Service, Accumulated Depreciation and Accumulated Deferred Income Tax Reserves using test-year-end data. There are a number of smaller rate base components such as Materials and Supplies, Prepayments, and other short term assets and liabilities that are frequently reflected on an “average” valuation basis even though the jurisdiction would typically be characterized as employing a “test-year-end” rate base valuation methodology. The noted smaller rate base components are typically reflected utilizing an “average” valuation approach because they tend to have seasonal or operational variability that often causes a point-in-time valuation – such as a test year end valuation – to be unrepresentative of the ongoing or normal investment levels for such components.

³ “Costs” would include expenses as well as rate base growth and/or rising capital costs.

1 **Q: How much is regulatory lag shortened by using a test-year-end rate base**
2 **valuation versus using the average-of-monthly-averages valuation approach?**

3 A: Approximately six months. More specifically, if rate base growth is occurring fairly
4 evenly throughout a given twelve month period, the “average” valuation approach
5 should approximate the valuation at the mid-point of the twelve month measurement
6 period. Thus, valuing rate base using test-year-end data will shorten regulatory lag by
7 approximately six months.

8 **Q: What is your understanding of this Commission’s history in employing year-end**
9 **rate base to address regulatory lag?**

10 A: This Commission has indicated a willingness to use year-end rate base valuation. For
11 example, in the 2011 Puget Sound Energy general rate case Order, the Commission
12 specifically referred to year-end rate base as one possible tool to address regulatory
13 lag.⁴

14 **B. Unique Facts and Circumstances Surrounding PacifiCorp’s Reflection and**
15 **Request for Valuing Rate Base by Employing Test-Year-End Balances for**
16 **Plant in Service, Accumulated Depreciation, and Accumulated Deferred**
17 **Income Tax Reserves.**

19 **Q: What is the revenue requirement impact of PacifiCorp’s valuation of rate base**
20 **using test-year-end data rather than average-of-the-monthly-average data?**

21 A: Per the Company’s response to Staff Data Request No. 208, valuation of rate base
22 using test-year-end data has the impact of slightly *lowering* the Company’s revenue

⁴ *WUTC v. Puget Sound Energy, Inc.*, Dockets UE-111048 and UG-111049 (consolidated), Order 08, Rejecting Tariff Sheets; Authorizing and Requiring Compliance Filing at ¶¶ 97, 491 (May 7, 2012). PSE requested an attrition adjustment in that case.

1 requirement request by approximately \$0.3 million from that which is calculated
2 when valuing rate base employing the average-of-monthly-averages approach.⁵

3 **Q: Is the revenue requirement outcome resulting from reflecting test-year-end**
4 **rather than the average-of-monthly-averages valuation of rate base expected?**

5 A: No. As previously explained, in most periods a utility's rate base investment will rise
6 year over year. Accordingly, to observe a decline in test-year-end versus average-
7 test-year rate base investment is not generally expected.

8 **Q: Does PacifiCorp offer any explanation as to why Washington jurisdictional rate**
9 **base declined slightly from the calculated test-year-average investment level to**
10 **the test-year-end investment level?**

11 A: Yes. In response to Staff Data Request No. 208, PacifiCorp notes that the increase in
12 the Company's revenue requirement from using an average-of-monthly-averages rate
13 base valuation versus the test-year-end rate base valuation was primarily driven by
14 the bonus depreciation impact on Accumulated Deferred Income Taxes that was
15 booked during 2011. Federal tax legislation implemented for the years 2010 through
16 2013 permitted "bonus depreciation" or the instant deduction of anywhere from 50
17 percent to 100 percent of most utility capital expenditures during the noted years.
18 The effect of the accelerated tax deductions is that cost-free capital in the form of
19 growth in the Accumulated Deferred Income Tax Reserve resulted in somewhat
20 muted growth in overall rate base for a number of regulated utilities.

⁵ The cover page to Staff Data Request No. 208, without the accompanying voluminous attachment, has been submitted along with this testimony as Exhibit No. JRD-4.

1 **Q: Does PacifiCorp’s filing address the need for its proposed use of end-of-test-year**
2 **data rather than this Commission’s traditional use of average-of-monthly-**
3 **averages data?**

4 A: No. Company witness Mr. Steven McDougal very perfunctorily discusses in various
5 portions of his testimony that Plant in Service, Accumulated Depreciation and
6 Accumulated Deferred Income Taxes have been “walked forward” from the average-
7 of-monthly-averages (AMA) test year starting point rate base values to balances
8 existing at June 30, 2012.⁶ However, Company testimony is devoid of explanation or
9 reasoning for posting such end-of-test-year adjustments that do not follow this
10 Commission’s decades-old precedent for valuing rate base employing AMA
11 valuation.

12 **Q: Please explain in more detail why you are recommending using a test-year-end**
13 **rate base valuation.**

14 A: Starting with the 2012 Avista general rate case,⁷ I have been advocating that this
15 Commission migrate toward test-year-end rate base valuation to reduce regulatory
16 lag. In this docket, I am continuing to recommend the Commission adopt test-year-
17 end valuation of rate base for Plant in Service and related Accumulated Depreciation
18 and Accumulated Deferred Income Tax Reserves as a means for addressing

⁶ At page 18 of direct testimony Mr. McDougal discusses the adjustment found on page 6.2 of Tab 6 of Exhibit No. SRM-3 that walks the depreciation and amortization reserves forward to the June 30, 2012 balances, at page 20 Mr. McDougal briefly discusses the adjustment found on page 7.4 of Tab 7 of Exhibit No. SRM-3 that adjusts accumulated deferred income taxes, and at page 25 Mr. McDougal mentions that Plant in Service balances have been reflected at levels existing at June 30, 2012 within pages 8.12 through 8.12.6 of Tab 8 of Exhibit No.SRM-3.

⁷ *WUTC v. Avista Corp. d/b/a Avista Utilities*, Dockets UE-120436 and UG-120437 (consolidated). Avista requested a significant attrition adjustment in that case.

1 regulatory lag, along with proper test-year-end matching adjustments for revenues
2 and depreciation expense.

3 The fact that the test-year-end rate base valuation in this docket results in a
4 slightly lower rate base valuation than that calculated using the AMA methodology
5 represents an anomaly. When corollary adjustments reflecting annualized
6 depreciation expense associated with test-year-end Plant in Service values and
7 annualized revenues associated with customer counts being experienced at test-year-
8 end are applied, the result is a higher revenue requirement than what the Company
9 has calculated.

10 The adjustment to annualize revenues for test-year-end numbers of customers
11 represents a second anomaly in this case. Usually, this adjustment reduces revenue
12 requirement because customer counts are generally higher at the end of a test period
13 than at the beginning as a result of continuous growth in customers within the utility's
14 service territory. Because PacifiCorp's Washington electric operations experienced
15 an overall decline in the number of customers being served throughout the test year,
16 the impact of the annualizing revenue adjustment is to reduce test year weather
17 normalized revenues, and therefore, increases the Washington jurisdictional revenue
18 requirement. I am recommending this adjustment because it is a proper "matching"
19 adjustment to be posted when using the test-year-end approach to valuing rate base.

20 In summary, I am recommending the Commission adopt the test-year-end
21 approach, commonly used in other jurisdictions and recognized by this Commission
22 as an available tool, because it reduces regulatory lag by reducing the time between
23 the "cost measurement period" and the start of the rate effective period. Adopting the

1 test-year-end approach necessitates certain matching adjustments, and I recommend
2 that the Commission accept the matching adjustments I have described.

3 **C. Adjustment to Annualize Depreciation Expense Associated with Test-Year-**
4 **End Gross Plant in Service (PC 8.12).**

5

6 **Q: Please describe the calculation you have undertaken to annualize depreciation**
7 **expense associated with test-year-end gross Plant in Service.**

8 A: As previously described, in jurisdictions that employ end-of-test-year valuation it is
9 appropriate and consistent to calculate the annual or “annualized” level of
10 depreciation associated with end-of-test year Plant in Service. I have undertaken such
11 calculation by increasing the test year actual recorded level of Washington
12 jurisdictional depreciation expense for the percentage growth in gross Plant in Service
13 from the test year average-of-monthly-average value to the test-year-end value. As
14 calculated and reflected as PC Adjustment 8.12 on Schedule 12 of Exhibit No. JRD-3,
15 the test-year-end valuation of gross Plant in Service is 1.286 percent higher than test
16 year AMA valuation of gross Plant in Service. Applying the noted Plant in Service
17 test-year-end over AMA growth factor of 1.286 percent to test year actual recorded
18 depreciation expense (which would have been effectively calculated on the AMA of
19 gross Plant in Service values) results in a proposed before-tax adjustment in the
20 amount of \$519,288. Such adjustment amount is carried forward to the Summary of
21 Adjustments Schedule No. 1 of Exhibit No. JRD-3.

22 **Q: PacifiCorp has proposed an adjustment to reflect the depreciation rates that it**
23 **has proposed to be adopted by this Commission in Docket UE-130052. What is**
24 **Public Counsel’s position regarding PacifiCorp’s depreciation rates that have**

1 **been proposed in Docket UE-130052 and reflected as a restating adjustment**
2 **within this docket?**

3 A: I did not review, nor do I address, PacifiCorp’s proposed depreciation rate change.
4 However, I have calculated beginning on line 22 of Schedule 12 of Exhibit No. JRD-
5 3 an alternative adjustment to annualize depreciation expense associated with test-
6 year-end gross Plant in Service values that is based upon the Company’s proposed
7 depreciation rate. In the event this Commission approves the Company’s proposed
8 depreciation rates, the alternative test-year-end depreciation annualization adjustment
9 reflected on lines 22 and 39 should be incorporated in developing the revenue
10 requirement in this case.

11 **D. Adjustment to Annualize Revenues Associated with Test-Year-End Numbers**
12 **of Washington Jurisdictional Customers Being Served (PC 3.9).**

13
14 **Q: Please describe the adjustment that you calculated to annualize revenues**
15 **expected to be collected from Washington jurisdictional customers taking**
16 **service at test year end.**

17 A: As previously discussed, when a test-year-end rate base is employed, rate base
18 valuation includes the full investment cost of serving customers taking service at the
19 end of a given test year. Thus, it is appropriate, equitable and consistent to reflect the
20 annual or “annualized” level of revenues that can be expected to collect from
21 customers being served at test-year-end even though a portion of such customers
22 served will have only taken service for a portion of the test year. The adjustment to
23 annualize revenues at existing rates associated with test-year-end numbers of
24 Washington retail jurisdictional customers being served is calculated as PC

1 Adjustment 3.9 on Schedule 3 of Exhibit No. JRD-3. The calculation begins by
2 differencing the number of customers being served by rate class at the end of the test
3 year and the actual number of customers served in each month of the test year. To the
4 extent the number of customers served at test year end exceeded the number of
5 customers in any given month of the test year, such increase in number of customers
6 served was then multiplied times the average normalized revenue per customer
7 collected in each month of the test year. Conversely, to the extent the number of
8 customers served at test year end had declined from the number of customers served
9 throughout the test year, the reduced or “lost” customer counts were also multiplied
10 times the average normalized revenue per customer collected in each month of the
11 test year. As shown on Schedule No. 3 of Exhibit No. JRD-3, the total number of
12 Residential customers served declined at test year end relative to the number of
13 customers served throughout the test year. Additionally, the number Schedule 48
14 Large General Service Time of Use (TOU) customers declined during the test year.
15 The loss of Residential and Schedule 48 Large General Service TOU customers
16 occurring throughout the test year was partially offset by increases in the number of
17 Rate Class 24 – Small General Service customers served and the number of Rate
18 Class 36 – Large General Service – Less Than 1,000 kW customers served.
19 However, as can be observed in Schedule No. 3 of Exhibit No. JRD-3, overall the
20 adjustment calculated to reflect revenues associated with test-year-end numbers of
21 customers *reduces* test year normalized Washington retail revenues calculated
22 utilizing existing rates by \$1,698,590.

1 **Q: Have PacifiCorp's Washington jurisdictional sales been falling in recent**
2 **periods?**

3 A: Yes. According to PacifiCorp witness Ms. Kelcey Brown, normalized sales for the
4 test year ending June 30, 2012, are approximately 0.6 percent *lower* than the test year
5 normalized sales volumes experienced in PacifiCorp's 2011 rate case that used a 2010
6 test year.⁸ Further, I would note that the Company's Washington retail revenue
7 forecast for 2013 predicts a little over a one percent (1.0 percent) drop in revenues
8 from the test year weather normalized revenues calculated by PacifiCorp in this
9 docket.⁹ Thus, both recent actual and Company-forecasted sales support a conclusion
10 that a downward adjustment to test year revenues to reflect test-year-end number of
11 customers being served appears reasonable.

12 **Q: Have you calculated associated expense adjustments for Bad Debts and**
13 **Washington Public Utility Taxes that are appropriate to reflect in conjunction**
14 **with your proposed test-year-end revenue annualization adjustment?**

15 A: Yes. Specifically, I apply the Uncollectible Accounts Factor of 0.660 percent
16 developed and sponsored by Mr. Coppola to the test-year-end revenue annualization
17 adjustment I have calculated on the first page of Schedule No. 3 of Exhibit No. JRD-3
18 to derive a related Bad Debt Expense adjustment. Similarly, I apply the Washington
19 Public Utility Tax rate of 3.87340 percent shown on page 7.8 of PacifiCorp Exhibit
20 No. SRM-3 to the test-year-end revenue annualization adjustment calculated on the

⁸ Exhibit No. KAB-1T, p. 2.

⁹ Normalized base revenues for the test year ending June 30, 2012, per Attachment (e) to Public Counsel Data Request No. 103, are \$303,519,419. Per the Attachment to WUTC Data Request 148, Washington jurisdictional revenues for calendar year 2013 are forecasted to be \$299,985,619 – or slightly more than one percent lower than test year normalized base revenue level.

1 first page of Schedule No. 3 of Exhibit No. JRD-3 to derive a related Washington
2 Public Utility Tax Expense adjustment.

3 **IV. INCOME TAX ADJUSTMENTS**

4 **A. Corrections to PacifiCorp Adjustment to Recorded Test Year Income Tax**
5 **Expense to Reflect Flow-through Treatment Ordered in Docket UE-100749**
6 **(PC 7.6).**

7
8 **Q: Did your review of PacifiCorp’s calculation of total current and deferred income**
9 **tax expense included in developing the Company’s total Washington**
10 **jurisdictional cost of service reveal any needed corrections or adjustments?**

11 A: Yes. My review of PacifiCorp’s calculation of income taxes for inclusion in the cost
12 of service revealed several needed corrections.

13 **Q: Please discuss your first proposed revision to PacifiCorp’s development of**
14 **adjusted test year income tax expense for inclusion in PacifiCorp’s Washington**
15 **retail jurisdictional cost of service.**

16 A: Within pages 7.6 through 7.6.4 of Exhibit No. SRM-3, PacifiCorp develops an
17 adjustment to reflect this Commission’s intentions, as set forth within Order 07 issued
18 in Docket No. UE-100749, to employ the flow-through methodology for certain
19 book/tax timing difference in developing income tax expense for ratemaking
20 purposes. My review of the noted Company adjustment indicates the need for two
21 corrections to items afforded “flow-through” treatment and/or the value to be
22 assigned a timing difference afforded flow-through treatment.

23 **Q. Please describe what is meant by the term “book and tax timing difference?”**

24 A. Accounting guidelines dictate the methods and timing for reporting revenues and
25 expenses for public financial statement reporting purposes. The Internal Revenue

1 Code, along with Treasury Regulations, dictate the methods and timing for
2 recognizing revenues and expenses for purposes of calculating corporate taxable
3 income. There is a lot of similarity between accounting guidelines for recognizing
4 revenues and expenses for financial statement reporting purposes *and* Internal
5 Revenue Code/Treasury Regulation rules for recognizing revenues and expense for
6 purposes of calculating corporate taxable income – but there are nonetheless
7 differences. When there is a difference of reporting revenues and expense for
8 financial statement reporting purposes (accounting guideline driven) and corporate
9 federal taxable income development (IRC/Treasury Regulation driven), and the
10 difference is *temporary*, a book and tax *timing* difference results.

11 **Q. Please describe what occurs when a book and tax *timing* difference is afforded**
12 **“flow-through accounting and ratemaking treatment.”**

13 A. There are two accounting and ratemaking methods employed to consider book and
14 tax timing differences. Under the “flow-through” method, the current income taxes
15 actually paid, after considering book and tax timing differences that are added to, or
16 subtracted from (as applicable), income for financial statement reporting purposes is
17 used in developing income tax expense for the cost of service underlying rates and
18 also used for financial statement reporting purposes. The “flow-through” method
19 contrasts with the “normalization” method that essentially calculates income taxes for
20 cost of service development and financial statement reporting purposes on the basis of
21 book income before taxes used for financial statement reporting purposes. The actual
22 mechanics of deferral accounting used in conjunction with “normalization” tax
23 accounting can be somewhat complex. “Current income tax” expense is calculated in

1 the same manner under both “flow-through” and “normalization” accounting.
2 However, under “normalization” accounting, a “deferred income tax expense”
3 amount is calculated based upon the amount of the book and tax timing difference
4 occurring in any given reporting period. In effect, under normalization accounting,
5 the “adds” and “deducts” of timing differences are essentially ignored for purposes of
6 financial statement reporting of total income tax expense as well as for reflecting the
7 total amount of income tax expense to be included in cost of service rate
8 development. As previously noted, this Commission in Docket UE-100749
9 determined it appropriate that a number of PacifiCorp book/tax timing differences be
10 afforded flow-through ratemaking treatment.

11 **Q: Please discuss the corrections you are recommending to the Company’s**
12 **development of income tax expense for certain book/tax timing differences**
13 **afforded flow-through treatment.**

14 A: In my review of the tax calculation underlying the rate order from Docket UE-
15 100749, as well as the tax calculation underlying PacifiCorp’s current docket tax
16 calculation, I noted one book/tax timing difference that was afforded “normalization”
17 treatment in Docket UE-100749 for which the Company is employing the flow-
18 through methodology within this docket. Specifically, in Docket UE-100749 the
19 book/tax timing difference entitled “Reg Liability – WA Low Energy Program” was
20 afforded normalization rate making treatment. However, in this docket, PacifiCorp
21 has calculated income tax expense resulting from this book/tax timing difference
22 employing the flow-through methodology. In this proceeding, the noted book/tax
23 timing difference consists of an “addition” to book income to arrive at taxable

1 income. Accordingly, by affording this book/tax timing “addition to book income”
2 flow-through treatment, PacifiCorp has overstated net current and deferred income
3 tax expense related to this book tax timing difference.

4 Second, my review of the Docket UE-100749 cost of service income tax
5 calculation, as well as the current docket cost of service income tax calculation,
6 revealed that PacifiCorp failed to allocate a book/tax timing difference “subtraction to
7 book income” in this docket that had previously been afforded flow-through
8 ratemaking treatment. Specifically, PacifiCorp’s current-docket tax calculation failed
9 to allocate a portion of the book/tax timing difference “subtraction to book income”
10 entitled “Bridger Coal Company Gain Loss on Assets Disposed” when developing the
11 adjusted test year current income tax expense level to be included in the Washington
12 retail jurisdictional cost of service. The omission of allocating a portion of the noted
13 book/tax timing difference to Washington jurisdictional operations caused an
14 overstatement of current income tax expense when developing PacifiCorp’s adjusted
15 Washington jurisdictional cost of service.

16 **Q: Have you prepared an exhibit that shows the development of needed revisions to**
17 **the Company’s calculation of current and deferred income tax expense**
18 **described above?**

19 A: Yes. On Schedule No. 10 of Exhibit No. JRD-3 I show the revisions required to
20 correct the adjustment presented by PacifiCorp on pages 7.6 through 7.6.4 of Exhibit
21 No. SRM-3 discussed above.

22 / /

23

1 **B. Revisions to Certain Tax Effects Initially Calculated by PacifiCorp Related**
2 **to the Injuries and Damages Restating Adjustment (PC 4.8).**

3
4 **Q: Please discuss your final correction or revision to PacifiCorp’s development of**
5 **income tax expense included within the Company’s adjusted test year cost of**
6 **service.**

7 A: When developing the restating adjustment calculated on pages 4.8 through 4.8.6 of
8 Exhibit No. SRM-3 to reflect a six-year average of liability and property damages
9 expense, PacifiCorp appears to have also attempted to calculate a six-year average of
10 the book/tax timing difference amount associated with this above-the-line operating
11 expense. Inasmuch as the calculated six-year average book/tax timing difference
12 resulted in a significant “addition to book income,” and the fact that this book/tax
13 timing difference had been afforded flow-through treatment in Docket UE-100749,
14 the result of the noted tax component of the Company’s injuries and damages
15 restating adjustment was approximately a \$200,000 addition to PacifiCorp’s
16 otherwise-calculated revenue requirement. Both the need for, and potential amount
17 of, the corollary tax adjustment included as a component of the injuries and damages
18 restating adjustment appeared suspect. Through interviews and ultimately a
19 supplemental response to Public Counsel Data Request No. 165, PacifiCorp has
20 acknowledged that certain tax elements of the injuries and damages restating
21 adjustment were in error. On Schedule No. 4 of Exhibit JRD-3, a revised restating
22 injuries and damages expense adjustment is presented that incorporates needed tax
23 corrections that PacifiCorp has acknowledged to be appropriate as well as the impacts
24 of certain insurance premium reductions that are being sponsored by Mr. Coppola.

1 **Q: Please summarize your testimony.**

2 A: I am supporting PacifiCorp's reflection of Plant in Service, Accumulated
3 Depreciation and Accumulated Deferred Income Tax Reserves included in rate base
4 development employing end-of-test year values. Furthermore, I am recommending
5 corollary "matching" adjustments that annualize depreciation expense and retail
6 revenues based upon end-of-test-year Plant in Service and customer counts,
7 respectively. Considered together, test-year-end valuation of rate base along with the
8 noted corollary adjustments properly match cost of service components to an identical
9 point in time and reduce the regulatory lag between the "cost measurement period"
10 and the "rate effective period."

11 Additionally, I recommend adoption of a number of tax adjustments that I
12 discuss above – several of which the Company has acknowledged to be appropriate -
13 that correct and/or revise Company calculations undertaken.

14 **Q: Does this conclude your testimony?**

15 A. Yes, it does.