

# **Evidentiary Hearing - Docket No. UE-230482**

## **In the Matter of the Petition of: PacifiCorp / 2022 Power Cost Adjustment**

**June 4, 2024**



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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of: )
PACIFICORP d/b/a PACIFIC POWER & )
LIGHT COMPANY, )
) No. UG-230482
Petitioner, )
)
2022 Power Cost Adjustment )
Mechanism Annual Report )

EVIDENTIARY HEARING BEFORE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES JAMES E. BROWN II AND CONNOR THOMPSON

\* PORTIONS OF TESTIMONY ARE DESIGNATED CONFIDENTIAL AND ARE SEALED UNDER SEPARATE COVER. \*

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop Southeast
Lacey, WA 98504
Taken via Zoom Videoconference

DATE TAKEN: June 4, 2024, at 9:10 a.m.
REPORTED BY: Sierra Zanghi, RSR, CCR 22004202

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\* \* \* \* \*

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1 REMOTE; TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2024

2 9:10 A.M.

3 --oOo--

4 JUDGE BROWN: Good morning.

5 I'm sorry. Good morning. Today is

6 Tuesday, June 4th, 2024. The time is approximately

7 9:10. My name is James E. Brown II, I'm an

8 Administrative Law Judge with the Washington Utilities

9 and Transportation Commission, and I am presiding in

10 this matter along with the Commissioners and

11 Administrative Law Judge to my right, Connor Thompson.

12 We're here today for an evidentiary

13 hearing in the Docket UE-230482, which is captioned

14 respectively WUTC versus PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power

15 and Light Company, in the matter of the petition of

16 PacifiCorp and Power and Light -- I'm sorry, Pacific

17 Power and Light Company for approval of the 2022 power

18 cost adjustment mechanism.

19 And if parties are willing, can they

20 please make their appearances, starting with the

21 Company?

22 ATTY. LOWNEY: Good morning,

23 Judge Brown. My name is Adam Lowney of McDowell

24 Rackner & Gibson, appearing today on behalf of

25 PacifiCorp. With me is Ajay Kumar and Dan Teimouri.

1 JUDGE BROWN: And now Staff, please.  
 2 ATTY. STRAUSS: Good morning, your  
 3 honor. This is Josephine Strauss, representing Staff  
 4 today, along with Jeff Roberson.  
 5 JUDGE BROWN: And Public Counsel?  
 6 ATTY. O'NEILL: Good morning, your  
 7 Honor. This is Tad Robinson O'Neill on behalf of  
 8 Public Counsel.  
 9 JUDGE BROWN: And the Alliance of  
 10 Western Energy Consumers, AWEC.  
 11 ATTY. PEPPL: Good morning, your Honor.  
 12 This is Tyler Pepple, with Davison Van Cleve,  
 13 representing the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers.  
 14 JUDGE BROWN: All right. Good morning  
 15 to everyone present. And really, I'm sorry, briefly,  
 16 let's talk about our plans for the hearing this  
 17 morning.  
 18 First, we'll address Staff's motion in  
 19 limine, and in its motion, Staff seeks to strike No. 1,  
 20 Section 4, page 5, line 6 through page 7, line 10, of  
 21 the testimony of PacifiCorp witness Stables; and they  
 22 also seek to strike Section 6, page 14, line 7 through  
 23 page 15, line 18; and section 6, page 17, line 14  
 24 through page 18; and finally, Section 8, page 34,  
 25 line 10, through page 35, line 13.

1 Well, upon review of the briefs and  
 2 supporting documents in the record, we were not  
 3 persuaded by the arguments raised by Staff's motion,  
 4 and therefore will deny Staff's motion in limine.  
 5 So as the next matter, we will now turn  
 6 to the admission of prefiled exhibits and testimony.  
 7 We will then allow for brief opening statements,  
 8 limited to 10 minutes each, before we turn to the  
 9 cross-examination of witnesses, following the parties'  
 10 agreed order of presentation.  
 11 We will be taking all of the witnesses  
 12 individually. And if necessary, we will take a break  
 13 at approximately 10:00 a.m.; and also if necessary, a  
 14 lunch break around 12:00 noon.  
 15 I also want to remind the parties to  
 16 keep their microphones muted unless they are speaking,  
 17 and also to only use video for those portions of the  
 18 hearing when they have a speaking role, and that, I  
 19 think, we've already covered.  
 20 If you are all ready -- I'm sorry. If  
 21 you are having any technical issues or you observe that  
 22 a party or representative has dropped off the online  
 23 meeting, please mention that in the chat. The chat  
 24 should be reserved for technical issues and requests  
 25 for breaks only.

1 Are there any questions from the parties  
 2 at this point?  
 3 All right. At this point, we're going  
 4 to turn to the exhibits themselves. The parties  
 5 stipulate to the admission of all of the prefiled  
 6 exhibits and testimony, including cross-examination  
 7 exhibits.  
 8 ATTY. KUMAR: Um --  
 9 JUDGE BROWN: Yeah? I'm sorry.  
 10 ATTY. KUMAR: I think we stipulate to  
 11 the admission of all the prefiled exhibits and  
 12 cross-exhibits, with the exception of one  
 13 cross-exhibit. I believe it hasn't been marked, but it  
 14 was a cross-exhibit identified for Mr. Staples from  
 15 Public Counsel.  
 16 THE COURT REPORTER: And, I'm sorry,  
 17 could the speaker please turn on their video or  
 18 identify themselves?  
 19 ATTY. KUMAR: I apologize. This is Ajay  
 20 Kumar for the Company.  
 21 Yeah, I believe we -- so the Company can  
 22 stipulate to all the -- the admission of all the  
 23 prefiled exhibits and testimony with the exception of  
 24 Public Counsel, I believe -- what's the title of this?  
 25 Sorry. Yeah, sorry. The "Power Hedging Adjustments

1 from PacifiCorp Critique (with attachment)."  
 2 The Company at this time would not  
 3 stipulate to the admission of that exhibit. We would  
 4 wait until a proper foundation is laid to the witness  
 5 to determine whether or not it is appropriate to object  
 6 at that time. That's --  
 7 JUDGE BROWN: So noted. So at that  
 8 point, when the witness that is testifying about that  
 9 exhibit actually is presented for testimony, then we'll  
 10 address that issue at that time.  
 11 ATTY. KUMAR: Yes. My understanding is  
 12 it's a cross-exhibit; so when Public Counsel, you know,  
 13 cross-examines Mr. Staples on that exhibit, you know,  
 14 we can address that after the -- when he moves that  
 15 exhibit for admission at that time.  
 16 JUDGE BROWN: Okay. Thank you. Duly  
 17 noted.  
 18 Is there anything else from any of the  
 19 parties? Ms. Strauss?  
 20 ATTY. STRAUSS: Yes, your Honor. Just  
 21 wondering if you'll be circulating a final exhibit list  
 22 to the parties.  
 23 JUDGE BROWN: Sure. I can do that. I  
 24 will do that.  
 25 ATTY. STRAUSS: Thank you.

1 JUDGE BROWN: At the -- after the  
 2 hearing? Is that acceptable? Or during the hearing?  
 3 Would you like me to circulate it at this time?  
 4 ATTY. O'NEILL: To the extent that we're  
 5 going to ask questions about them, I think we can refer  
 6 to them by their description and then get a number  
 7 later. Or if we want, number them now.  
 8 I don't know -- like, for example, with  
 9 Mr. Staples's cross-examination, it's the only exhibit,  
 10 so that's pretty easy. But if we're going to refer to  
 11 any of the others, there's multiple exhibits  
 12 designated, it might be useful to have numbers to refer  
 13 to them.  
 14 THE COURT REPORTER: And, I'm sorry, who  
 15 is speaking, please?  
 16 ATTY. O'NEILL: I apologize. I turned  
 17 off my video.  
 18 So I mean, for me, as long as we know  
 19 what the numbers are and I know what to refer to them  
 20 as, that's kind of what I would hope to have.  
 21 JUDGE BROWN: Okay. Give me one second.  
 22 ATTY. KUMAR: The things that -- I mean,  
 23 in other commissions, sometimes we're able to number as  
 24 we go. That might be helpful or. Or --  
 25 ATTY. O'NEILL: I mean, that's fine too.

1 If we could just number as we go, the first exhibit I  
 2 mention will be Exhibit 1.  
 3 ATTY. KUMAR: That could make it  
 4 difficult to track.  
 5 ATTY. O'NEILL: Correct.  
 6 ATTY. KUMAR: We don't have a strong  
 7 preference, just whatever works best.  
 8 ATTY. STRAUSS: Just really quickly,  
 9 just for clarification.  
 10 JUDGE BROWN: Yeah.  
 11 ATTY. STRAUSS: The exhibit numbers --  
 12 would we then start at the next number after the  
 13 exhibits that have already been filed in testimony?  
 14 JUDGE BROWN: It seems that way.  
 15 ATTY. STRAUSS: Just want to make sure.  
 16 JUDGE BROWN: That is actually what we  
 17 were discussing up front.  
 18 So what we will do is we will number  
 19 them as they're presented, and then I will circulate  
 20 the list according to the email list that we have for  
 21 the -- according to the email list that I already have.  
 22 So the group email, as it exists, I will  
 23 send it to the email in which you, I believe Mr. Kumar,  
 24 and Mr. Pepple are -- I'm sorry, are all on that list.  
 25 So we will number them and then circulate them during

1 the proceeding.  
 2 (Exhibits JP-1T through JP-3, JP-4XC through  
 3 JP-6XC, RJM-1T through RJM-3TC, RJM-4X through  
 4 RJM-10X, DRS-1TC through DRS-4TC, DRS-5X,  
 5 DRS-7CX through DRS-15CX, JMF-1TC through  
 6 JMF-2C, JMF-3X through JMF-4CX, MGW-1T, MGW-2X  
 7 through MGW-4X, JDW-1CT through JDW-17CX,  
 8 WY-1CT through WY-8, WY-9X through WY-18X,  
 9 RLE-1T through RLE-10, BGM-1CT through BGM-18,  
 10 and BGM-13CX through BGM-17X were admitted.)  
 11 JUDGE BROWN: Is there any other  
 12 question? Are there any other questions? Mr. Pepple?  
 13 ATTY. PEPPLER: Thank you, Judge Brown.  
 14 Just really quickly, when we were preparing for the  
 15 hearing, we noted that Mr. Mullins's Exhibit 2, which  
 16 is his CV, was not filed with his testimony. We filed  
 17 it yesterday late, and I was hoping to just make an  
 18 oral motion to admit that exhibit. My understanding  
 19 from the other parties is there's no objection, but  
 20 other parties are happy, of course, to -- welcome to  
 21 weigh in on that.  
 22 JUDGE BROWN: No objection from the  
 23 other parties? All right. Then Mister -- I'm sorry,  
 24 Mr. Mullins's?  
 25 ATTY. PEPPLER: Mr. Mullins is the

1 witness.  
 2 JUDGE BROWN: CV?  
 3 ATTY. PEPPLER: Yes, it's his CV, yes.  
 4 JUDGE BROWN: Yeah, his CV is now  
 5 admitted -- or deemed admitted.  
 6 (Exhibit BGM-18 was admitted.)  
 7 ATTY. PEPPLER: Thank you.  
 8 JUDGE BROWN: Thank you. And is there  
 9 anything else from the parties at this time?  
 10 ATTY. LOWNEY: I think we're ready to  
 11 move to opening statements. I'll turn on my camera.  
 12 If we're ready to move on to opening statements, the  
 13 Company would offer that we're willing to waive opening  
 14 statements in the interest of time management, but we  
 15 will do so only if the other parties waive as well, and  
 16 we can precede directly to the cross-examination phase  
 17 of the hearing.  
 18 JUDGE BROWN: So are the other parties  
 19 also willing to waive opening statements as well?  
 20 ATTY. STRAUSS: Yes, your honor. Or  
 21 Staff is willing to waive, your Honor.  
 22 JUDGE BROWN: Public Counsel?  
 23 ATTY. O'NEILL: Public Counsel is  
 24 willing to waive as well.  
 25 JUDGE BROWN: AWEC?

1 ATTY. PEPPLER: AWEC is also willing to  
 2 waive.  
 3 JUDGE BROWN: All right. Then we'll  
 4 take a moment and allow for the Commissioners to come  
 5 in.  
 6 ATTY. STRAUSS: Your Honor, just really  
 7 quickly, I was told that the mics aren't necessarily  
 8 picking up everyone's voice, so if you can move the mic  
 9 closer to your face when you're speaking, everyone  
 10 online would appreciate it.  
 11 JUDGE BROWN: Good morning,  
 12 Commissioners. We are going to forgo opening  
 13 statements, the parties have all agreed, and we are now  
 14 going to move to the first witness. And I believe that  
 15 is Mr. Fritz from PacifiCorp.  
 16 ATTY. LOWNEY: Judge Brown, this is Adam  
 17 Lowney on behalf of PacifiCorp. We actually intended  
 18 to call Ramon Mitchell first.  
 19 JUDGE BROWN: That's fine.  
 20 ATTY. LOWNEY: And with that, we would  
 21 ask Mr. Mitchell to please take the stand.  
 22 JUDGE BROWN: Let me know when you're  
 23 ready, Mr. Mitchell.  
 24 RAMON MITCHELL: I'm ready, your Honor.  
 25 JUDGE BROWN: All right. Is your camera

1 on?  
 2 RAMON MITCHELL: Yes, your Honor.  
 3 JUDGE BROWN: All right. Will you raise  
 4 your right hand and I'll swear you in.  
 5  
 6 RAMON J. MITCHELL, witness herein, having been  
 7 first duly sworn on oath,  
 8 was examined and testified  
 9 as follows:  
 10  
 11 JUDGE BROWN: Proceed. I'm sorry, Staff  
 12 indicated that they wanted to begin with cross?  
 13 ATTY. STRAUSS: Yes, your Honor.  
 14 JUDGE BROWN: Okay. Proceed, please.  
 15 ATTY. STRAUSS: Thank you, your Honor.  
 16  
 17 CROSS-EXAMINATION  
 18 BY ATTY. STRAUSS:  
 19 **Q. Good morning, Mr. Mitchell. Your testimony**  
 20 **concerns PacifiCorp's 2022 power costs; is that**  
 21 **correct?**  
 22 A. That's correct.  
 23 **Q. In your rebuttable testimony, at RJM-3T,**  
 24 **page 2, license 14 through 20 -- I'll give you a minute**  
 25 **to get there.**

1 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Sorry, what page  
 2 was that?  
 3 ATTY. STRAUSS: Page 2.  
 4 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Thank you.  
 5 ATTY. STRAUSS: Lines 14 to 20.  
 6 RAMON MITCHELL: I'm there.  
 7 **Q. (BY ATTY. STRAUSS) Thank you. You mentioned**  
 8 **PacifiCorp's Washington operations have an open**  
 9 **position in certain months; is that correct?**  
 10 A. Yes. I mentioned, "Washington has a  
 11 supply/demand deficit [...] in a given month."  
 12 **Q. Okay. Did PacifiCorp fail to supply**  
 13 **Washington with power sufficient to supply its load at**  
 14 **any point in 2022?**  
 15 A. No.  
 16 **Q. Okay. So there were no brown-outs in**  
 17 **PacifiCorp's territory in 2022?**  
 18 A. I understand, by brown-outs, you mean  
 19 transmission-initiated rolling blackouts or similar  
 20 type of load shedding; in which case, no.  
 21 **Q. And there were no blackouts in 2022?**  
 22 A. No.  
 23 **Q. Okay. So there was sufficient supply to meet**  
 24 **Washington demand in 2022?**  
 25 A. Yes.

1 **Q. So the deficit that you speak of refers to a**  
 2 **deficit in the resources allocated to Washington; is**  
 3 **that right?**  
 4 A. Ratemaking cost allocation deficit, yes.  
 5 **Q. Now, the WIJAM is an accounting mechanism**  
 6 **that PacifiCorp uses to assign a cost to the power**  
 7 **supplied by resources not allocated to Washington for**  
 8 **ratemaking purposes; is that correct?**  
 9 A. No. I would more characterize the WIJAM as  
 10 something much broader, as the cost allocation  
 11 methodology for Washington. Your definition is narrow,  
 12 and I did not follow the part about assigning costs to  
 13 resources that are not allocated to Washington.  
 14 **Q. Okay. But the WIJAM balancing adjustment is**  
 15 **not a contract for the sale or delivery of power; is**  
 16 **that correct?**  
 17 A. Correct.  
 18 **Q. And it does allocate the costs and benefits**  
 19 **of PacifiCorp's system, right?**  
 20 A. Which portion of the WIJAM?  
 21 **Q. The allocation. The allocation method**  
 22 **allocates the costs and benefit of PacifiCorp's system;**  
 23 **isn't that right?**  
 24 A. Not quite. It allocates the costs and  
 25 benefits of the portion of PacifiCorp's system that

1 Washington subscribes to.  
 2 **Q. Okay. Thank you. And this allocation occurs**  
 3 **after the costs or benefits are incurred or realized;**  
 4 **isn't that right?**  
 5 A. Yes.  
 6 **Q. And so prior to the WIJAM adjustment, the**  
 7 **power has already been delivered to customers; isn't**  
 8 **that correct?**  
 9 A. Yes.  
 10 **Q. The WIJAM puts a dollar amount on the power**  
 11 **that was already delivered to Washington?**  
 12 A. No. The WIJAM puts a dollar amount on the  
 13 ratemaking deficit that results from the WIJAM, which  
 14 is purely an accounting exercise. The entirety of the  
 15 power that's served, Washington customer load, and kept  
 16 the lights on for Washington customers, is separate and  
 17 concerns the total system, but does not concern the  
 18 WIJAM in this specific context of the valuation that  
 19 you're referring to.  
 20 **Q. Okay.**  
 21 THE COURT REPORTER: This is the court  
 22 reporter speaking. Could the witness please speak up  
 23 when you are answering the questions? We're getting a  
 24 little bit of feedback. It might be the microphone  
 25 quality, but I think speaking up will help.

1 **volatility?**  
 2 A. It is a practice for protecting customers  
 3 against energy price volatility, but also a practice  
 4 for protecting customers against gas price volatility  
 5 if your definition of energy does not involve national  
 6 gas fuel.  
 7 **Q. Okay. Thank you. So hedging is a risk**  
 8 **management tool used to manage price volatility by**  
 9 **locking in a specific energy price ahead of time? And**  
 10 **I do include natural gas in the term "energy."**  
 11 A. Yes. That is a simplified definition. For a  
 12 more complete definition, I would direct you to  
 13 Witness Fritz.  
 14 **Q. Now, "ahead of time" generally means prior to**  
 15 **when the energy is being used; isn't that correct?**  
 16 A. Yes.  
 17 **Q. Okay. So -- because you manage for risks**  
 18 **prior to those risks becoming reality?**  
 19 A. Could you please rephrase or restate?  
 20 **Q. Yeah. So you're managing for a risk that**  
 21 **hasn't happened yet. It's something that may or may**  
 22 **not happen.**  
 23 A. Subject to check, we're managing for risks  
 24 that are happening in the markets as time proceeds  
 25 forward and we continue to ensure that we're able to

1 RAMON MITCHELL: Certainly.  
 2 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.  
 3 **Q. (BY ATTY. STRAUSS) So just to clarify,**  
 4 **PacifiCorp couldn't go into its system, say, today and**  
 5 **apply the WIJAM to hedge for three months from now;**  
 6 **isn't that correct?**  
 7 A. The current state of the WIJAM, which -- the  
 8 current state of the WIJAM in this proceeding, the  
 9 true-up mechanism which looks back at a calendar year,  
 10 from that perspective it's not possible to, in actual  
 11 operations, use the results of the future look-back  
 12 calculation to inform past actions.  
 13 **Q. (BY ATTY. STRAUSS) So it's an accounting**  
 14 **mechanism?**  
 15 A. Yes. The WIJAM is a cost allocation  
 16 methodology that is functionally accounting.  
 17 **Q. So it does not allocate costs or benefits**  
 18 **12 months ahead of time?**  
 19 A. The WIJAM, in general rate cases, does  
 20 forecast costs and benefits ahead of time. In this  
 21 proceeding, which is a look-back true-up, it does not.  
 22 It depends, therefore, on the context in which the  
 23 WIJAM is used.  
 24 **Q. Now, do you agree that hedging is a practice**  
 25 **for protecting customers against energy price**

1 reliably serve load. But I would direct further  
 2 questions on that and those nuances to Company  
 3 Witness Fritz.  
 4 **Q. Just to be clear, though, something being a**  
 5 **risk does not guarantee that that risk will happen; it**  
 6 **just has a probability of happening; isn't that**  
 7 **correct?**  
 8 A. The textbook definition, yes. Risk being  
 9 related to probabilities, risks are not always ensured  
 10 to occur.  
 11 **Q. Okay. Do you agree that it is impossible to**  
 12 **hedge perfectly?**  
 13 A. I believe conceptually there is such a thing  
 14 as a perfect hedge, but I do not believe it's  
 15 applicable to the context of this proceeding. I would  
 16 direct you to Witness Fritz for a more nuanced  
 17 discussion on hedging.  
 18 **Q. But generally, hedging is done with imperfect**  
 19 **information because it is done prior to something**  
 20 **happening?**  
 21 A. The Company's hedging practices are done  
 22 based on forecasts of projected information that will  
 23 occur at the moment that power is delivered, yes.  
 24 **Q. But no one can see the future?**  
 25 A. No one that I am aware of can see the future,



1 correct.

2 **Q. Just making sure.**

3 **Now, the Company's current hedging, most of**  
 4 **these hedges are still made on the eastern power**  
 5 **market; isn't that correct?**

6 A. No. There is a distinction between our -- I  
 7 assume you mean, like, electricity purchased and sold  
 8 on the wholesale markets, and natural gas fuel which is  
 9 also hedged. And so in the broad context of your  
 10 question, that is incorrect.

11 **Q. Well, looking at power, the power hedges are**  
 12 **made on eastern market; isn't that correct?**

13 A. They are made on both sides of the system.  
 14 Hedges are conducted on both sides of the system for  
 15 power.

16 **Q. But they're not made at Mid-C; is that right?**

17 A. That is not right. They are made at Mid-C.

18 **Q. So in your rebuttal testimony, at page 3,**  
 19 **lines 18 to 19 -- I'll give you a minute to get there.**  
 20 **And this would be RJM-3CT.**

21 **You say that a price is similar to what it**  
 22 **would be if the Company physically hedged in**  
 23 **Washington; isn't that right?**

24 A. Yes.

25 **Q. However, the price to physically hedge for**

1 **Washington is not the price PacifiCorp is aiming to use**  
 2 **in the balancing adjustment when it hedged for**  
 3 **short-term prices; isn't that correct?**

4 A. Could you please restate your question?

5 **Q. So the price to physically hedge for**  
 6 **Washington is not the same price PacifiCorp was using**  
 7 **in the balancing adjustment when it hedged for**  
 8 **short-term prices.**

9 A. This counterfactual that you're describing,  
 10 where the Company would separately hedge for  
 11 Washington, the prices in the balancing adjustment,  
 12 which as you referred to, is an accounting methodology  
 13 to close an accounting supply/demand deficit.

14 Those prices are functionally similar to what  
 15 the Company would use, were it actually hedging for  
 16 Washington. They would not be identical because of the  
 17 nature of the analysis that I conducted being analysis  
 18 and effectively a forecast. But they are functionally  
 19 similar.

20 **Q. But, as you said, not the same?**

21 A. Not the same in the sense that I cannot  
 22 guarantee that my analysis will produce the exact same  
 23 results as if the Company went out and really did hedge  
 24 for Washington. But from the perspective of the  
 25 limited perspective of the analysis, they are the same.

1 **action taken by a utility, isn't that correct?**

2 A. Yes. Hedging, in the context of this  
 3 testimony -- and I would direct you to Witness Fritz  
 4 for further detail; so subject to check -- it is  
 5 future-looking, not backward-looking.

6 **Q. Thank you. In your rebuttal testimony,**  
 7 **again, RJM-3T at page 5, lines 8 through 9 -- I'll give**  
 8 **you a minute to get there. Page 5.**

9 A. I'm there.

10 **Q. You stated, "Staff's recommendation is to**  
 11 **completely expose Washington's open position to the**  
 12 **spot market." Is that what you said?**

13 A. Yes.

14 **Q. Does Staff's recommendation require**  
 15 **PacifiCorp to buy power from the spot market and**  
 16 **somehow deliver it to 2022-era customers?**

17 A. No.

18 **Q. Is Staff's adjustment instead -- Staff's**  
 19 **adjustment instead assigns a value to power that**  
 20 **PacifiCorp has already delivered to Washington**  
 21 **customers for resources not assigned to Washington;**  
 22 **isn't that right?**

23 A. It is -- it is correct that Staff's  
 24 methodology values the supply/demand deficit that we  
 25 have discussed, but not in the context of hedging. It

1 is the apposite -- or rather, the opposite. It is in  
2 the context of the spot market.

3 **Q. But Staff's adjustment is just assigning**  
4 **value to power that has already been delivered; isn't**  
5 **that right?**

6 A. Correct. Staff's adjustments assigns a  
7 monetary value to a ratemaking calculated supply/demand  
8 deficit.

9 **Q. And PacifiCorp WIJAM balancing adjustment**  
10 **does this exact same job of assigning a dollar value to**  
11 **power PacifiCorp already delivered to Washington**  
12 **customers from resources not allocated to Washington;**  
13 **isn't that correct?**

14 A. Not the exact same job, because we blend in  
15 the hedges and the spot market into the valuation;  
16 whereas Staff purely uses spot market prices in their  
17 valuation.

18 **Q. So if the Commission accepts Staff's**  
19 **recommendation and assigns the benefits of PacifiCorp's**  
20 **power hedges on a system basis for ratemaking purposes,**  
21 **Washington customers would not be completely exposed to**  
22 **the market in future years; isn't that correct?**

23 A. Exposure to the market for Washington  
24 customers, when it comes to actual service of load and  
25 delivery of power to customers, is the exposure that is

1 A. Currently, in the total system look,  
2 Washington customers are hedged, and they're allocated  
3 their load ratio share of that hedge, which is  
4 approximately 8 percent. But this is separate from our  
5 discussion here, which is the WIJAM cost allocation  
6 methodology.

7 When we value that supply/demand imbalance,  
8 that deficit, at the system average price, which  
9 includes the historical hedges and spot market  
10 transaction and so forth, Washington customers will  
11 gain additional hedges -- or rather, gain the benefit  
12 of hedge prices and spot market prices, incremental to  
13 the benefit that was gained when the total system was  
14 used to serve customers' load.

15 And therefore, Washington customers do  
16 benefit from the hedges that all jurisdictions benefit  
17 from, and then benefit more and also at a lower cost,  
18 as I mentioned in my testimony.

19 **Q. So I just want to be very clear: So for**  
20 **hedging, if hedging benefits are allocated on a system**  
21 **basis -- this is talking about hedges that have already**  
22 **been made, not any hedging that's applied or any**  
23 **allocations that are applied in the WIJAM -- and**  
24 **PacifiCorp is properly hedged in those future rate**  
25 **years, Washington customers should be adequately**

1 at the total system level and synchronous across all  
2 jurisdictions that the Company serves.

3 Exposure, or the term "exposure" as used in  
4 the WIJAM, is an accounting phenomenon where you have  
5 insufficient supply, and then that -- that amount of  
6 insufficiency is valued at a certain amount.

7 **Q. But in the context --**

8 A. That exposure is not precisely, as you  
9 describe it, market exposure.

10 **Q. But in the context of this proceeding, which**  
11 **just looks at 2022, which has already happened, if the**  
12 **Commission accepts Staff's recommendation, customers**  
13 **would not be completely exposed to the market, since we**  
14 **already know what has already happened.**

15 A. The entire purpose -- the entire valuation of  
16 this short position that we're at contention about is  
17 valuing at market prices. So however you value,  
18 whichever market price you use, whether it be hedge  
19 market prices or spot market prices, there will be a  
20 valuation at market prices. So, not correct.

21 **Q. So if the Commission in the future -- or the**  
22 **if the Commission now assigns hedging benefits on the**  
23 **system basis and PacifiCorp has properly hedged those**  
24 **in future years, Washington customers would be**  
25 **adequately protected from market swings, correct?**

1 **protected from any market swings; isn't that correct?**

2 A. If I understand your meaning of the phrase  
3 "adequately protected from market swings," and if I  
4 understand that you're speaking from the perspective of  
5 total system load service, of which Washington is a  
6 part of, and not referring to the WIJAM cost allocation  
7 methodology, then it is true that Washington load is  
8 hedged as the other five jurisdictions are, and then  
9 hedged again in the WIJAM.

10 **Q. I want to turn a little bit to Hermiston and**  
11 **Chehalis. In your testimony, you take issue with**  
12 **Staff's recommendation to use PacifiCorp's Chehalis and**  
13 **Hermiston plants for the WIJAM balancing adjustment;**  
14 **isn't that correct?**

15 A. Could you point me to the section of my  
16 testimony that you're referring to, please?

17 **Q. It's page 7. And it's, I believe, your**  
18 **discussion on the third recommendation, starting at**  
19 **line 6.**

20 A. Could you please repeat your question?

21 **Q. Yes. You take issue with Staff's**  
22 **recommendation to use PacifiCorp's Chehalis and**  
23 **Hermiston plants for the WIJAM balancing adjustment?**

24 A. No. The Hermiston and Chehalis plants are  
25 currently used in Washington's -- in the WIJAM. But if

1 you're referring to Staff's proposal to use the  
 2 balancing adjustment and to tweak the after-the-fact  
 3 dispatch of Chehalis and Hermiston, then yes, that's  
 4 what I have objection to.

5 **Q. But again, PacifiCorp will not be dispatching**  
 6 **either for the purposes of the balancing adjustment,**  
 7 **because it can't now dispatch for 2022; isn't that**  
 8 **correct?**

9 A. Correct. 2022 has passed. We cannot  
 10 dispatch anything in 2022.

11 **Q. Thank you. So turning to your rebuttal**  
 12 **testimony, RJM-3T, page 7, lines 17 to 20.**

13 **You note that the entire WEIM, W-E-I-M,**  
 14 **footprint is dispatched as one entity; isn't that**  
 15 **correct?**

16 **Let me know if you need that --**

17 A. Yes, that's correct.

18 **Q. Thank you. And that dispatch is based on**  
 19 **generator bids that have conditions, such as natural**  
 20 **gas nominating instructions and regulation**  
 21 **instructions, correct?**

22 A. No. The bids themselves are for fuel cost,  
 23 except when they embody fuel cost restrictions. But  
 24 reliability is -- does not play a factor into the  
 25 bids -- the fuel prices submitted to the EIM, the fuel

1 costs.

2 But the gas nomination restrictions that you  
 3 mention can play a factor, because of the nature of how  
 4 gas is procured on a separate timeline, as compared to  
 5 the timelines of how the plants are dispatched.

6 **Q. But PacifiCorp is the entity that provides**  
 7 **the nominating and regulating instructions for those**  
 8 **plants; isn't that correct?**

9 A. This statement is correct, but the nuance is  
 10 that they are different timelines involved. A  
 11 day-ahead basis, gas is procured in the day the plant  
 12 is dispatched based on forecasts when the gas is  
 13 procured. If the forecasts change, fuel increases, for  
 14 example, and you need more gas, there is no intraday  
 15 gas market to find gas.

16 ATTY. STRAUSS: All right. That is all  
 17 the questions we have. Thank you.

18 JUDGE BROWN: I'm sorry. Is there any  
 19 redirect?

20 ATTY. LONEY: Your Honor, I do have a  
 21 few redirect questions, but I was presuming I would  
 22 wait until the conclusion of all the cross-examination.

23 JUDGE BROWN: Okay. Public Counsel, you  
 24 indicated that you had cross as well?

25 ATTY. O'NEILL: Yes, your Honor.

1 JUDGE BROWN: You may proceed.

2 ATTY. O'NEILL: Let me get my camera  
 3 turned on first.

4

5 CROSS-EXAMINATION

6 BY ATTY. O'NEILL:

7 **Q. Good morning, Mr. Mitchell.**

8 A. Good morning.

9 **Q. Do you have your initial testimony with you**  
 10 **as well?**

11 A. Yes, I do.

12 **Q. Can you turn to page 5 of your initial**  
 13 **testimony?**

14 A. I am there.

15 **Q. I just want to confirm that, in fact,**  
 16 **PacifiCorp does not hedge separately for Washington and**  
 17 **that there are no separate hedge books for Washington**  
 18 **maintained by PacifiCorp.**

19 A. Correct.

20 **Q. PacifiCorp generates, in terms of forecast**  
 21 **for hedging, daily position reports; is that correct?**

22 A. Yes.

23 **Q. And those position reports are based off of**  
 24 **the system or off of the balancing area?**

25 A. Yes.

1 **Q. Both?**

2 A. It depends on which product you're hedging,  
 3 and I would have to refer you to Company Witness Fritz  
 4 for details on the Company's hedging policy.

5 **Q. But there is no daily position report created**  
 6 **for Washington specifically?**

7 A. No.

8 **Q. The WIJAM does not refer -- the agreement**  
 9 **signed by PacifiCorp does not refer to the allocation**  
 10 **of hedges, does it?**

11 A. Not explicitly. But it is inferred -- based  
 12 on certain languages, subject to check -- the use of  
 13 system transmission and the allocation of costs and  
 14 benefits related to that transmission would pick up  
 15 hedges indirectly.

16 **Q. Okay. So you understand the WIJAM to address**  
 17 **hedging or the allocation of hedging as a cost or**  
 18 **benefit of the cost/benefit allocation in WIJAM? Is**  
 19 **that what your testimony is?**

20 A. No. I simply stated that it is not  
 21 explicitly stated in the WIJAM what you referred to,  
 22 but it is implicit in the language that structures how  
 23 costs are allocated to Washington, as a matter of  
 24 logic.

25 **Q. Okay. It's also true that the WIJAM does not**

1 require that the Commission deem the allocation  
2 prudent, but reserves the right of the parties to  
3 challenge that prudence, correct?

4 A. Correct. The Commission is free to deem  
5 prudence as it sees fit.

6 Q. Can we turn to page 10 of your testimony,  
7 lines 1 through 13, is where I have a question.

8 A. I'm there.

9 Q. The "YCA" you refer to here is -- I don't  
10 know what that acronym is. Washington Cost Adjustment,  
11 I think; is that right?

12 A. "WCA," I assume you're referring to.

13 Q. Correct.

14 A. The acronym is the "Western Control Area,"  
15 subject to check. But it is the cost allocation  
16 methodology that preceded the WIJAM.

17 Q. And that was adopted in 2006, correct?

18 A. I do not recall when it was adopted.

19 Q. And the WIJAM was adopted in 2020?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Under both the WCA and under the WIJAM,  
22 Washington has a higher market exposure for ratemaking  
23 purposes; is that correct?

24 A. That is correct.

25 Q. In your testimony, you did not quantify that

1 direct testimony, did you identify the amount of  
2 megawatt hours Washington was deemed short through  
3 WIJAM?

4 A. The ratemaking construct, yes, my testimony  
5 through that analysis where I demonstrated the WIJAM  
6 hedge is cheaper than were we to purchase in the real  
7 markets. The exposure that you mention is quantified.

8 Q. And to break this down, there's two elements  
9 to the price. There's the amount that has to be  
10 covered, correct?

11 A. That's not an element of the price, not  
12 correct.

13 Q. I'm sorry, of the ultimate -- I mean, it's  
14 going to be the amount times the price. That's the way  
15 you're going to end up with the WIJAM allocation?

16 A. Megawatt hour multiplied by  
17 dollar-per-megawatt-hour dollars, yes.

18 Q. And you said you quantified it in your  
19 testimony. Do you know where you did?

20 A. Yes. It was in my --  
21 (Technical interruption.)

22 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. Could  
23 the witness back off from the microphone just a little  
24 bit? We're breaking up the sound a little bit. So if  
25 you back up and speak up, it'll help. Thank you.

1 market exposure in Washington over time; is that  
2 correct?

3 A. No. I quantified it for 2022.

4 Q. What was the market exposure that Washington  
5 had in 2022, per WIJAM?

6 A. The market exposure that we're referring to,  
7 first, it's important to note, is a ratemaking  
8 allocation, cost allocation outcome, not a market  
9 exposure in actual operations. That market exposure, I  
10 provided analysis on to show that the way that it is  
11 hedged for in the WIJAM would be cheaper -- is cheaper  
12 than if the Company went out into the real market and  
13 bought physical energy for Washington. That was my  
14 analysis, which quantified the rate-making construct of  
15 the market exposure in the WIJAM.

16 Q. Do you have any reason to -- you provided no  
17 alternative calculations to Mr. Mullins's calculation  
18 that in 2022 Washington was net short by 939,085  
19 megawatt hours; is that correct?

20 A. My testimony here is direct testimony.  
21 Mr. Mullins's testimony was response testimony. The  
22 Company's direct testimony, Company Witness Staples  
23 then rebutted Witness Mullins's testimony; so I direct  
24 your questions to Witness Staples.

25 Q. Do you know what the -- I mean, in your

1 RAMON MITCHELL: I will try.

2 ATTY. O'NEILL: I think you have to stay  
3 in exactly the Goldilocks zone or you'll get in  
4 trouble.

5 Q. (BY ATTY. O'NEILL) It is accurate that in  
6 2022, Washington was allocated approximately 25 percent  
7 less in resources than in load, correct, under the  
8 WIJAM?

9 A. While I did calculate the megawatt hour  
10 amount, I didn't calculate the percentage; so I'm  
11 unable to verify the accuracy of your number.

12 Q. And your testimony is, in essence, that WIJAM  
13 fills that short position with a blend of spot market  
14 purchases; sales price, to the extent that there were  
15 sales allocated to Washington; and then the hedge  
16 market price that you've calculated?

17 A. Yes. It values the open position at those --  
18 with those prices.

19 Q. Now, you did not -- did you calculate how  
20 much more Washington consumers would pay in 2022 than  
21 the other jurisdictions in PacifiCorp?

22 A. Could you restate that question, please?

23 Q. Right. If the Commission were to approve  
24 this PCAM as requested by PacifiCorp, how much more per  
25 megawatt hour would Washington consumers pay than the

1 **other jurisdictions in Washington or in the PacifiCorp**  
 2 **area?**

3 A. Company Witness Wilding testifies to the  
 4 rates that Washington customers face compared to other  
 5 utilities in the region, the per-megawatt-hour or  
 6 per-energy-usage costs.

7 **Q. Okay. You don't know, though, as you sit**  
 8 **here today?**

9 A. I recall Company Witness Wilding's testimony  
 10 shows that PacifiCorp's costs are currently either  
 11 comparable or cheaper to similarly situated utilities  
 12 in Washington.

13 **Q. We can get into Mr. Wilding's testimony, I'm**  
 14 **just questioning you: Do you know, as you sit here**  
 15 **today, how much more Washington consumers would pay**  
 16 **than other jurisdictions in PacifiCorp's basin if this**  
 17 **is approved?**

18 A. I believe for certain comparisons, they would  
 19 be less. PacifiCorp's customers in Washington would  
 20 pay less than other utilities.

21 **Q. I think we're confused as to who's paying.**  
 22 **The comparison that Mr. Wilding did was between**  
 23 **PacifiCorp and other Washington utilities for**  
 24 **Washington consumers.**

25 I'm asking you if you know how much more

1 of a long position and a short position. As you sit  
 2 here today, looking, for examples, one year into the  
 3 future, and you're planning to serve load, it's not a  
 4 real, physical long or short position. It's more that  
 5 you are forecasting how to meet load requirements when  
 6 they arrive, and you determine how much more or less  
 7 energy you need.

8 That concept of being long or short is  
 9 different from now here in 2024, we're looking back at  
 10 2022. Since there were no blackouts, as Staff's  
 11 Counsel mentioned, the Company was neither long nor  
 12 short. It delivered power.

13 **Q. Okay. Can you turn now to your rebuttal**  
 14 **testimony? This is RJM-3T, page 14.**

15 A. I am there.

16 **Q. If you look at lines 15 through 18, you**  
 17 **testify that "AWEC refers to the increase in Washington**  
 18 **NPC" -- and I think "NPC" means net power costs?**

19 A. Yes.

20 **Q. -- "as compared to the increase in the**  
 21 **total-Company NPC. This difference in increases is**  
 22 **related to the WIJAM's market exposure through its open**  
 23 **position." Did I read that correctly?**

24 A. Yes.

25 **Q. Okay. I take it, then, that you agree with**

1 **Washington consumers will pay, per megawatt hour, than**  
 2 **consumers in Utah or in Wyoming or in Oregon or in**  
 3 **California. Do you know?**

4 A. That is a question that deals with costs of  
 5 service and ratemaking for the final bill that hits the  
 6 customer. I've not performed an analysis on the  
 7 holistic cents-per-kilowatt-hour and the various  
 8 charges on the customer bills.

9 **Q. If Washington has, under the WIJAM**  
 10 **allocation, a higher market exposure, meaning that it's**  
 11 **going to have to pay a market price, some blend of**  
 12 **market price, but the overall system is long for**  
 13 **PacifiCorp, doesn't that mean that other parts of your**  
 14 **system are paying less than other Washington customers?**

15 A. Your assumption in the question that the  
 16 overall system is long is not factual. When power is  
 17 delivered to customers, supply and demand is always  
 18 balanced. There cannot be a long or a short position,  
 19 because absent the prevalence of batteries, energy  
 20 isn't stored. So it's -- it remains in balance  
 21 throughout time, subject to certain small variations.

22 **Q. In hedging, sometimes you can refer to a long**  
 23 **position as one in which you either back resources or**  
 24 **you sell, correct?**

25 A. In the concept of hedging, there is this idea

1 **AWEC that Washington's NPC costs for 2022 increased**  
 2 **proportionately more than the total-Company NPC; is**  
 3 **that correct?**

4 A. Could you please define what you mean by  
 5 "increased proportionally more"?

6 **Q. Well, AWEC compares the increase**  
 7 **percentage-wise in Washington NPC versus the percentage**  
 8 **increase in the NPC for the system, correct?**

9 A. I believe that Company -- rather, AWEC  
 10 Witness Mullins did categorize and quantify those  
 11 numbers; though to the veracity of those numbers, I  
 12 cannot comment. I direct you to Witness Staples.

13 **Q. Okay. You didn't provide an alternate**  
 14 **calculation, you didn't look at his math, you didn't**  
 15 **determine whether or not his proportionate analysis is**  
 16 **correct?**

17 A. I filed direct testimony; and then in my  
 18 rebuttal testimony, I limited it to defense of parties'  
 19 response to my direct. Company Witness Staples then  
 20 rebutted AWEC Witness Mullins. I would refer you to  
 21 Company Witness Staples for discussion on AWEC's  
 22 analyses.

23 **Q. Okay. Do you know whether the size of the**  
 24 **proportionate increase is a result of the size of**  
 25 **Washington's market exposure?**

1 **In other words, that if Washington were**  
 2 **allocated shorter in the WIJAM, that market exposure**  
 3 **would increase? And here I'm talking about the**  
 4 **proportionate increase in NPC. Are they related?**

5 A. Yeah, so on a total system level, there is  
 6 net power costs. Each jurisdiction is cost allocated a  
 7 portion of those net power costs. And Washington,  
 8 through the WIJAM, when solely focusing on the net  
 9 power cost component of revenue requirement, has this  
 10 ratemaking exposure which can result in either  
 11 decreased or increased net power costs relative to  
 12 other jurisdictions based upon how many resources are  
 13 assigned to the state.

14 And so there can be fluctuations between the  
 15 other five jurisdictions and Washington, based on the  
 16 differences in cost allocation; whereas the other five  
 17 jurisdictions are typically on one cost allocation  
 18 methodology for simplistic purposes, and Washington is  
 19 on another cost allocation methodology.

20 **Q. Generally speaking, since this is still**  
 21 **market prices, if market prices are high, Washington is**  
 22 **going to pay more, correct?**

23 A. If market prices are high and we are focusing  
 24 solely on the WIJAM and this concept of the balancing  
 25 adjustment and closing an open position, then if market

1 resources and market prices.

2 **Q. And I'm really just trying to define what I**  
 3 **mean by "market exposure."**

4 **Can we agree that when I say, "market**  
 5 **exposure," through the balancing adjustment, that's**  
 6 **what we mean? Is that --**

7 A. Yes. Market exposure in the balancing  
 8 adjustment is market exposure in the balancing  
 9 adjustment.

10 **Q. And as long as that -- as long as Washington**  
 11 **is allocated less resources than its load through the**  
 12 **balancing adjustment, this dynamic is going to be**  
 13 **present. High market prices would equal high NPC?**

14 A. Yes. If there's less energy. Not less  
 15 resources, but it's the energy that comes from the  
 16 resources. If that energy is less than Washington's  
 17 load, and that position is closed with -- valued at  
 18 market prices, the higher the market prices, the higher  
 19 the valuation for that position. The lower the market  
 20 prices, the lower the valuation.

21 **Q. And for Washington to eliminate this high**  
 22 **exposure to market, we can either increase the**  
 23 **resources allocated to Washington, correct?**

24 A. Yes.

25 **Q. Or we can attempt to hedge for that**

1 prices are higher than prevailing average system  
 2 prices, which blends generation and other assets that  
 3 the Company uses to serve load, then in isolation,  
 4 Washington's net power cost component of revenue  
 5 requirement would go up.

6 But there are other components to the system  
 7 that offset and are relevant to the total cost of  
 8 service, which is what reflects on the customer's  
 9 bills. Net power cost is but one component of revenue  
 10 requirement.

11 **Q. Yes. And generally when -- if market prices**  
 12 **drop, then Washington consumers would expect to pay**  
 13 **less. I mean, this is a -- there's a direct**  
 14 **relationship between the market prices and how much**  
 15 **Washington's paying through the balancing adjustment,**  
 16 **correct?**

17 A. Only assuming that the system stays constant.  
 18 But as Witness Wilding testifies, we've been adding  
 19 renewables to the system that are allocated to  
 20 Washington on a 16 percent basis over time, and so the  
 21 dynamic is not perfectly applicable in this context.  
 22 In an isolated fashion, yes, but your counterfactual is  
 23 not encompassing the full dynamic nature of how we are  
 24 carrying more and more energy from renewables, and the  
 25 difference between those zero-dollar-per-megawatt-hour

1 **additional exposure beyond -- that's -- those are our**  
 2 **two options. Those are the only two solutions that we**  
 3 **have to being exposed to the market, correct?**

4 A. I would refer you to Company Witness Wilding  
 5 as to all the solutions. I am not completely familiar  
 6 with the multitude of possibilities.

7 But I would note that we are hedging for  
 8 Washington through this ratemaking allocation that is  
 9 the WIJAM currently, and so all that we are left with  
 10 now is the resources.

11 **Q. We've got two different kinds of hedging**  
 12 **there. You hedge the system total, you don't hedge**  
 13 **separately for Washington; and then you make an**  
 14 **accounting hedge by monkeying with the price assigned**  
 15 **to that short position.**

16 A. I wouldn't refer to it as "monkeying," but we  
 17 do an accounting adjustment where we take -- value that  
 18 open position at prices that include hedging. And when  
 19 it comes down to the dollars, dollars are dollars and  
 20 they're fungible whether they are coming from the  
 21 left-hand of the Company or the right-hand of the  
 22 Company. And they are dollars that customers realize.

23 **Q. So it's true, then, the Commission could**  
 24 **assign a lower price to that allocation and it wouldn't**  
 25 **affect PacifiCorp operations, it would just be an**

1 **accounting change?**  
 2 A. The Commission is certainly free to do as it  
 3 will, yes.  
 4 **Q. Can you turn to -- back to your initial**  
 5 **testimony at page 5, again? And I'm interested in your**  
 6 **answer, 16 through the end of 6-11.**  
 7 **This is a part where you talk about the**  
 8 **benefit of geographic diversity of the PacifiCorp**  
 9 **system.**  
 10 A. Yes, I am there.  
 11 **Q. Did you calculate, as part of your direct**  
 12 **testimony, how much power was transmitted from West to**  
 13 **East during 2022?**  
 14 A. No. And in fact, my hypothetical example  
 15 would apply for power transfer from east to west, where  
 16 Washington is located, or transferring in the opposite  
 17 direction. It doesn't serve --  
 18 **Q. Fair enough, I misspoke.**  
 19 **Did you calculate how much power was actually**  
 20 **transmitted from east to west during 2022?**  
 21 A. No. And it would be a calculation. It would  
 22 be an assembly of historical records, because those  
 23 numbers are factual and tracked.  
 24 **Q. Did you do that?**  
 25 A. I did not assemble the records in my

1 **September, which were one of the high-use events, did**  
 2 **you track how much power was transmitted from east to**  
 3 **west to meet that load?**  
 4 A. No. As I mentioned before, I did not  
 5 aggregate any records for amount of megawatts hours  
 6 transferred from east to west, amongst the 1,600  
 7 megawatts of transmission the Company has, to move  
 8 energy from east to west.  
 9 **Q. And I take it you have the same answer for**  
 10 **the December '22 winter cyclone?**  
 11 A. Correct.  
 12 **Q. If you turn to page 13 of your testimony --**  
 13 **initial testimony.**  
 14 A. I'm there.  
 15 **Q. At lines -- starting at line 23. You testify**  
 16 **that the "ratemaking [...] exposure has real NPC**  
 17 **implications for Washington customers. When market**  
 18 **prices are below the resource costs of the Company's**  
 19 **thermal generation in Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming,**  
 20 **Washington consumers may see a lower NPC than the rest**  
 21 **of the system. However, when market prices are above**  
 22 **the resource costs of the thermal generation in Utah,**  
 23 **Idaho, and Wyoming, Washington consumers may see a**  
 24 **higher net power cost than the rest of the system."**  
 25 **Did I read that correct?**

1 direct -- for the purposes of my direct testimony, no.  
 2 **Q. Did you in -- in your testimony, did you**  
 3 **identify which power -- or any power purchases that**  
 4 **PacifiCorp did not make in 2022 as a result of the**  
 5 **intrasystem transmission from east to west?**  
 6 A. That kind of counterfactual, to identify  
 7 power purchases that were not made because of the  
 8 existence of the current system, I believe, is  
 9 impossible. It's asking, what did the Company not do  
 10 that they could have done? And that opens up a  
 11 limitless amount of possibilities.  
 12 **Q. Well, I mean, you could have assumed that**  
 13 **that transmission didn't take place and it was filled**  
 14 **with the market, and done a calculation. You didn't do**  
 15 **that, though?**  
 16 A. I didn't impute the many multitudes of  
 17 alternative counterfactuals you describe, no.  
 18 **Q. Did you identify in your testimony the cost**  
 19 **to the Company -- the generation cost for that**  
 20 **electricity that was transferred from east to west?**  
 21 A. No. As I mentioned, I didn't track the  
 22 energy transfer from east to west; and neither,  
 23 therefore, did I track the generation that would have  
 24 underlaid that energy.  
 25 **Q. During the summer months of July, August, and**

1 A. Yes, you read that correctly.  
 2 **Q. And did you do a calculation of what the**  
 3 **Company's thermal generation costs in Utah, Idaho, and**  
 4 **Wyoming were in 2022?**  
 5 A. While I did not do that calculation for this  
 6 testimony, the data is there in my work papers.  
 7 **Q. And because you have a least-cost allocation,**  
 8 **and when you're paying a higher -- \$71.5 million more**  
 9 **in power costs than the 139 forecast, can we presume**  
 10 **that, in fact, the thermal generation costs in Utah,**  
 11 **Idaho, and Wyoming were lower than market -- I'm sorry,**  
 12 **yeah, lower than market?**  
 13 **Market prices were higher than the thermal**  
 14 **generation costs, correct?**  
 15 A. On average, yes.  
 16 **Q. Did you do a calculation of that? Did you**  
 17 **graph that over 2022?**  
 18 A. No. It's industry-standard knowledge of  
 19 market dynamics in 2022, which had extremely high  
 20 market prices; whereas at that time, fuel was  
 21 occasionally lower but sometimes higher for gas  
 22 resources, you know, December 2022 as an example.  
 23 **Q. How can the Commission determine whether or**  
 24 **not the allocation that you've made through this**  
 25 **proceeding in the PCAM is the least-cost option if you**

1 **don't provide us with what the thermal generation costs**  
 2 **were? I mean, you could have charged Washington a**  
 3 **thermal generation cost.**

4 A. These thermal generation units that are  
 5 referred to in Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming are coal and  
 6 gas resources, and that Washington does not subscribe  
 7 to, with the exception of Jim Bridger and Colstrip.

8 The Commission can certainly do what they  
 9 wish, but those resources, some of them being coal, for  
 10 example, I understand they're not desired in Washington  
 11 rates. So I didn't perform any calculation of how the  
 12 Washington customers would benefit from coal and extra  
 13 gas on the east side of the system.

14 **Q. Can you turn to your testimony on page 6?**

15 A. Is this the rebuttal?

16 **Q. No, no, same -- sorry, we're still on your**  
 17 **original testimony. Page 6, line 14.**

18 A. Page 6, line 14 of my rebuttal testimony?

19 **Q. Page 6, line 14, you answer -- this is your**  
 20 **answer where you describe one of the benefits of the**  
 21 **WIJAM is that it prevents competition between the**  
 22 **states for purchase, correct?**

23 A. Yes.

24 **Q. Did you quantify in your testimony -- I think**  
 25 **you actually already said this, that you didn't**

1 analyses and reports on the benefits of diversity  
 2 across the systems and how that is better for power  
 3 costs.

4 **Q. I understand that's what the literature says,**  
 5 **and I'm asking you, did you quantify that benefit?**

6 A. No.

7 **Q. So we don't know how to weigh it against the**  
 8 **\$71 million that PacifiCorp is asking for in this**  
 9 **proceeding?**

10 A. Your question implies I would have a  
 11 counterfactual for a situation in which, for example,  
 12 Washington was isolated and the Company served  
 13 Washington alone. But the calculation would perhaps be  
 14 meaningless, because you would have to make certain  
 15 assumptions. To break Washington apart from the rest  
 16 of the system would require so many assumptions that  
 17 the conclusion would be subjective at that point.

18 **Q. In the hypothetical you did propose of a**  
 19 **north and south system, if you look at the top of**  
 20 **page 7, lines 2 to 4, you write, "In this holistic**  
 21 **system, the load conditions across the two areas**  
 22 **(northern and southern) would average out and diminish**  
 23 **reliance on market purchases during the stressed peak**  
 24 **load conditions." Did I read that correctly?**

25 A. Yes.

1 **quantify how many market purchases were avoided in 2022**  
 2 **by the system transmission from east to west, correct?**

3 A. Correct. I didn't quantify that.

4 **Q. And it's true that even regardless of the**  
 5 **competition within PAC, there is competition with other**  
 6 **IOUs in Washington and municipal utilities, too, for**  
 7 **the purchase of electricity or gas, correct?**

8 A. PacifiCorp competes with utilities across the  
 9 western region or the western interconnection, not just  
 10 in Washington. But as our service system is so large,  
 11 we touch all utilities.

12 **Q. Did you make any attempt to quantify what the**  
 13 **result of the additional competition of the 8 percent**  
 14 **of your system that would have to purchase if we were**  
 15 **to hedge separately for Washington? Did you try to**  
 16 **quantify that disadvantage or advantage?**

17 A. No. There was no need. The knowledge that  
 18 diversity is beneficial for power costs is well  
 19 established in the literature and well established in  
 20 the industry. The Western Energy Imbalance Market is a  
 21 great example of how a diverse footprint lowers net  
 22 power costs for all participants within that diverse  
 23 footprint.

24 And Staff themselves, the Grid Strategies  
 25 company that the consultants come from, have extensive

1 **Q. And I presume that's what you allege happened**  
 2 **here, that you're balancing it -- or your use of east**  
 3 **and west balanced the load between the two systems; is**  
 4 **that right?**

5 A. It is implied. My hypothetical was a north  
 6 and south system, but it is applicable to the eastern  
 7 balancing area and the western balancing area. They  
 8 peak at different times. And so the total system  
 9 enjoys the diversity of -- in the summer, when the east  
 10 side is peaking but the west side not so much, energy  
 11 can be moved and vice versa. And those are load  
 12 diversity benefits.

13 **Q. But in the actual reality, to use your**  
 14 **analogy, one side, north or south -- I don't know which**  
 15 **you would allocate east/west here -- is paying more for**  
 16 **power costs every year, correct?**

17 A. No. The concept of this kind of system which  
 18 has two parts, one part peaking at a different  
 19 season -- combined, the prices average out to be less  
 20 than if one system alone was isolated and net power  
 21 costs were incurred for that one system. So regardless  
 22 of whether there's a north or a south, both have lower  
 23 prices as opposed to each in isolation.

24 And that's the concept of diversity and why  
 25 diversity lowers net power costs.



1 **Q. And I'm trying to understand if the benefit**  
 2 **of that outweighs the \$71 million that we have to pay**  
 3 **for 2022, in addition to the 139 already forecast?**

4 A. The \$71 million that you're referring to,  
 5 you're conflating with the benefits of diversity.  
 6 Calculating the benefits of diversity would not be an  
 7 apples-to-apples comparison with the PCAM deferral,  
 8 which is based on costs incurred for a multitude of  
 9 reasons, of which load diversity is just one piece.  
 10 And so not apples-to-apples comparison.

11 **Q. Money is fungible, you said earlier.**

12 A. Money is fungible, but the system operations,  
 13 they're not fungible in terms of load. Being served is  
 14 not fungible with, for example, wind generation being  
 15 curtailed or something of that sort, right?

16 **Q. That's system operations. But we're talking**  
 17 **an accounting exercise. And in an accounting exercise,**  
 18 **money is fungible.**

19 A. The PCAM deferral is not simply an accounting  
 20 exercise. There is this WIJAM balancing adjustment  
 21 that we refer to -- it contributed to the PCAM  
 22 deferral, but it is not the extent of the PCAM  
 23 deferral. The total system operations also drive the  
 24 PCAM deferral. And so from that perspective, the  
 25 concept of money being fungible, in an accounting

1 confidential information.

2 ATTY. O'NEILL: Oh, I'm sorry.

3 ATTY. LOWNEY: We need to go into a  
 4 closed session if we want to discuss the numeric values  
 5 that are reflected on this page.

6 ATTY. O'NEILL: I do, your Honor. I  
 7 apologize.

8 JUDGE BROWN: At this point, do we need  
 9 to go into a confidential session in order for you to  
 10 proceed?

11 ATTY. O'NEILL: I am going to ask about  
 12 the numbers.

13 JUDGE BROWN: Do we have those  
 14 identified who have actually signed a confidential  
 15 agreement at this point? Not just in here, but also  
 16 online, because we need a breakout room online as well.

17 ATTY. LOWNEY: We can review the names  
 18 that we see on participants' list.

19 JUDGE BROWN: Would you like to take  
 20 that time right now before we proceed any further?

21 ATTY. O'NEILL: Your Honor, we're at the  
 22 10:26 mark, and you had indicated your intent to take a  
 23 break. Maybe we could take a break and the parties  
 24 could confer.

25 JUDGE BROWN: Okay, why don't we do

1 construct, is not fully satisfied.

2 **Q. In fact, the balancing adjustment for the**  
 3 **PCAM in 2022 is \$83 million, correct?**

4 A. While I don't recall the exact number --

5 **Q. That was from your work papers. We can look**  
 6 **at those, I suppose.**

7 A. I don't recall the exact number, but it  
 8 sounds about close.

9 **Q. It's true that it would be possible to**  
 10 **allocate more hedges to Washington in that calculation**  
 11 **of the price that you use to fill the net short. You**  
 12 **could allocate more hedges into that so that it's less**  
 13 **spot market price?**

14 A. I would refer you to Company Witness Staples  
 15 who goes on in detail about allocation of hedges.

16 **Q. All right. Can you turn to your rebuttal**  
 17 **testimony, page 1 -- or page 3, I'm sorry. Page 3,**  
 18 **line 1.**

19 A. I'm there.

20 **Q. In this, you provide an example of January of**  
 21 **2022. And you indicate that, prior to the "accounting**  
 22 **adjustments, approximately 63 percent of the [...]**  
 23 **STF" -- which I think is "short-term firm" --**  
 24 **"purchases were hedges."**

25 ATTY. LOWNEY: Your Honor, this is

1 that? We'll take a break at this time and reconvene at  
 2 10:45.

3 ATTY. PEPPLER: Judge Brown, just a point  
 4 of -- I will note that when I have cross of  
 5 Mr. Staples, it will have confidential information as  
 6 well. I don't know if there's an easy way to do all  
 7 the confidential stuff together or -- maybe just  
 8 something to think about.

9 JUDGE BROWN: I think that that's how we  
 10 should proceed and make sure that once you're concluded  
 11 with your confidential line of questioning, then you'll  
 12 proceed with your confidential line of questioning. If  
 13 we need to circle back and then you can -- and then you  
 14 can ask questions that are not going to trigger any  
 15 confidentiality, then we'll proceed with your regular  
 16 line of questioning at that point.

17 But I think for the sake of economy, it  
 18 would make sense that we deal with all the  
 19 confidential -- testimony about confidential  
 20 information all at once.

21 I'm sorry, Mr. Kumar?

22 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Would you use  
 23 your microphone? I'm having a hard time hearing you.  
 24 Thank you.

25 ATTY. KUMAR: I think it's -- I think

1 it's likely that a significant portion of both the  
 2 cross-examination for Mr. Staples and Mr. Fritz would  
 3 likely occur in confidential session. So once we enter  
 4 confidential session, it may make sense to stay in  
 5 confidential session for the duration of those  
 6 witnesses. That's what I think the company would  
 7 propose, for the sake of --

8 ATTY. O'NEILL: Your Honor, that makes  
 9 sense to me. So if we go into confidential session --  
 10 this is my last set of questions for Mr. Mitchell. We  
 11 could do that in confidential and then go into  
 12 Mr. Fritz and -- I don't know which order you wanted to  
 13 do, Fritz --

14 JUDGE BROWN: Here's my suggestion,  
 15 then. Can the parties confer, come up with an order,  
 16 and then once we reconvene, we'll proceed based on  
 17 what's agreed upon among the parties? With regards to  
 18 witnesses presented. I'm sorry?

19 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: And we'll also  
 20 need to look at the -- have the parties look at the  
 21 participant list online and in the room and determine  
 22 what we need to do.

23 ATTY. O'NEILL: I think -- yeah, I mean,  
 24 I would -- the parties can work it out, your Honor. I  
 25 think that I would propose that we each look at our own

1 people and make sure that they've all signed.

2 CHAIR DANNER: If I may,  
 3 Public Counsel --

4 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, is that  
 5 Mr. Danner?

6 CHAIR DANNER: It is.

7 THE COURT REPORTER: Your microphone was  
 8 muted in the middle of your speaking.

9 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Can you hear  
 10 me now? I was just asking a question of Public  
 11 Counsel, if they have no further nonconfidential  
 12 questions.

13 ATTY. O'NEILL: I don't have any  
 14 nonconfidential questions for this witness, your Honor.

15 CHAIR DANNER: Okay.

16 ATTY. O'NEILL: I mean, I have other  
 17 nonconfidential questions for other witnesses.

18 CHAIR DANNER: Understood. Understood.

19 JUDGE BROWN: All right. Well, at this  
 20 point, we are off the record, and we will reconvene at  
 21 10:45.

22 (Break from 10:30 a.m. to 10:52 a.m.)

23 JUDGE BROWN: Okay. Now we're back on  
 24 the record. And at this time, I believe the Company  
 25 would like to read into the record with regard to

1 witnesses and confidential witnesses.

2 ATTY. LOWNEY: Yes. Thank you, your  
 3 Honor. The parties have conferred, and subject to  
 4 being corrected by folks if I misspeak, our proposal is  
 5 to have the hearing go into confidential session now,  
 6 and then we will handle all of the witnesses who will  
 7 be subject to confidential cross-examination at one  
 8 time.

9 Once those witnesses have concluded the  
 10 confidential session, then we can return to a public  
 11 session and cross-examine the witnesses who have public  
 12 testimony and are not expected to have confidential  
 13 testimony.

14 And so with that framework in mind, the  
 15 witnesses who would fall into the confidential session  
 16 would be the remainder of Witness Mitchell's testimony,  
 17 Witness Staples, and Witness Fritz for the Company; and  
 18 then Witness Mullins and Witness Wilson for AWEC and  
 19 Staff will be cross-examined by the Company. And then  
 20 the nonconfidential public session would pick up with  
 21 Mr. Painter and Wilding.

22 And then Witness Yeomans and Witness  
 23 Earle for Staff and Public Counsel were not designated  
 24 for cross-examination, but to the extent the Commission  
 25 or the judge has questions for them, they could be

1 addressed either in that public session; or if you know  
 2 you have questions and you know those questions are  
 3 going to be confidential, we could probably just put  
 4 them in at the end of the confidential session.

5 JUDGE BROWN: Also, to clarify while  
 6 we're on that topic, I just want to confirm that the  
 7 witnesses such as AWEC Witness Mullins as well as  
 8 Public Counsel Earle and Staff Witness Wilson will be  
 9 available for cross or potential bench questions as  
 10 well. Is that the understanding?

11 ATTY. LOWNEY: That's correct. The  
 12 Company has a designated cross-examination for Witness  
 13 Mullins and Witness Wilson.

14 JUDGE BROWN: Okay.

15 ATTY. LOWNEY: But that is the extent of  
 16 our cross-examination today.

17 JUDGE BROWN: All right. I just wanted  
 18 to ensure that those witnesses were also available for  
 19 further questioning if necessary from the bench. But  
 20 thank you, I appreciate it.

21 Whenever you're ready, Mr. O'Neill.

22 ATTY. O'NEILL: I think we need to go  
 23 into confidential session.

24 (The following portion is marked confidential.)  
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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 102</p> <p>1 [--- CONFIDENTIAL 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 CONFIDENTIAL ---]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 104</p> <p>1 [--- CONFIDENTIAL 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 CONFIDENTIAL ---]</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 106</p> <p>1 [--- CONFIDENTIAL 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 CONFIDENTIAL ---]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 108</p> <p>1 [--- CONFIDENTIAL 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 CONFIDENTIAL ---]</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 122</p> <p>1 [--- CONFIDENTIAL 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 CONFIDENTIAL ---]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 124</p> <p>1 [--- CONFIDENTIAL 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 CONFIDENTIAL ---]</p>



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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 146</p> <p>1 [--- CONFIDENTIAL 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 CONFIDENTIAL ---]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 148</p> <p>1 [--- CONFIDENTIAL 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 CONFIDENTIAL ---]</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 158</p> <p>1 [--- CONFIDENTIAL 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 CONFIDENTIAL ---]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 160</p> <p>1 [--- CONFIDENTIAL 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 CONFIDENTIAL ---]</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 161</p> <p>1 [--- CONFIDENTIAL 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 CONFIDENTIAL ---]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 163</p> <p>1 [--- CONFIDENTIAL 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 CONFIDENTIAL ---]</p>
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 3 (Here ends the preceding confidential section.)  
 4 (Break from 2:39 p.m. to 2:52 p.m.)  
 5 JUDGE THOMPSON: Continue with the  
 6 Company's next witness, I believe, Witness Wilding?  
 7 Mr. Painter? Okay, Mr. Painter. Are you ready?  
 8 JACK PAINTER: I am.  
 9 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you. If  
 10 you'd please raise your right hand.  
 11  
 12 JACK PAINTER, witness herein, having been  
 13 first duly sworn on oath,  
 14 was examined and testified  
 15 as follows:  
 16  
 17 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you.  
 18 And Staff, do you have any  
 19 cross-examination for Mr. Painter? Public Counsel?  
 20 ATTY. O'NEILL: Yes, your Honor. I have  
 21 a few questions.  
 22  
 23 CROSS-EXAMINATION  
 24 BY ATTY. O'NEILL:  
 25 Q. Good morning, Mr. Painter.

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1 A. Hello.  
 2 Q. Do you have your direct testimony with you?  
 3 A. I do.  
 4 Q. Could you turn to page 14 of that direct  
 5 testimony?  
 6 A. Okay.  
 7 Q. The question was directed to you to answer a  
 8 change -- "explain the changes in the purchased power  
 9 expense." And you indicate that the "Purchased power  
 10 expense increased primarily due to higher market  
 11 purchases." Did I read that correctly?  
 12 A. That is one of the primary reasons, yes.  
 13 Q. On line 10 to 12 of that page, you indicate  
 14 that actual market purchases were approximately 90  
 15 gigawatts -- 90 gigawatt hours or 8 percent lower than  
 16 the base NPC, but "the average price of the actual  
 17 market transactions was \$48.67/MWh, or 97 percent  
 18 higher than the base NPC."  
 19 A. That is correct.  
 20 Q. If Washington -- or if the actual purchases  
 21 were 8 percent below forecast, does that mean that your  
 22 forecasts for -- your forecasts were -- you were  
 23 under-forecasted overall for your system?  
 24 A. That would not indicate that we were  
 25 under-forecast for the system, because of the WIJAM



1 allocation model. Through that process, the megawatt  
 2 hours for purchased power were 8 percent under what we  
 3 had forecasted through WIJAM.

4 **Q. Okay. You indicate that the price spikes --**  
 5 **well, it's primarily the prices that were driving the**  
 6 **increase in NPC, though, not the increased usage?**

7 A. Well, for -- looking at the testimony that we  
 8 were just looking at, actual market purchases were  
 9 lower. But it's the increased --

10 **Q. The price?**

11 A. -- price, along with those weather events I  
 12 also discuss in this section.

13 **Q. In the July and September heat waves that you**  
 14 **describe as causing 16.4 million of costs, were those**  
 15 **July and September -- July through September heat waves**  
 16 **limited to the Washington territory, or was it across**  
 17 **PacifiCorp's system?**

18 **ATTY. O'NEILL: Hold on. Let me see,**  
 19 **I'll find it.**

20 BRADLEY MULLINS: If you could --

21 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, was  
 22 there an instruction there? I didn't hear anything.

23 JUDGE THOMPSON: There was no objection,  
 24 just a question of clarification. And if you could  
 25 please speak into the microphone, I would appreciate

1 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you. Any  
 2 redirect?

3 ATTY. LOWNEY: No, your Honor.

4 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you. Any  
 5 questions from the bench?

6 Okay. You may step down. Thank you.  
 7 And at this time, would the Company like  
 8 to call its next witness?

9 ATTY. LOWNEY: Yes. We'd like to call  
 10 Mr. Wilding.

11 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you.

12 Are you ready, Mr. Wilding?

13 MICHAEL WILDING: Yes.

14 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay. If you could  
 15 please raise your right hand, I'll swear you in.

17 MICHAEL G. WILDING, witness herein, having been  
 18 first duly sworn on oath,  
 19 was examined and testified  
 20 as follows:

22 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you. Staff, do  
 23 you have any cross-examination for this witness?

24 ATTY. STRAUSS: No, your Honor.

25 JUDGE BROWN: Thank you. Public

1 it.

2 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

3 **Q. (BY ATTY. O'NEILL) If you turn to page 12,**  
 4 **line 10, you'll see the number 16.4 for that heatwave.**

5 A. Correct. And yeah, and my testimony on  
 6 line 7, across the company's service territories, from  
 7 memory, in looking at that, the west was the most  
 8 impacted. But we also experienced on the east side of  
 9 the system also.

10 **Q. Did you -- or were you to able to calculate**  
 11 **what benefits the Washington consumers had from being**  
 12 **part of an interconnected system? In other words, did**  
 13 **you calculate how much transmission from east to west**  
 14 **occurred during that heatwave?**

15 A. I did not, no.

16 **Q. And I have the same question for the**  
 17 **December 2022 cyclone, which you calculated as having**  
 18 **34.6 million -- 34.6 million in impact.**

19 A. Right. I did not calculate any transmission  
 20 from one side to the other.

21 ATTY. O'NEILL: That's all the questions  
 22 I have. Thank you.

23 JUDGE THOMPSON: AWEC, do you have any  
 24 cross-examination for this witnesses?

25 ATTY. PEPPE: No, your Honor.

1 Counsel?

3 CROSS-EXAMINATION

4 BY ATTY. O'NEILL:

5 **Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Wilding.**

6 A. Good afternoon.

7 **Q. You've been with the company since 2014; is**  
 8 **that correct?**

9 A. That's correct.

10 **Q. Are you aware of the history -- well, let's**  
 11 **turn to a specific part of your testimony. If you look**  
 12 **at page 3, starting at line 4.**

13 A. Okay.

14 **Q. Here you reference the 1988 decision**  
 15 **approving the merger of PacifiCorp and Utah Power and**  
 16 **Light Company. And you cite to that 1988 finding that**  
 17 **the benefits of the merger "were uncontradicted."**

18 A. That's right.

19 **Q. Are you aware that the next sentence after**  
 20 **the word "uncontradicted" is that the Commission's**  
 21 **concern was that Washington ratepayers receive an**  
 22 **equitable share of benefits?**

23 A. That seems correct.

24 **Q. You agree that that's the standard that is**  
 25 **applied by the Washington Commission when evaluating**

1 **proposals before it?**  
 2 A. I believe that the Commission approves rates  
 3 that are just and reasonable, and that is their  
 4 position and their obligation.  
 5 **Q. In the acknowledgment of the 2011 IRP, the**  
 6 **Commission cautioned PacifiCorp to have an active risk**  
 7 **management program that's vigilant to changes in the**  
 8 **actual market conditions. Are you aware of that?**  
 9 A. I am.  
 10 **Q. And would you agree that that should be a**  
 11 **governing principle for the Company?**  
 12 A. Yes. It is. And we do have a very diverse  
 13 and nimble risk management policy. And I think that's  
 14 evidenced by the fact that when we did see market  
 15 conditions changing and we saw resource adequacy need  
 16 and resource scarcity kind of come to fruition in the  
 17 western interconnect, we did change our risk management  
 18 policy to address that growing concern and that, you  
 19 know, growing risk of having sufficient energy supply  
 20 to reliably serve our customers.  
 21 And that's why we did have that risk  
 22 management change -- that change to our risk management  
 23 policy that Mr. Fritz talked about. And, you know, we  
 24 continue to evaluate our risk management policy on an  
 25 ongoing basis and make changes as necessary so that we

1 the Washington Commission Staff, Public Counsel, and  
 2 AWEC to come up with and collaboratively develop the  
 3 WIJAM cost allocation methodology.  
 4 And that cost allocation methodology did make  
 5 it so that a significant amount of resources that were  
 6 not previously allocated to Washington would be  
 7 allocated to Washington, providing a path for  
 8 compliance with its energy goals, specifically the  
 9 Energy Vision 2020 resources. And it also made it so  
 10 that they could comply with the "no coal in rates"  
 11 mandate that is also in Washington law, where they do  
 12 not participate in any of the thermals in our east side  
 13 and/or -- you know, and also would remove the Jim  
 14 Bridger coal facilities from rates by that time-certain  
 15 period.  
 16 And so I disagree that we made the system  
 17 significantly short. This was a collaborate effort,  
 18 and was approved by the Commission as part of that rate  
 19 case in 2020. Or I may have my year wrong, but as part  
 20 of that rate case where that WIJAM methodology was  
 21 approved by the Commission. And so -- and to say that  
 22 we made the system significantly short, I disagree with  
 23 that.  
 24 **Q. I think -- and if I misspoke, I didn't mean**  
 25 **to misspeak. You were aware, in April of 2021, that**

1 can continue to address the risks as they change and  
 2 evolve in the market.  
 3 **Q. Did you participate in the creation of the**  
 4 **new policy, the hedging policy in April of 2021?**  
 5 A. I did.  
 6 **Q. In that formulation of that policy, did you**  
 7 **calculate what the impacts of that new hedging policy**  
 8 **would be on Washington consumers through the WIJAM**  
 9 **analysis -- I mean, through the exposure in WIJAM?**  
 10 A. What do you mean by "the impact to Washington  
 11 customers"?  
 12 **Q. Well, in the 2017 IRP, PacifiCorp increased**  
 13 **the market exposure for Washington from 843 megawatts**  
 14 **to 1,128 megawatts.**  
 15 A. Can you point me to that or show me -- give  
 16 me a source for that?  
 17 **Q. That's in the 2017 IRP letter. But I'll ask**  
 18 **you to assume that. I mean, you're aware that**  
 19 **PacifiCorp increased Washington's exposure in 2017?**  
 20 A. No. I would have to see the source document.  
 21 **Q. Fair. Fair. It's true that you knew, in**  
 22 **April of 2021, that Washington was going to be**  
 23 **significantly short in its WIJAM allocation, correct?**  
 24 A. In April of 2021, we did have, we had gone  
 25 through extensive negotiations and collaboration with

1 **Washington was going to be significantly short through**  
 2 **the WIJAM balancing adjustment? You knew that**  
 3 **Washington was going to be short?**  
 4 A. I knew that it would not participate in the  
 5 entire fleet -- generation fleet of our system; and  
 6 therefore would have a cost allocation methodology  
 7 shortfall that would be remedied and would be filled  
 8 with a market purchase and allocation of market  
 9 purchases.  
 10 **Q. And did you do an analysis in April of 2021**  
 11 **about whether the hedging policy ought to be adjusted**  
 12 **to address Washington's short allocation in the --**  
 13 **through the WIJAM?**  
 14 A. No, because it was unnecessary. And what  
 15 I -- because as I just testified to, and when Mr. Fritz  
 16 and I, you know, worked together on this and with the  
 17 rest of the team and we identified that risk in the  
 18 market of, you know, increased scarcity or, you know,  
 19 less supply available, and really addressing that  
 20 resource adequacy risk and that reliability risk that  
 21 we were facing, that's where we came up with the  
 22 metrics that we would fill that short position on a  
 23 forward basis up to 75 percent -- or a minimum of  
 24 75 percent leading into that prompt quarter, that next  
 25 full quarter.

1 And so therefore, whether the system or a  
 2 single state is short, the policy is the same. We're  
 3 still trying to fill that short. So if we were to do  
 4 something different, as being implied, for the state of  
 5 Washington, the impact of that would be to potentially  
 6 increase cost and over-procure resources, specifically  
 7 market purchases.

8 ATTY. LOWNEY: Your Honor, at this point  
 9 I would just like to remind the witness that we are in  
 10 public session, to the extent that he's referring to  
 11 specific numbers, those might be confidential,  
 12 Mr. Wilding.

13 MICHAEL WILDING: Yeah. Thank you for  
 14 the reminder.

15 **Q. (BY ATTY. O'NEILL) You indicated that Pac has**  
 16 **added renewable resources to its system since 2020; is**  
 17 **that correct?**

18 A. Absolutely.

19 **Q. You added the Energy Vision Project; is that**  
 20 **correct?**

21 A. Yeah, absolutely. 1,150 megawatts of new  
 22 wind.

23 **Q. Where is that located?**

24 A. It's located in eastern Wyoming.

25 **Q. And that's in the eastern control area?**

1 A. Wyoming.

2 **Q. In Pac-East?**

3 A. That's correct.

4 **Q. There's also the Gateway South and West**  
 5 **Transmission Projects and the Foot Creek II through IV**  
 6 **projects.**

7 A. That's right.

8 **Q. And are those transmission projects or are**  
 9 **they added actual capacity?**

10 A. Foot Creek II through IV is wind capacity,  
 11 and then the Gateway South and Gateway West are  
 12 transmission.

13 **Q. And where are those located?**

14 A. Wyoming and Pac-East -- PACE.

15 **Q. Pac-East.**

16 A. And then I would add that we are also, you  
 17 know, in 2024, in total, with all of the PPAs that we  
 18 are adding as well plus the projects that you  
 19 mentioned, we're going to add about 1,150 megawatts of  
 20 wind. So essentially another Energy Vision 2020  
 21 project.

22 In 2025, 400 megawatts of wind. In 2026,  
 23 we're adding 400 megawatts of solar and battery. And  
 24 also in 2026, we're in advanced negotiations to add  
 25 750 megawatts of standalone battery as well.

1 A. That's in the PacifiCorp East balancing area  
 2 authority -- balancing authority area, sorry.

3 **Q. There's -- you added a Rock Creek Project?**

4 A. That will be coming online, but it is  
 5 currently under construction.

6 **Q. Is that a new project?**

7 A. That is a new project.

8 **Q. And where is that located?**

9 A. Also in Wyoming.

10 **Q. And that's on the east control area of**  
 11 **PacifiCorp?**

12 A. The east control area -- I'm not sure what  
 13 you mean by that. That is a -- perhaps an old term  
 14 that was used in the WCA cost allocation methodology.  
 15 But it is in the PacifiCorp East balancing authority  
 16 area.

17 **Q. Okay. PACE versus PACW?**

18 A. Yeah.

19 **Q. All right. It's in PACE?**

20 A. We say "pace."

21 **Q. The Rock River I and II projects -- were**  
 22 **those -- is that new generation or is that just**  
 23 **transmission -- increased transmission capacity?**

24 A. That's also wind generation.

25 **Q. Okay. And where are those?**

1 All of this, regardless of the location, this  
 2 is kind of the significant benefit that PacifiCorp  
 3 brings to Washington customers, that these assets are  
 4 physically -- a lot of them are physically allocated --  
 5 or, excuse me, physically located in PacifiCorp East  
 6 and in Wyoming. And that's a great benefit, because  
 7 those wind resources are some of the best wind  
 8 resources in the United States, and definitely in the  
 9 western United States. That without PacifiCorp's vast  
 10 network of transmission and footprint, Washington  
 11 customers would not have access to those wind  
 12 resources. And they help significantly in the 2020  
 13 rate case.

14 In my testimony, I actually testified how  
 15 those wind resources will help us meet our CETA goals  
 16 and our CETA compliance goals. So that side of the  
 17 resource brings a lot of benefits to PacifiCorp  
 18 customers and to Washington customers because of the  
 19 great wind resource. And then in southern Utah, we  
 20 have some of the best solar resources. And then that  
 21 transmission capability allows us to flex the system  
 22 and allows us to move the resources where they're  
 23 needed and effectuate and optimize for our customers to  
 24 receive the lowest cost possible.

25 And then we can do the same with the market

1 access that we have. When Mid-C's above PV, we can buy  
 2 at Palo Verde, which is a market hub in the Southwest,  
 3 and move energy to the Northwest. And when energy's  
 4 lower at Mid-C, we can buy at Mid-C and keep the energy  
 5 in the Southwest and utilize that transmission system  
 6 and that diversity to the benefit of our customers.

7 **Q. Did you provide any calculations for the**  
 8 **geographic diversity benefit that you're describing in**  
 9 **2022?**

10 A. We did not do that. I personally did not do  
 11 that, and did not do that in our testimony. We have  
 12 done that in the past. But I think that's generally  
 13 understood, that, you know, the transmission system and  
 14 having that connectivity allows us to optimize and  
 15 procure the least-cost resources and least-cost market  
 16 purchases when we need to.

17 **Q. Except that you're not procuring the**  
 18 **least-cost, you're allocating through the WIJAM.**  
 19 **You're just giving us a cost for it that you're**  
 20 **allocating to us.**

21 A. Hundred percent disagree.

22 **Q. Okay.**

23 A. Because what we -- we were procuring the  
 24 least-cost --

25 **Q. I don't have -- I didn't ask -- I didn't ask**

1 would have been included before the Commission approved  
 2 the WIJAM cost allocation methodology.

3 **Q. Okay. And across the system, the -- these**  
 4 **resources add up to 7 million -- 7.2 million megawatt**  
 5 **hours; is that correct?**

6 A. That's correct.

7 **Q. But only 7.97 percent of those are allocated**  
 8 **to Washington; is that correct?**

9 A. Yeah, that's correct. So we nearly doubled  
 10 the wind generation included in Washington rates.

11 **Q. And I think that also means that 7.9 percent**  
 12 **of the costs for each of these facilities is also**  
 13 **allocated to Washington; is that correct?**

14 A. Yeah. Commensurate with the benefits,  
 15 correct.

16 **Q. Is it possible or did PacifiCorp consider**  
 17 **assigning the TB Flats Wind, for example, to Washington**  
 18 **in its entirety -- 100 percent of it?**

19 A. Like I said, the WIJAM was the cost  
 20 allocation methodology that was approved by the  
 21 Commission after collaboration and agreement between  
 22 Staff, AWEC, and Public Counsel.

23 **Q. Even after the addition of this wind**  
 24 **generation, Washington was 939,000 megawatt hours short**  
 25 **by allocation, correct?**

1 **a question.**

2 **If you'd look at the table on page 11 of your**  
 3 **testimony.**

4 **This is the list of megawatt hours that have**  
 5 **been added to your system since 2020; so between 2020**  
 6 **and 2022; is that right?**

7 **(Technical interruption.)**

8 **ATTY. O'NEILL: Page 11.**

9 **ATTY. LOWNEY: Direct me to that table**  
 10 **again? Thank you.**

11 **ATTY. O'NEILL: Page 11, table -- it's**  
 12 **not labeled, it's just a table there.**

13 **THE COURT REPORTER: And was that a**  
 14 **clarification question by the Commission?**

15 **JUDGE THOMPSON: That was a**  
 16 **clarification question by counsel for the Company,**  
 17 **asking what page the table referenced was on.**

18 **THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.**

19 **Q. (BY ATTY. O'NEILL) These are all wind**  
 20 **resources that were added to your system; is that**  
 21 **correct?**

22 A. This is the comparison of the generation of  
 23 the wind resources, the output of all of our wind  
 24 resources in 2022. And it's a comparison of what is  
 25 included in Washington rates currently versus what

1 A. No, I disagree. And I would ask you to -- I  
 2 mean, I don't want to agree to that. I would ask you  
 3 to show me where that number is coming from.

4 **Q. Okay. Can you go to page 15 of your**  
 5 **testimony?**

6 A. I'm there.

7 **Q. On lines 10 to 13. You say, "PacifiCorp is**  
 8 **not making more market purchases because of**  
 9 **Washington's cost allocation; Washington is being**  
 10 **allocated an estimated cost of the hedge market**  
 11 **purchases to account for the difference between [the]**  
 12 **system operations (the system being adequately served)**  
 13 **and [the] approved cost allocation methodology."**

14 **Did I read that correctly?**

15 A. Yes, you did.

16 **Q. If the WIJAM is it going to mean that**  
 17 **Washington is short by whatever the number is -- it's**  
 18 **939, but you don't have to take my word for it -- how**  
 19 **is PacifiCorp going to control for that increased**  
 20 **market exposure?**

21 A. Sorry, can you re- -- can you ask me that  
 22 question again?

23 **Q. There's two ways to avoid or to reduce that**  
 24 **market exposure: One would be to allocate new**  
 25 **resources, and you said we can't do that because of**

1 **WJAM; the other would be to hedge for it, or come up**  
 2 **with some mechanism to reduce Washington's exposure to**  
 3 **having to purchase 939,000 megawatt hours.**

4 **And I'm just wondering, is there any other**  
 5 **option? Those are the only two options? You can**  
 6 **either hedge or you can allocate?**

7 A. Actually, I disagree. And maybe I would just  
 8 say, one, if Washington wanted to participate -- fully  
 9 participate in our system and fully participate in the  
 10 cost allocation of our entire system under the 2020  
 11 protocol, I think we would be open to that at  
 12 PacifiCorp, and we would love to have those  
 13 conversations.

14 Two, talking about market exposure and being  
 15 allocated a share of market purchases to fill that open  
 16 position that is left by not participating in the  
 17 resources, and so hedging more, to your point, is  
 18 simply buying more market purchases. So it really does  
 19 nothing to change the open position and what has to be  
 20 done with market purchases. You're still -- you're  
 21 filling that open position with market purchases.

22 And then two -- or lastly, I guess, you know,  
 23 I just went through the list of all the resources that  
 24 we are adding. We're adding another 1,500 megawatts of  
 25 wind, 400 megawatts of solar, 1,100 megawatts of

1 **Q. I'd like to direct your attention to page 91**  
 2 **of that transcript.**

3 A. Okay.

4 **Q. This is Mr. McVee's testimony. And if you**  
 5 **want to take the opportunity to review his full answer,**  
 6 **it starts on page 89. I'll let you -- I mean, I'll let**  
 7 **you decide. It goes to 93. If you want to review that**  
 8 **quickly to get context. I'm going to ask you**  
 9 **specifically about the answer that he gave -- or the**  
 10 **testimony he gave at the bottom of page 91 to 92.**

11 A. You know, I was not involved in this hearing,  
 12 I was not present, I was not -- this is outside my  
 13 responsibility at PacifiCorp. So I would not -- I  
 14 would not answer any questions on this. I would not be  
 15 comfortable opining on Mr. McVee's testimony.

16 **Q. Go ahead and review it. We'll see if we can**  
 17 **get anything profitable. And let me know when you're**  
 18 **done.**

19 A. Okay. Yeah, I've read it.

20 **Q. And if you look at the line on page 91,**  
 21 **line 5, Mr. McVee asks, "Is there a different way that**  
 22 **we plan? And if there's a different way that we plan,**  
 23 **can we start -- you know, is there an opportunity for**  
 24 **me situs resources?"**

25 **Did I read that correctly?**

1 batteries between now and the summer of 2026. So yes,  
 2 we are addressing the resource need that we have. And  
 3 on top of that, we are also doing other things. You  
 4 know, reliability and resource adequacy is a big  
 5 concern for us. And to reliably serve customers is  
 6 very important and fundamental to what we do. We're  
 7 participating in EDAM and working on launching that  
 8 day-ahead market with the California ISO. And we're  
 9 also participating in the Western Resource Adequacy  
 10 Program.

11 **Q. Did you provide any calculations for the**  
 12 **benefits from those programs in the 2022 --**

13 A. They --

14 **Q. -- in your testimony.**

15 A. Yeah, thank you. In 2022, neither of those  
 16 programs are functional right now. We are working to  
 17 stand those up with our partners within the region.  
 18 But I think that makes, you know, a really good point,  
 19 is that 2022, our actual costs and some of these things  
 20 that we've been talking about are future, but we are  
 21 acting with an eye towards the future.

22 **Q. Do you have Cross-Examination MGW-2X, which**  
 23 **is the transcript of the recessed open meeting from**  
 24 **March 22nd?**

25 A. Yes, I do.

1 A. Yes.

2 **Q. Okay. And by "situs resources," he means**  
 3 **resources that are allocated to a specific location --**  
 4 **Washington, in this instance?**

5 A. Yes.

6 **Q. And he said down on to say, "What [this] does**  
 7 **mean is instead of Washington taking 8 percent of a**  
 8 **resource, a solar resource, say, a 200 megawatt solar**  
 9 **resource, it might take 100 percent or split it with**  
 10 **Oregon, but take larger shares." Did I read that**  
 11 **correctly?**

12 A. Yes.

13 **Q. So overall, PacifiCorp is long. I mean, it**  
 14 **has a lot of generation, correct?**

15 A. No.

16 **Q. It's generally long on the east, anyway?**

17 A. From a -- in our daily position reports, yes,  
 18 we have some length in the east, but we serve our  
 19 system as a whole and we plan our system as a whole.

20 And in our IRP, we have the front office  
 21 transactions which show essentially an open position  
 22 that we are going to fill in the market. And so to say  
 23 that PacifiCorp is long is incorrect.

24 **Q. Okay.**

25 A. To say that we have length at certain parts

1 of our system during certain times of the year, sure.  
2 But generally speaking, the IRP does show and does  
3 provide an open position that we have -- that we would  
4 choose then to fill with market purchases.

5 **Q. And you've been adding resources on the**  
6 **east -- in the Pac-East?**

7 A. Yeah, absolutely. And, I mean, where they're  
8 located doesn't change the benefit to Washington  
9 customers. All of those resources that we're locating  
10 in the east and taking advantage of that Wyoming wind  
11 that has a higher capacity factor than the wind on the  
12 west side of our system; or solar that has higher  
13 capacity factors than solar in the Northwest, that  
14 solar in southern Utah -- because of our system and our  
15 diverse geographical footprint, Washington customers  
16 benefit more from those resources, and the IRP selects  
17 where those resources should be located.

18 So I mean, yeah, they're located on east  
19 side. But that -- because they're located in the  
20 optimal spot based on transmission and capacity  
21 factors, that means Washington customers benefit more  
22 from that resource being located there as opposed to a  
23 less-optimal spot on our system.

24 **Q. And they're paying a proportionate part of**  
25 **the cost for what is allocated to Washington.**

1 extended outage or is on a major maintenance overhaul,  
2 that adds to our open position, and we will get the  
3 risk management report from -- you know, our position  
4 report from our risk management group, and we're going  
5 to go fill that position. It doesn't change how we  
6 act. We still fill the position.

7 **Q. Right. And in this case, you're filling the**  
8 **position with market purchases for Washington**  
9 **consumers.**

10 **Do you know how much additional per-megawatt**  
11 **Washington consumers paid than the rest of PacifiCorp's**  
12 **system?**

13 A. I would -- I don't accept that question,  
14 even. I think there's an implication in that question  
15 that they pay more. I think they pay less if not  
16 comparable to the rest of our system.

17 **Q. Did you review Mr. Earle's testimony in which**  
18 **he calculated that Washington pays 44 percent more than**  
19 **other parts of PacifiCorp's system on a**  
20 **per-megawatt-hour basis?**

21 A. You'd have to point me to -- I don't have his  
22 testimony with me, but you'd have to remind me of the  
23 reference.

24 **Q. You didn't do a calculation yourself,**  
25 **however?**

1 A. Absolutely, commensurate with the benefits.

2 **Q. In April of 2021, when you were revising your**  
3 **policies, you knew that Washington was going to be**  
4 **allocated short. You knew that it was going to have to**  
5 **fill power on the market. You knew -- predicted,**  
6 **anyway -- that there were going to be scarcity events**  
7 **and prices were going to go up. And instead of**  
8 **planning for that specific position for Washington, you**  
9 **planned simply to hedge for the system as a whole.**

10 **Do I have that correct?**

11 A. Not exactly. And the reason why is because,  
12 again, Washington is part of our system. And yes,  
13 because of the cost allocation methodology, Washington  
14 has a ratemaking -- a larger open position relative --  
15 proportionately relative to the rest of the system.  
16 But again, that doesn't change and wouldn't change our  
17 risk management policy.

18 And because -- again, whether you're -- and  
19 we're looking at, again, the peak hour, peak time, and  
20 whether we are, you know, 100 megawatts short or 400  
21 megawatts short or 1,000 megawatts short, we're going  
22 to go close that position. And the amount of that open  
23 position doesn't necessarily matter and doesn't change  
24 our risk management policy.

25 Like, if a plant goes down and is on an

1 A. No.

2 ATTY. O'NEILL: All right. I don't have  
3 any more questions. Thank you.

4 JUDGE THOMPSON: Any cross for this  
5 witness from AWEC?

6 ATTY. PEPPLER: No, your Honor.

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: Any redirect from the  
8 Company?

9 ATTY. KUMAR: Just a couple questions.

10  
11 REDIRECT EXAMINATION  
12 BY ATTY. KUMAR:

13 **Q. Mr. Wilding, Mr. O'Neill asked you a series**  
14 **of questions about whether or not the resources that**  
15 **had been acquired were the least-cost least-risk**  
16 **resources for Washington. And you stated that you**  
17 **100 percent disagree, and I believe the question ended**  
18 **there without you being able to complete your answer.**  
19 **Could you complete your answer for us?**

20 A. Yeah, absolutely. Again, because Washington  
21 is part of the system, the implication that we haven't,  
22 you know, planned on a least-cost lease-risk basis for  
23 Washington because we planned on a least-cost  
24 least-risk basis for the system is nonsensical. And  
25 because a situs resource, by definition, is a resource

1 that is higher cost than what would otherwise be  
2 acquired to serve the system.

3 And so when the IRP plans on a least-cost  
4 least-risk basis, and it includes that open position  
5 that we're going to use market purchases to fill and  
6 use it as a resource to fill that open position, that  
7 is the least-cost least-risk solution. And so by  
8 definition, a situs resource for Washington would be  
9 more expensive than what the IRP is planning for the  
10 entire system. So that's why I disagree with that  
11 statement that we have not planned for -- on a  
12 least-cost least-risk basis for Washington.

13 **Q. And I just want to maybe ask a clarifying**  
14 **question. Let me bring this closer. I don't think I'm**  
15 **speaking into the mic. A quick clarifying question**  
16 **regarding the company as a whole and the system as a**  
17 **whole. Does the system as a whole generally have an**  
18 **open position that you're looking to fill?**

19 A. Yes, it does. And again, that's consistent  
20 with what the IRP shows, is that front office  
21 transactions represents an open position that we are  
22 looking to fill.

23 And then I think Mr. Fritz testified earlier  
24 that, you know, that risk management report that we get  
25 on a daily basis that provides insight and gives us

1 direction on our hedging practices, that will optimize  
2 the system and use the transmission capability and the  
3 generation that we have to tell us -- and market prices  
4 that are input into the model in the Southwest and the  
5 Northwest to tell us where to transact and where to  
6 hedge.

7 And that, again, by being able to move energy  
8 around, being able to transact at the lowest-cost --  
9 lowest-cost market, that provides significant benefits  
10 to our Washington customers.

11 ATTY. KUMAR: I have no further  
12 questions.

13 JUDGE THOMPSON: Any questions from the  
14 bench?

15  
16 EXAMINATION  
17 BY COMMISSIONER RENDAHL:

18 **Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Wilding.**

19 A. Good afternoon.

20 **Q. So in your testimony, and that would be on**  
21 **page 6, just for your reference, you referenced the**  
22 **WIJAM and the 2020 PacifiCorp Inter-Jurisdictional**  
23 **Allocation Protocol, or the 2020 protocol, correct?**

24 A. Yes.

25 **Q. And were you involved in the discussions and**

1 **negotiations around the WIJAM and the 2020 protocol?**

2 A. Yes, I was. And that was a prior role to  
3 what I have now, and I was very much involved in both  
4 of those.

5 **Q. Okay. So my memory from that time was,**  
6 **because there was a Commissioners meeting for the 2020**  
7 **protocol -- was there was consideration of states**  
8 **selecting resources to be allocated to those states,**  
9 **given the differences in policies among the states. Do**  
10 **you remember that?**

11 A. I do. That was one of the iterations that we  
12 did negotiate around and had lots of discussions about.

13 **Q. Now, has that come to fruition?**

14 A. It is not, and we have not reached agreement.  
15 And the 2020 protocol was a little bit of a middle  
16 ground and a bridge to try to get to something more  
17 like you're describing now, where states would be  
18 assigned a fixed share of certain generation resources  
19 that aligned with their state energy policies. And so  
20 we provided pathways for -- specifically for, you know,  
21 west-side states -- Oregon, Washington -- to remove  
22 coal costs from their rates.

23 We also provided, you know, different other  
24 bridges to get to that kind of point that you're  
25 talking about or something similar to that. And we

1 continue those negotiations today.

2 **Q. So those negotiations are ongoing now?**

3 A. Yes, that's correct.

4 **Q. Okay. And the WIJAM and the 2020 protocol**  
5 **were all considered by the Commission -- the Washington**  
6 **Commission at the same time, correct?**

7 A. Yes, that's correct.

8 **Q. Okay. So your testimony talks about or I**  
9 **guess it was the transcript that was being referenced**  
10 **focused on situs. Now, is the shift going now from a**  
11 **share to situs? Or is that no longer your area of**  
12 **work, and you can't speak to that?**

13 A. Are you talking about the current  
14 negotiations in MSP?

15 **Q. Yes.**

16 A. Yeah, I'm not as involved with MSP as I have  
17 been in the past. I'm more -- so I would have to defer  
18 that to someone in regulation.

19 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you.  
20 That's all my questions.

21  
22 EXAMINATION  
23 BY CHAIR DANNER:

24 **Q. So this is Chair Danner. I just want to ask,**  
25 **I was trying to pull it up, but the slide show that was**

1 **referenced earlier talked about the PACE being long**  
 2 **and -- you have it in front of you, I don't. But the**  
 3 **Pac-West, as I recall, it said that it was long except**  
 4 **in peak; is that correct?**

5 A. Right.

6 **Q. So --**

7 A. Um -- sorry.

8 **Q. Yeah. Can you square that with what you just**  
 9 **told Mr. O'Neill?**

10 A. I'm just thinking about confidentiality, is  
 11 all. And so I think I can answer this without going  
 12 into confidential...

13 ATTY. O'NEILL: Would it be easier to go  
 14 into confidential to answer this question?

15 MICHAEL WILDING: I think I would prefer  
 16 to go into it.

17 CHAIR DANNER: And -- all right, we're  
 18 going to find out.

19 (Discussion held off the record.)

20 CHAIR DANNER: You know, I think we  
 21 could probably do this as a bench request.

22 MICHAEL WILDING: Maybe I can -- I think  
 23 I could probably -- I mean, I've talked about it a  
 24 little bit.

25 CHAIR DANNER: Let's go off the record

1 in PACE, or PacifiCorp East.

2 And again, that's kind of the construct of --  
 3 we move -- and again, this is back in 2011 -- or not  
 4 2011, 2021, sorry. The model where it would optimize  
 5 the system and direct that open position or that short  
 6 position to the most cost-effective market hub, whether  
 7 that's Mid-C of Palo Verde. A lot of times, we see  
 8 that is Mid-C in the Northwest. And especially in this  
 9 time period, we did see that.

10 And I guess what I'm talking about when I say  
 11 that we're generally short as a system, this gets us to  
 12 kind of flat zero, you know, load and supply -- supply  
 13 and demand kind of crossing that equilibrium, and  
 14 there's no cushion or no uncertainty.

15 In the IRP, we have a planning reserve margin  
 16 baked in that allows for that uncertainty in the  
 17 movement in the days and in load and in generation and  
 18 outages and those sorts of things. And so that's where  
 19 kind of generally speaking, we want to have that  
 20 uncertainty position or that uncertainty requirement  
 21 based into our position, to be able to respond in a  
 22 cost-effective and a reliable manner to those types of  
 23 changes on our system.

24 **Q. Okay. So you are -- what is on that slide,**  
 25 **you are confirming is true?**

1 for just a second and see if you need to confer.  
 2 Ten minutes? Yeah, I'm not interested in going into  
 3 confidential session. So -- I think we have  
 4 alternatives.

5 ATTY. KUMAR: Could we take a minute to  
 6 go off the record real quick, and I could maybe confer  
 7 with Mr. Wilding and we could talk about where he could  
 8 go non-confidentially?

9 CHAIR DANNER: That's the judge's  
 10 decision.

11 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yeah. Let's go off the  
 12 record for a brief moment so that the witness can  
 13 confer with counsel.

14 (Break from 3:39 p.m. to 3:40 p.m.)

15 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you.

16 **Q. (BY CHAIR DANNER) All right. Thank you. And**  
 17 **my question was if you could square what is in that**  
 18 **slide show that was testified to earlier today with**  
 19 **what you just testified with Mr. O'Neill about the**  
 20 **company's position.**

21 A. Okay. Yeah, thanks. There are a couple  
 22 things here. In the power positions on this slide  
 23 deck, we have on-peak power positions and off-peak  
 24 power positions. On the on-peak power positions, we  
 25 say we're generally short in Pac-West; generally long

1 A. Yes.

2 **Q. With the caveats that you have --**

3 A. Yes. And especially in 2021, when we gave  
 4 this presentation.

5 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. All right, I have  
 6 no further questions. Thank you.

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: Any additional? Okay.  
 8 With that, Mr. Wilding, you can step down.

9 MICHAEL WILDING: Thank you.

10 JUDGE THOMPSON: And does that conclude  
 11 the witnesses for the Company?

12 ATTY. O'NEILL: There are no  
 13 cross-examination questions from any of the parties,  
 14 but Mr. Earle is available to answer the Commission's  
 15 questions.

16 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you.

17 ATTY. O'NEILL: I think he's online. At  
 18 least I hope so. He is.

19 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay I think we'll go  
 20 ahead and start with Staff Witness Wilson.

21 ATTY. O'NEILL: Oh, sorry.

22 JUDGE THOMPSON: That's okay. Thank  
 23 you. Sorry Robert.

24 ATTY. STRAUSS: John should -- John  
 25 should be online. Yeah, there he is.



1 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you.  
 2 Mr. Wilson, would you please raise your right hand and  
 3 I'll swear you in.  
 4  
 5 JOHN D. WILSON, witness herein, having been  
 6 first duly sworn on oath,  
 7 was examined and testified  
 8 as follows:  
 9  
 10 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you. And the  
 11 Company has waived cross for Witness Wilson, and so I  
 12 believe at this time we'll go ahead and move to  
 13 questions from the bench.

14 EXAMINATION

15 BY COMMISSIONER RENDAHL:

16 **Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Wilson.**

17 A. Nice to meet you, Commissioner Rendahl.

18 **Q. Nice to meet you. So were you listening in**  
 19 **earlier today, particularly for the questions to**  
 20 **Mr. Staples, Company's witness?**

21 A. I was.

22 **Q. Okay. So you heard the question I asked**  
 23 **about his proposed alternative allocation proposal.**  
 24 **And similar to the question I asked for**  
 25

1 **Witness Mullins, the question for you is, do you -- do**  
 2 **you agree with or have concerns with the calculations**  
 3 **that Mr. Staples presented in his rebuttal testimony on**  
 4 **this proposal?**

5 A. Yes, I have reviewed that, and I'll keep it  
 6 on the public record, but I'll note that the discovery  
 7 responses to the Company have some detailed discussion  
 8 of our position on his proposal. They asked us some  
 9 questions on that.

10 But at a high level, I think I have some  
 11 conceptual problems with his proposal. I think it  
 12 conflates the concept of hedging with the -- which is a  
 13 forward-looking activity to manage risk -- with the  
 14 purpose and the intent of WIJAM, which is to provide  
 15 for a fair cost allocation of the costs and revenues  
 16 that are related to, you know, the Company's power.

17 So I think that's the fundamental problem.  
 18 I'm happy to sort of elaborate and put that in a little  
 19 bit of a larger perspective, but I think that's the  
 20 short answer to the question, is I don't support his  
 21 proposal because of that sort of underlying confusion  
 22 that I think is there and I think has been -- has maybe  
 23 confused a lot of the questions and the discussions  
 24 today.

25 **Q. Okay. Thank you. And so if the Commission**

1 **were to take that alternative proposal, would you think**  
 2 **that this should be applied just for this proceeding,**  
 3 **or is this something that should be considered going**  
 4 **forward? I understand that you don't agree with the**  
 5 **proposal.**

6 A. Right.

7 **Q. But hypothetically, if the Commission were to**  
 8 **accept it.**

9 A. Well, I would prefer that the Commission  
 10 accepted my proposal.

11 **Q. Understood.**

12 A. And I -- but I do think that, as a general  
 13 matter, these -- well, I think the -- okay, so there's  
 14 a problem here, which is that his proposal is to  
 15 take -- to take system-level hedging -- and this is the  
 16 conceptual problem, and I'll stick to your question --  
 17 but it's to take system-level hedging and then, in  
 18 certain months, say, "We're going to assign those  
 19 benefits based on" -- okay, let me back up.

20 It's to take system-level hedging. And if,  
 21 in that year, the system-level hedging doesn't provide  
 22 enough benefits to the west based on where those hedges  
 23 were placed, then we will implement this more complex  
 24 month-by-month calculation. And then in those months,  
 25 we are going to shift hedging benefits from the east

1 system to the west system for Washington's purposes --  
 2 for Washington's cost allocation purposes.

3 And I think, you know, for some of the same  
 4 reasons that Witness Mullins raised, I think that  
 5 results in a unfair allocation for Washington  
 6 customers.

7 That said, I think if that's the Commission's  
 8 decision, that that's a reasonable approach. And it  
 9 also finds that the hedging practices that Washington  
 10 is -- or, excuse me, that PacifiCorp is exercising  
 11 right now are prudent and should continue, then I would  
 12 think that the Commission would want to establish this  
 13 approach on a permanent basis. It would not make sense  
 14 to make it a one-off.

15 On the other hand, if the Commission were to  
 16 find that there needs to be changes to the hedging  
 17 practices, then I think that this allocation scheme  
 18 that Witness Staples proposes would need to be  
 19 revisited every time the hedging practices are updated,  
 20 because you're interlocking the decision on hedging  
 21 with the decision on allocation.

22 I hope that makes sense.

23 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: That does. Thank  
 24 you, I appreciate it. And those are all the questions  
 25 I have for you, Mr. Wilson.

1 JOHN WILSON: Thank you.  
 2 JUDGE THOMPSON: Any additional  
 3 questions? Okay.  
 4 I believe that concludes the questions  
 5 for you, Mr. Wilson. You may now step down. And thank  
 6 you for your patience in staying with us today.  
 7 At this time, Public Counsel, if you  
 8 would like to call your witness?  
 9 ATTY. O'NEILL: I believe Mr. Earle is  
 10 on the line now.  
 11 JUDGE THOMPSON: Mr. Earle, if you would  
 12 please raise your right hand and I'll swear you in.  
 13  
 14 ROBERT L. EARLE, witness herein, having been  
 15 first duly sworn on oath,  
 16 was examined and testified  
 17 as follows:  
 18  
 19 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you. And with  
 20 that, we'll go ahead and proceed with questions from  
 21 the bench.  
 22  
 23 EXAMINATION  
 24 BY COMMISSIONER RENDAHL:  
 25 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Earle.

1 and the west. And Mr. Mullins talked about it when he  
 2 answered your questions, and I'd refer the Commission  
 3 to Figure 2 of Mr. Mullins's testimony, which I won't  
 4 talk about because it's confidential. But the picture  
 5 is in there, along with what Mr. Mullins said.  
 6 Presumably, PacifiCorp hedges differently for  
 7 the east and the west for a reason. And to take --  
 8 going forward into the future, anticipating your next  
 9 question, Commissioner -- hedges in the east and  
 10 applying them, under certain circumstances, to the west  
 11 does not make sense.  
 12 If, in fact, those hedges were designed to  
 13 address issues in the east and power plants in the east  
 14 that Washington doesn't participate in, it would make  
 15 much more sense to say, "Well, Washington has this  
 16 problem. It's not being sufficiently hedged. So let's  
 17 focus on constructing hedges separately for Washington  
 18 to address Washington's problem." Rather than say,  
 19 "Well, under certain circumstances, we'll transfer some  
 20 hedges that were meant for the east, made sense in the  
 21 east, and then transfer them to the west."  
 22 The other aspect of it is, you know, the  
 23 level it's set at to bring Washington up to -- I'm not  
 24 sure whether I can say that number in public, so I  
 25 won't, but I think we know what it is, and if not, I

1 A. Good afternoon, Commissioner.  
 2 Q. So I think you've also heard all the  
 3 testimony today, including Mr. Staple's testimony.  
 4 I see you nodding your head. So similar to  
 5 the questions I asked to Witness Mullins and  
 6 Witness Wilson, do you agree with the calculations in  
 7 Witness Staples's rebuttal testimony for the proposed  
 8 hedging allocation adjustment and -- or not?  
 9 A. I don't agree with the adjustment. And  
 10 fundamentally, I think that it misses the point. And  
 11 it sort of misses the point for this whole proceeding.  
 12 And that's that Washington's position within PacifiCorp  
 13 is different. And that difference flows through the  
 14 calculations in WIJAM and has resulted in Washington  
 15 ratepayers' net power cost being much higher than for  
 16 other jurisdictions. And I think that's a fundamental  
 17 problem that needs to be addressed. And it could be  
 18 addressed, as I've said, by hedging Washington  
 19 completely separately or hedging Washington in addition  
 20 to whatever hedges come through PacifiCorp's systematic  
 21 approach. And hedging for Washington would not affect  
 22 PacifiCorp's operation of the system.  
 23 When I think about this alternative proposal,  
 24 what in the first instance bothers me is the hedging  
 25 that PacifiCorp does for gas is different in the east

1 can give a reference to where Mr. Staples mentioned it.  
 2 But that level is arbitrary. And maybe under certain  
 3 circumstances, it makes sense. Under other  
 4 circumstances, it might not make sense.  
 5 I mean, if the situation were reversed, would  
 6 we say, well, the east gets the same amount as the west  
 7 does? But there's just -- there's not much logic  
 8 there. And so I think that it's a bit -- it seems to  
 9 me that it's a bit of a gimmick or a sop to say, "Okay,  
 10 here, we'll give Washington a little something and  
 11 hopefully the Commission will accept it and this issue  
 12 will go away." But fundamentally, it doesn't address  
 13 the real underlying issue here.  
 14 Q. Okay. And so that goes to the next question,  
 15 which is, obviously you disagree, but if the Commission  
 16 were to accept this proposal, should it be applied just  
 17 to this proceeding? Or is this something that should  
 18 be considered going forward?  
 19 A. I don't think it should be considered going  
 20 forward, because there's no -- there's no fundamental  
 21 logic to why it addresses the problem. It addresses --  
 22 you know, it's a small amount of reduction in the PCAM  
 23 balance. But it doesn't address the fundamental issues  
 24 going forward. And I would hate to see the Commission,  
 25 even if it said, "Yeah, this is what we're going with

1 in this -- for this 2022 PCAM." For the Commission to  
 2 say, "Yeah, and this takes care of it going forward as  
 3 well." Because there's no fundamental logic to it.  
 4 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you  
 5 very much. I have no further questions.  
 6 ROBERT EARLE: Thank you. Thank you. I  
 7 appreciate the opportunity.  
 8 JUDGE THOMPSON: Any additional?  
 9 Okay. Thank you very much. That  
 10 concludes the questions, and you may step down.  
 11 ROBERT EARLE: Thank you.  
 12 JUDGE BROWN: Okay, at this time, since  
 13 we're at the end of cross-examinations and there are  
 14 apparently no other witnesses, I just want to go over a  
 15 couple of housekeeping items at this time.  
 16 Do we have any bench requests that will  
 17 be served at this point? No? Okay. Just wanted --  
 18 just verifying.  
 19 And with regard to public comments,  
 20 we -- I see there was, rather, a public comment  
 21 hearing, virtual public comment hearing on May 14th.  
 22 So at this point, when should we -- when should the  
 23 public comments be compiled and forwarded to --  
 24 (Technical interruption.)  
 25 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, I didn't

1 So at this point, we're looking at 30  
 2 pages for the initial post-hearing briefs, 15 pages for  
 3 the reply briefs, and we would ask that the briefs  
 4 include the subject matter of the issues related to the  
 5 WIJAM and its impact as well.  
 6 Okay. Are there any questions from the  
 7 parties at this point?  
 8 Hearing none, is there anything else we  
 9 need to address today? Okay. Yeah?  
 10 ATTY. KUMAR: I just wanted to make sure  
 11 that we have -- if the Commission could provide us with  
 12 the information for requesting a transcript.  
 13 JUDGE BROWN: I'm sorry, repeat that one  
 14 more time?  
 15 ATTY. KUMAR: I was hoping that the --  
 16 if AHD could provide us with the information for  
 17 requesting this transcript from the court reporter.  
 18 JUDGE BROWN: Oh, okay. If the court  
 19 reporter could provide us with those details.  
 20 THE COURT REPORTER: Yes. This court  
 21 reporting is being done through Buell Court Reporting  
 22 services, and so all inquiries can be directed to  
 23 info@buellreporting.com [sic].  
 24 ATTY. KUMAR: Thank you.  
 25 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

1 hear that answer.  
 2 JUDGE BROWN: You didn't hear me, or you  
 3 didn't --  
 4 ATTY. O'NEILL: Didn't hear me. I think  
 5 I didn't have my -- I'm sorry, I apologize. And my  
 6 camera's not on, either, so you can see who it is.  
 7 I don't believe we've received any  
 8 public comments.  
 9 JUDGE BROWN: Okay.  
 10 ATTY. O'NEILL: We just need to  
 11 coordinate with Staff to make sure that their comments  
 12 are included in the file, and I would ask for a week to  
 13 do so.  
 14 JUDGE BROWN: Okay. So we're looking at  
 15 June 11th, at this point? And it will be designated as  
 16 a bench exhibit. And it looks like it will be  
 17 Bench Exhibit 01, at this point, with the date of  
 18 June 11th.  
 19 So that brings us to our next -- our  
 20 next matter, at this point, or next item, and that  
 21 would be briefs. So we have one round of briefs -- I'm  
 22 sorry, we have two rounds, actually. We have the  
 23 briefs that are due on -- ah, there we go -- July 3rd  
 24 for initial post-hearing briefs, and July 12th for the  
 25 simultaneous reply briefs.

1 JUDGE BROWN: Well, I just want to say  
 2 thank you to all the witnesses, parties --  
 3 ATTY. KUMAR: Your Honor?  
 4 JUDGE BROWN: I'm sorry. What is it?  
 5 ATTY. KUMAR: I just realized that there  
 6 was the cross-exhibit that you -- that never -- we  
 7 never ruled on the admission of that cross-exhibit for  
 8 Mr. Staples.  
 9 ATTY. O'NEILL: I didn't offer it, so I  
 10 don't think it's pending but --  
 11 ATTY. KUMAR: Okay. I just wanted to  
 12 make sure.  
 13 ATTY. O'NEILL: So it was never put into  
 14 the record, I don't think.  
 15 ATTY. KUMAR: Okay. Thank you. Sorry,  
 16 I apologize, your Honor.  
 17 JUDGE BROWN: No, no, no. Actually,  
 18 that was very helpful, because I actually do have one  
 19 last matter to address. So thank you for that.  
 20 There was a motion that was filed on  
 21 May 9th, a motion to allow supplemental rebuttal  
 22 testimony of Douglas Staples on behalf of PacifiCorp.  
 23 And there were no responses to the motion.  
 24 So seeing there were no responses to the  
 25 motion, and hearing no objection, at this point that

1 motion is granted.  
 2 ATTY. KUMAR: Thank you, your Honor.  
 3 JUDGE BROWN: As a housekeeping matter,  
 4 since we haven't addressed it before now. And is there  
 5 anything else?  
 6 Great. All right. Thank you to the  
 7 parties, witnesses, and representatives in this matter  
 8 we are adjourned and off the record. Thank you.  
 9 THE COURT REPORTER: For purposes of  
 10 identification, the individual who was asking about the  
 11 transcript -- can I get an identification of who that  
 12 person was? They didn't have their video on.  
 13 ATTY. KUMAR: Yes, I apologize. That  
 14 was Ajay Kumar, counsel for PacifiCorp.  
 15 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.  
 16 (Reporter clarification.)  
 17 (Hearing concluded at 4:03 p.m.)  
 18 --oOo--  
 19  
 20  
 21  
 22  
 23  
 24  
 25

1 CERTIFICATE  
 2  
 3 STATE OF WASHINGTON  
 4 COUNTY OF SNOHOMISH  
 5  
 6 I, Sierra Zanghi, a Certified Shorthand Reporter in  
 7 and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify that  
 8 the foregoing transcript of the Evidentiary Hearing,  
 9 Docket UG-230482, taking place on June 4, 2024, is true  
 10 and accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill, and  
 11 ability.  
 12 I do further certify that I am a disinterested person  
 13 in this cause of action and that I am not a relative of  
 14 the attorneys for any of the parties.  
 15 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and  
 16 seal this 11th day of June 2024.  
 17  
 18    
 19  
 20 SIERRA ZANGHI, RSR, WA CCR NO. 22004202  
 21  
 22  
 23  
 24  
 25

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