

ELLEN F. ROSENBLUM
Attorney General



FREDERICK M. BOSS
Deputy Attorney General

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
GENERAL COUNSEL DIVISION

May 22, 2015

VIA E-MAIL ONLY

Attention: Filing Center
Public Utility Commission of Oregon
3930 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
P.O. Box 1088
Salem OR 97308-1088

Re: *In the Matter of PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON Staff Investigation into
Qualifying Facility Contracting and Pricing*
PUC Docket No.: UM 1610 / Phase 2
DOJ File No.: 330-030-GN0240-12

To the Filing Center:

On behalf of the Oregon Department of Energy, enclosed for filing with the Commission
in the above-captioned matter are the following documents:

1. May 22, 2015 Testimony of Diane Broad, Exhibit ODOE/800, with accompanying
Exhibit ODOE/801; and
2. May 22, 2015 Testimony of Philip Carver, Exhibit ODOE/700, with accompanying
Exhibit ODOE/701.

Sincerely,

Renee M. France
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Natural Resources Section

Enclosures
RMF:jrs/#6518003

DOCKET NO. UM 1610
Phase 2
EXHIBIT: ODOE/800
WITNESS: DIANE BROAD

**Before the
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON**

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Testimony of Diane Broad

May 22, 2015

1 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ORGANIZATION.**

2 A. My name is Diane Broad. I am a Senior Policy Analyst for the Planning and
3 Innovation Division within the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE). The
4 business address is 625 Marion St. NE, Salem, Oregon. I am testifying on
5 behalf of ODOE.

6 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS.**

7 A. I am a policy analyst with particular expertise in electric utility
8 transmission and distribution systems and operations, renewable
9 generator interconnection standards and procedures, and integration
10 of variable energy resources. I gained this expertise through eighteen
11 years of practice as an electrical engineer in consulting, serving
12 electric utilities and renewable project developers, and in one year as a
13 policy analyst at ODOE. I am a registered Professional Engineer in the
14 State of Oregon.

15 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS TESTIMONY?**

16 A. I will address issues number three, four and nine from the ALJ memo of
17 March 26, 2015. The other ODOE witness, Phil Carver, addresses issues
18 one, five and six from the same memo.

19 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR TESTIMONY.**

20 A. On issue number three I will describe the flaw in the current method for
21 adjusting capacity payments to variable Qualifying Facilities (QFs) for both
22 the standard renewable and non-renewable avoided costs.

1 On issue number four I will describe ODOE's proposed process for
2 calculating adjustments to capacity payments to eliminate the double
3 discounting error under the current method.

4 On issue number nine I will describe ODOE's proposed alternatives for
5 calculating third-party transmission costs to be included in the standard
6 contract for the purpose of moving QF output out of a load pocket.

7 **Q. DID YOU PREPARE AN EXHIBIT FOR THIS DOCKET?**

8 A. Yes. I prepared Exhibit ODOE/801, Broad/1, a spreadsheet showing
9 proposed calculations for capacity payments to variable QFs under the
10 standard non-renewable avoided costs.

11 **ISSUE NUMBER THREE, PART ONE**

12 **Q. SHOULD THE COMMISSION REVISE THE METHODOLOGY APPROVED**
13 **IN ORDER NO.14-058 FOR DETERMINING THE CAPACITY**
14 **CONTRIBUTION ADDER FOR SOLAR QFs SELECTING STANDARD**
15 **RENEWABLE AVOIDED COST PRICES?**

16 A. Yes. The methodology approved in Order No. 14-058 is flawed and needs to
17 be corrected.

18 **Q. DESCRIBE THE METHODOLOGY ESTABLISHED IN ORDER NO. 14-058**
19 **FOR ADJUSTING THE AVOIDED COST RATES PAID TO QFs BASED ON**
20 **THE RELATIVE CAPACITY CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE QF RESOURCE**
21 **AND THE AVOIDED RESOURCE ("THE CURRENT METHOD").**

1 A. Under the current method, the avoided cost rates paid to a QF are adjusted
2 by multiplying the capacity portion of the on-peak per-MWh avoided cost rate
3 by 1) for standard non-renewable avoided costs, the capacity contribution of
4 the QF resource type, or 2) for standard renewable avoided costs, the
5 incremental capacity contribution of the QF resource type relative to the
6 avoided renewable resource.

7 **Q. DID ODOE SUPPORT ADOPTION OF THE CURRENT METHOD IN PHASE**
8 **1 OF UM 1610?**

9 A. Yes, ODOE supported, and still supports, the concept that avoided costs
10 prices paid to a QF should reflect the capacity contribution of the QF resource
11 type relative to that of the avoided resource in order to more accurately reflect
12 actual avoided costs. However, it became clear after the utilities filed their
13 updated avoided costs in compliance with Order No. 14-058 that the current
14 method significantly undercompensates variable QFs for their capacity
15 contribution.

16 For example, under the new renewable rates, the current method was
17 intended to compensate a solar QF for its incremental capacity contribution
18 over that of the avoided wind resource. Using the numbers in the example
19 provided in Staff/400, Andrus/5, that incremental capacity contribution is 9.4
20 percent. Therefore, a one MW solar QF should receive capacity payments
21 totaling 9.4 percent of the fixed cost of one MW of the proxy single-cycle
22 combustion turbine (SCCT) capacity resource. Instead, under the current
23 method, a solar QF receives less than 3 percent of the fixed cost of the proxy

1 capacity resource. This means that, under the current method, a solar QF is
2 only receiving 30 percent of the capacity value that it actually contributes to
3 the utility's system.¹

4 This result is contrary to the Commission's intent to produce more accurate
5 avoided cost estimates. Therefore, ODOE urges the Commission to revise the
6 current method to correct this flaw.

7 **Q. DESCRIBE THE FLAW IN THE CURRENT METHOD.**

8 A. The flaw is clearly explained in Staff's opening testimony on this subject (see
9 Staff/400, Andrus/4-5). I will provide additional explanation here.

10 The utility's capacity costs are represented by the fixed costs of an SCCT,
11 and are measured in annual dollars per kW of capacity. When receiving
12 power from a QF, the utility avoids those capacity costs in proportion to the
13 QF resource type's incremental capacity contribution. A generating resource's
14 capacity contribution represents the percentage of its nameplate capacity that
15 reliably contributes to the utility's capacity needs.

16 In developing the current method, Staff intended to determine the appropriate
17 avoided capacity cost to include in the on-peak price by multiplying the
18 capacity contribution of the QF resource "by the dollar value of capacity."²

19 Staff's error was in using the volumetric (per-MWh) capacity price to

¹ Using the numbers in Staff/401, Andrus/1, the solar QF's incremental capacity contribution of 9.4 percent equals an annual capacity value of \$13,190. Under the current method the solar QF receives annual capacity payments of just \$3,951, or 30% of its actual capacity contribution.

² Staff/103, Bless/4.

1 represent the “dollar value of capacity” rather than the annual dollars-per-kW
2 fixed cost of the proxy avoided SCCT capacity resource.

3 It is inappropriate to use the volumetric capacity price amount to represent the
4 “dollar value of capacity” because the utility does not incur capacity cost on a
5 per-MWh basis during the resource deficiency period. The utility incurs
6 capacity cost on a per-kW basis. Therefore, the capacity cost that is avoided
7 by purchasing from a QF is the annual per-kW cost that the utility would incur
8 but for the QF. The dollar value of the avoided capacity cost is directly
9 proportional to the QF resource type’s incremental capacity contribution.

10 The correct way to determine the capacity cost avoided by the QF is to
11 multiply the QF resource type’s incremental capacity contribution by the
12 utility’s annual per-kW capacity cost. Once the avoided capacity cost is
13 determined, the on-peak per-MWh capacity price must be established based
14 on the QF resource type’s generating characteristics such that the QF
15 receives the full dollar value of its avoided capacity cost, assuming the QF
16 generates as much energy during on-peak hours as expected for that
17 resource type.

18 As Staff explains, the current method does not do this. Instead, the current
19 method “reduces the volumetric capacity price by a fraction representing the
20 QF’s relative contribution to capacity. However, because the volumetric price
21 is specifically designed to spread the cost of capacity over a number of MWh
22 as if the QF’s on-peak capacity factor is equivalent to that of a combined-
23 cycle combustion turbine (CCCT), it is impossible for an intermittent resource

1 that cannot operate in all those hours to receive all of the capacity dollars to
2 which it is entitled.”³

3 **Q. WHY WAS THE METHOD CHANGED IN ORDER NO. 14-085?**

4 A. Under the previous method, prior to Order No. 14-085, variable QFs received
5 the same per-MWh capacity rate as baseload QFs. There was no explicit
6 adjustment for capacity contribution. However, because a variable resource
7 does not generate at full capacity during all on-peak hours, a variable
8 resource QF earned less in cumulative capacity payments than a baseload
9 QF. Prior to Order No. 14-058, the QF was compensated for capacity in
10 proportion to the QF resource type’s on-peak capacity factor, or the average
11 percentage of nameplate capacity generated during all on-peak hours. A solar
12 QF with an on-peak capacity factor of 27.5 percent would have received
13 annual capacity payments totaling 27.5 percent of those received by a
14 baseload QF operating with the same capacity factor as the avoided CCCT.
15 Capacity *factor* will not always produce an accurate estimate of a utility’s
16 avoided capacity cost because it is a characteristic of the QF resource
17 independent of the utility system to which it is delivering energy. A more
18 accurate estimate of a utility’s actual avoided capacity cost is its capacity
19 *contribution*, which depends on both the characteristics of the QF resource
20 and the characteristics of the utility system to which it is delivering energy.
21 If a resource’s on-peak capacity factor and its capacity contribution are the
22 same value, the previous method would have accurately compensated for

³ Staff/400, Andrus/4.

1 avoided capacity costs. But if a resource's on-peak capacity factor is higher
2 than its capacity contribution value, as is the case for wind in all three utility
3 service territories, the previous method overcompensated that resource for
4 capacity. For example, in Portland General Electric's 2013 Integrated
5 Resource Plan, there is a large discrepancy between wind's on-peak capacity
6 factor (54 percent) and wind's capacity contribution (5 percent).⁴ In order to
7 produce more accurate avoided cost estimates, the Commission ordered that
8 the method for calculating capacity payments to different QF resource types
9 be modified to account for the capacity contribution of those resource types.

10 **Q. WHAT IS THE RESULT OF THE FLAW IN THE CURRENT METHOD?**

11 A. The result of the flaw in the current method is that the capacity payments to a
12 variable QF are now doubly discounted and the QF is severely
13 undercompensated for avoided capacity. As explained earlier, prior to Order
14 No. 14-058 the QF was compensated for avoided capacity proportional to the
15 QF resource's on-peak capacity factor. That is the first discount and it still
16 applies under the current method. The second discount, in which the capacity
17 payment is multiplied by the QF resource type's capacity contribution
18 percentage, further reduces the value of the capacity payment to well below
19 actual avoided cost.

20 The on-peak capacity factor and the capacity contribution are two different
21 ways to estimate the portion of capacity resource costs that are avoided by a
22 QF resource. Combining the two, as the current method does, creates

⁴ PGE 2013 IRP at 174.

1 inappropriate double discounting.⁵ To eliminate the double discounting and to
2 accurately reflect actual avoided costs, the capacity payments must
3 recalculated (not just further reduced) based on the capacity contribution of
4 the QF resource type.

5 **ISSUE NUMBER THREE, PART TWO**

6 **Q. HOW SHOULD THE METHODOLOGY BE REVISED?**

7 A. The Commission should adopt staff's proposed method Option 1, as outlined
8 in Staff/401, Andrus/1. Staff's revised method includes two steps. First,
9 determine the incremental avoided capacity cost in annual dollars-per-kW
10 that is attributable to the solar QF relative to the avoided wind resource. This
11 is done by multiplying the incremental capacity contribution of a solar
12 resource compared to that of the avoided wind resource by the utility's annual
13 cost-per-kW of an SCCT capacity resource. Second, convert that incremental
14 solar capacity contribution value from an annual dollars-per-kW amount into a
15 per-MWh payment rate based on the expected annual generation of the solar
16 resource. This is necessary so that the solar QF will be compensated for its
17 incremental avoided capacity costs each year, subject to the QF delivering as
18 much on-peak energy as expected.

19 **ISSUE NUMBER FOUR**

20 **Q. SHOULD THE CAPACITY CONTRIBUTION CALCULATION FOR THE**
21 **STANDARD NON-RENEWABLE AVOIDED COST PRICES BE MODIFIED**

⁵ ODOE/700, Brockman/3.

1 **TO MIRROR ANY CHANGE TO THE SOLAR CAPACITY CONTRIBUTION**
2 **CALCULATION USED TO CALCULATE THE STANDARD RENEWABLE**
3 **AVOIDED COST PRICE?**

4 A. Yes. The double discounting error occurs in the capacity payment
5 adjustments adopted in Order No. 14-058 for both the standard renewable
6 and standard non-renewable avoided costs. The current method for adjusting
7 capacity payments under the standard non-renewable avoided costs should
8 be revised to incorporate the same two-step approach proposed by Staff for
9 the standard renewable avoided costs.

10 First, determine the avoided capacity cost in annual dollars-per-kW that is
11 attributable to the variable QF resource type. This is done by multiplying the
12 capacity contribution of the variable resource type by the utility's annual cost-
13 per-kW of an SCCT capacity resource. Second, convert that capacity
14 contribution value from an annual dollars-per-kW amount into a per-MWh
15 payment rate based on the expected annual generation of the variable
16 resource type, such that the QF will be compensated for its avoided capacity
17 costs each year, subject to the QF delivering as much on-peak energy as
18 expected.

19 An example of this two-step process for adjusting the standard non-
20 renewable avoided costs is provided in Exhibit ODOE/801, Broad/1.

21 **Q. IS STAFF'S PROPOSED REVISED METHOD ALREADY IN USE BY ANY**
22 **OF THE UTILITIES?**

1 A. Yes. Idaho Power uses this same approach for negotiating QF rates, but uses
2 the characteristics of the project-specific QF resource (e.g. for solar: location,
3 panel tilt and orientation, components) instead of using assumed
4 characteristics of a proxy QF resource type. Under Idaho Power's method,
5 the "project-specific capacity contribution is multiplied by the annual capacity
6 cost of the SCCT, and then spread over the project's forecasted annual
7 energy deliveries to determine the avoided cost of capacity rate for that
8 specific project."⁶ This method calculates the fixed costs of the capacity
9 resource that are avoided by the specific QF based on its capacity
10 contribution, and establishes a payment rate based on the QF's expected
11 energy deliveries. That way, the QF will receive the full value of the fraction of
12 the SCCT capacity that is avoided by the QF, if the QF delivers energy as
13 expected. By customizing the rate to each QF, this method accurately
14 represents actual avoided capacity costs. For standard rates, it is reasonable
15 to use the characteristics of a proxy QF resource type.

16 **Q. IS IDAHO POWER'S CONCERN THAT STAFF'S RECOMMENDED**
17 **REVISED METHOD WILL RESULT IN PAYMENTS HIGHER THAN**
18 **AVOIDED COST⁷ VALID?**

19 A. No. Idaho Power has incorrectly equated the per-MWh capacity payment rate
20 to avoided capacity cost. Avoided capacity cost is measured in annual dollars
21 per kW. To determine if the QF is receiving more than avoided cost, one must

⁶ Idaho Power/600, Youngblood/10.

⁷ See Idaho Power Company's Post-Hearing Brief, at 5-6.

1 compare the *sum* of capacity payments received by the QF in a year to the
2 annual dollars-per-kW capacity cost that is avoided by the QF's generation,
3 not simply look at the per-MWh rate.

4 Idaho Power has correctly noted that, under Staff's revised method, a solar
5 QF delivering power to Idaho Power will receive a higher per-MWh capacity
6 payment rate than a baseload QF.⁸ But that is not the same as receiving
7 more than avoided cost. A solar QF will not receive more than avoided cost.
8 Under Staff's revised method, the total annual capacity payments to a solar
9 QF will always be less than the total capacity payments to a baseload QF
10 even if the solar capacity payment *rate* is higher.

11 As long as the capacity value is calculated appropriately⁹, Staff's proposed
12 revised method will provide the most accurate estimate of capacity costs
13 actually avoided by the QF because the per-MWh payment rate will be set
14 such that the QF is compensated accurately for the capacity cost it causes
15 the utility to avoid.

16

⁸ Under Staff's revised method, the adjusted per-MWh capacity rate paid to a variable QF will be higher than the per-MWh capacity rate paid to a baseload QF *only* if the variable resource's capacity contribution is higher than its on-peak capacity factor. This is the case for a solar resource delivering power to Idaho Power. In most cases the opposite is true, so the adjusted per-MWh capacity rate paid to the variable resource QF resource will normally be less than the per-MWh capacity rate paid to a baseload QF.

⁹ The appropriate method for calculating capacity value is currently being investigated in UM 1725.

ISSUE NUMBER NINE

**Q. HOW SHOULD THIRD-PARTY TRANSMISSION COSTS TO MOVE QF
OUTPUT OUT OF A LOAD POCKET TO LOAD BE CALCULATED AND
ACCOUNTED FOR IN THE STANDARD CONTRACT?**

A. Summary of ODOE position: Appropriate avoided cost allocation to QFs should be include a clear and consistent assignment of costs for transmission services necessary to move the QF output out of a load pocket where applicable. As part of the clarification, the term “load pocket” needs to be defined in this docket. QFs with lower capacity factors are more financially burdened by a transmission cost allocation which is flat across all months of the year. It is not always the case that the company executing a power purchase agreement (PPA) needs to secure transmission for every hour of the year, and in an amount equivalent to the maximum expected excess generation, in order to absorb all the output of the QF. The transmission need for each project should be based on the generation profile provided by the project in the standard contract. The transmission need for each project should be based on a realistic estimate of the number of low-load hours for the load pocket. If load grows more than expected over the 20 year contract or if QF and distributed generation grows more slowly in a load pocket, the standard contract could include a mechanism for update payments to the QF to reflect transmission costs that are lower than expected when the contract was signed.

1 **Q. WHAT EFFECT DOES GENERATION BY A QF HAVE ON SYSTEM**
2 **OPERATIONS IF THE QF IS LOCATED IN A LOAD POCKET?**

3 A. Generation from a QF is absorbed by load on the electric grid, regardless of
4 which company serves that load. However, there are geographically-isolated
5 areas for which electric utilities have supplied the retail load using power
6 generated by large central power stations and transmitted either by facilities
7 owned by the utility or services purchased from a third-party transmission
8 provider. QF output in such a geographically-isolated area, or load pocket,
9 may exceed the minimum retail load served by the company. This is called
10 "excess generation." In this case, the company needs to have the
11 transmission capability to move excess generation *out of* the load pocket.
12 The amount of the QF's generation which is excess generation varies based
13 on the generation profile, which for variable energy resources fluctuates hour-
14 to-hour as well as seasonally. The amount of excess generation also varies
15 based on the timing and quantity of the minimum load in the load pocket.
16 Dependent on the characteristics of the retail load, this minimum load
17 situation may exist for a small fraction of the hours during a given year.
18 Therefore, the standard contract should allow the QF to choose from among
19 a limited set of different types of transmission service.

20 **Q. DO WE CURRENTLY HAVE AN ADEQUATE DEFINITION OF A LOAD**
21 **POCKET?**

1 A. Load pocket is currently undefined. Tentatively, the Commission might define
2 the utility's load pocket as a portion of its electric utility retail service territory
3 that is not served by its owned transmission system from other portions of the
4 utility's service territory and has limited transmission contracts to deliver net
5 generation out of that portion of its territory.

6 **Q. WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF THE TRANSMISSION COSTS CURRENTLY**
7 **AGREED IN POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENTS FOR QFs IN LOAD**
8 **POCKETS RELATIVE TO THE QF GENERATOR SIZE AND PAYMENT**
9 **FOR THE GENERATION?**

10 A. In response to data requests by CREA, PacifiCorp disclosed¹⁰ that three QFs
11 in load pockets have executed PPAs which include transmission costs paid
12 by the QF. Two of the projects are in development, and one is currently
13 operating.

14 The operating project, a TMF Biofuels 4.8 MW biogas facility, and PacifiCorp
15 negotiated a \$/MWh reduction in the contract price for a 10-year term. The
16 PPA negotiation was finalized before the UM 1610 Phase 1 ruling on
17 February 24, 2014, which assigns to the QF the cost of transmission service
18 for excess generation out of the load pocket to load. The contract adjustment
19 results in the project taking a reduction in generation payment of roughly 4
20 percent to 7 percent for on-peak generation and roughly 6 percent to 9
21 percent for off-peak generation over the contract term. The transmission

¹⁰ Attachment CREA 9.1.

1 services procured are long-term firm (LTF), point-to-point (PTP) transmission
2 for 5.0 MW which covers all hours of operation.

3 The two projects in development, Adams Solar Center and Elbe Solar Center,
4 are each 10 MW solar facilities in a load pocket. Adams Solar Center and
5 Elbe Solar Center have the same developer and owner. The PPAs for these
6 projects were executed after the UM 1610 Phase 1 ruling regarding cost of
7 transmission service out of load pockets. An addendum to the PPA describes
8 the transmission services needed and how the costs will be assigned to the
9 QF. Firm PTP transmission service for 10 MW will be procured from
10 Bonneville Power Administration and from Portland General Electric for each
11 project. The costs are fixed each month, regardless of the output of the
12 project. The cost of transmission service results in each project taking a
13 reduction in generation payment of roughly 14 percent in a summer month of
14 nearly peak production (June) and a reduction of roughly 60 percent in a
15 winter month of nearly lowest production (January). The annual cost of 10
16 MW of transmission service is expected to be \$272,616 per year for each
17 project.

18 **Q. IS THERE A CONSISTENT APPROACH FOR PROCURING AND**
19 **CALCULATING THE COST OF TRANSMISSION SERVICE?**

20 A. No. In the examples given above for the 4.8 MW biogas facility and the 10
21 MW solar facilities, there does not appear to be a consistent approach. The
22 Commission should weigh the cost burden to QFs and the potential cost
23 impact to utilities when considering the two distinct approaches: allocating

1 costs on a dollars per MWh of generation basis, versus a flat cost charged
2 per month regardless of MWh of generation. There is value in allowing the QF
3 to choose one approach or the other, while still compensating the utility for
4 the real costs of securing the transmission service.

5 When calculating the cost of transmission service, it is important to choose
6 the type of transmission service best suited to the need. In responses to data
7 requests, PacifiCorp has shown a consistent preference for LTF PTP
8 transmission as the mechanism for modifying the standard contract. In
9 principle this is advantageous to the QF as well, since transmission service is
10 provided for all hours of the year and there is no risk of curtailment. However,
11 the responses from PacifiCorp also show that projects operating without LTF
12 PTP transmission service, such as Three Mile Canyon Wind Farm with 9.9
13 MW output, were operated without curtailment *and* with transmission service
14 of less than nameplate capacity. Three Mile Canyon Wind Farm was
15 operated from its commercial operation date of September 1, 2009, until
16 January 1, 2014, utilizing BPA short-term firm PTP transmission service in the
17 amount of 8.0 MW. PacifiCorp chose a service level of 8.0 MW due to the
18 historical minimum load of 2 MW in the load pocket.

19 In PacifiCorp's response to CREA Data Request 11.3 (c), the cost of the
20 short-term firm PTP transmission service is shown to be in the range of
21 \$9,600 to \$22,260 per month. Interestingly, over four years of operation no
22 transmission services were required in the summer months (May through
23 August). The resulting maximum yearly charge for moving 9.9 MW of QF load

1 out of the load pocket using short-term firm PTP transmission was \$110,720.
2 PacifiCorp purchased 8.0 MW of conditional firm PTP transmission for the
3 project since January 1, 2014. BPA was not able to offer PacifiCorp LTF PTP
4 transmission, so the company purchased conditional firm PTP transmission.
5 The cost is the same as LTF and since January 2014 has been \$13,888 per
6 month, equivalent to \$166,656 per year.

7 For the solar projects referenced above, depending on the summer load in
8 the load pocket, short-term firm PTP transmission could offer cost savings.

9 **Q. GIVEN THAT THE ISSUE STATEMENT ASSUMES THAT ACCOUNTING**
10 **FOR THIRD-PARTY TRANSMISSION RESULTS IN INCREASED COSTS**
11 **TO QFs IN THE STANDARD CONTRACT, HOW CAN WE BE SURE TO**
12 **INCLUDE THE LONG-TERM VIEW?**

13 A. To calculate third-party transmission costs and account for them, the
14 standard contract applies a fixed cost, comparable to an “integration cost,” to
15 QFs over the entire 15-year or 20-year contract period. The transmission
16 system operators in Oregon have continually sought technical and contractual
17 optimizations to lower integration costs for renewable, variable energy
18 resources. Requiring QFs to pay for LTF PTP transmission equivalent to the
19 maximum nameplate generation of the project does not appear to take
20 advantage of these optimizations.

21 Many important changes could occur in a utility’s resources and operations
22 over the course of a QF standard contract, e.g. load growth in the load

1 pocket, regional transmission upgrades, alternate contractual arrangements
2 with transmission service providers, or the development of energy storage.
3 Any or all of these changes would result in a reduction, and perhaps
4 elimination, of the cost for third-party transmission services. PacifiCorp states
5 in response to CREA Data Request 11.6 (c) and (d) that the company has
6 redirected a portion of its existing firm PTP transmission rights on a non-firm
7 and firm basis for the purpose of delivering QF output to a load out of a load
8 pocket. The company redirected BPA LTF transmission to accommodate
9 delivery of output of the Three Mile Canyon Wind project. The company took
10 this action because the LTF transmission was not fully utilized.

11 The Commission should ensure that the transmission costs are calculated in
12 a manner that accomplishes two goals:

- 13 1. The calculation must realistically reflect the need for transmission of
14 excess generation over the whole year, considering the historical
15 minimum load in the load pocket and the generation profile of the QF
16 described in the standard contract.¹¹ A QF having variable generation
17 and which is expected to have low generation during months of low
18 loads in the area would be penalized by a flat-fee approach to
19 transmission services. The QF should not be forced to pay for
20 transmission at nameplate capacity of the facility for all hours of the
21 year. The standard contract might give the option for the QF to

¹¹ "Seller's Motive Force Plan" in Exhibit D-1

1 purchase short-term firm PTP transmission if the owner of the QF
2 believes it to be cost effective and have minimal risk of curtailment.

3 2. The calculation must account for the potential for transmission costs
4 to change over the contract term. The electric utility could propose
5 two options in the standard contract: a \$/MWh adjustment to the
6 avoided cost rates, or a \$/kw-month transmission service fee. At the
7 end of the year, whichever option is chosen, the utility should perform
8 an analysis of the cost of transmission service by month and refund
9 any overpayment to the QF.

10 **Q. ALTHOUGH OVERALL UTILITY LOAD GROWTH IS MODEST IN THE**
11 **REGION, HOW SHOULD WE ADDRESS THE ISSUE THAT SPECIFIC**
12 **TYPES OF LOAD GROWTH CAN HAVE A LARGE EFFECT ON**
13 **OPERATIONS IN A LOAD POCKET?**

14 A. Certain rural areas in Oregon, especially in the eastern part of the state, are
15 attractive locations for data centers due to one or more factors: a cool
16 climate, inexpensive electricity, the availability of property tax incentives in
17 economically-distressed rural enterprise zones, and the absence of a state
18 sales tax. Data centers could change the whole outlook on load pockets, for
19 three reasons:

20 a. The data center load is likely to be large in comparison to the existing
21 load in the area. The introduction of a single large data center into a
22 load pocket could eliminate the need for transmission of QF excess

1 generation out of the load pocket, depending on the size of the QF
2 relative to the data center.

3 b. The data center load shape is typically very flat. When the load for a
4 typical data center is combined with the load for the existing users in
5 the area, the resulting load shape will have less of a “trough” for low-
6 load hours. The result is that QF generation would need to be
7 exported on third-party transmission for fewer hours per year.

8 c. A trend in data center design is to include on-site renewable energy
9 generation, usually from variable energy resources like solar. While
10 the addition of a large, nearly constant load could help an existing QF
11 generator in the area, if that load is offset or exceeded by output from
12 on-site generation then the load pocket problem would be
13 compounded. Will a data center which has been recruited to the state
14 be willing to pay the same “integration costs” for its excess
15 generation as QFs would be expected to pay in a standard contract
16 with the utility?

17 Other load types added to a load pocket, a new prison for example, could
18 have very similar effects on the electric system. If the QF is in a load pocket
19 where a large new load is under development, the standard contract could
20 include the option for exemption from transmission costs. The exemption
21 could be over the entire contract term or be limited to an initial period,
22 perhaps the first 5 years. Alternatively, there could be a finding each five

1 years whether or not an area is still a load pocket. This finding would apply to
2 all QF contracts in the area.

3 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

4 A. Yes.

DOCKET NO. UM 1610
Phase 2
EXHIBIT: ODOE/801
WITNESS: DIANE BROAD

**Before the
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON**

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

**Exhibit 801
Accompanying the Testimony of
Diane Broad**

May 22, 2015

UM 1610
 ODOE Proposal to Correct the Capacity Adjustment to the
 Standard Avoided Cost Prices for Variable QFs
 11/18/2014

The example below is for PacifiCorp's standard avoided cost prices. Inputs are indicated in yellow; other numbers are calculated.

ASSUMPTIONS:

- The avoided capacity resource is an SCCT. The SCCT inputs are based on PacifiCorp 2014 approved avoided cost filing, Advice No. 14-007, Appendix 1, Table 8.
- The number of on-peak hours is assumed to be 4,992 -- the number used in PacifiCorp's 2014 approved avoided cost filing.
- Solar and wind peak capacity contributions are from PacifiCorp's 2013 IRP, Appendix O.
- Solar annual capacity factor is from PVWatts, based on a premium-module south-facing fixed array at 36 degree tilt. Solar generation is assumed to fall entirely between 6 am and 10 pm.
- Based on PGE's data for the Tucannon wind farm in the Columbia Gorge, wind annual capacity factor is assumed to be 36.8%, with 54% of all annual MWh being generated during on-peak hours.
- A Baseload QF is assumed to operate with the same on-peak capacity factor of 91.8% as the avoided CCCT resource.

1. Determine cost per kW per year of representative avoided capacity resource (SCCT).

\$/kW-yr	First year capacity cost can be avoided
\$ 140.32	2024

2. Calculate first year target payment for the QF's peak capacity contribution (\$/kW).

QF resource type	Annual capacity cost of SCCT (\$/kW-yr)	Peak Capacity Contribution of QF	Annual capacity cost avoided by QF (\$/kW-yr)	First year target capacity payment to QF (\$/kW)
Baseload	\$ 140.32	100.0%	\$ 140.32	\$ 140.32
Wind	\$ 140.32	4.2%	\$ 5.89	\$ 5.89
Solar	\$ 140.32	13.6%	\$ 19.08	\$ 19.08

3. Convert the target first year capacity payment dollars to a volumetric basis (\$/MWh) based on the number of MWh expected to be generated by the QF during on-peak hours.

QF resource type	First year target capacity payment to QF (\$/kW)	# On-Peak Hours per Year	QF On-Peak Capacity Factor	# On-Peak Hours QF will Generate	Volumetric Capacity Payment (\$/MWh)
Baseload	\$ 140.32	4,992	91.8%	4,583	\$ 30.62
Wind	\$ 5.89	4,992	28.4%	1,419	\$ 4.15
Solar	\$ 19.08	4,992	27.5%	1,374	\$ 13.89

4. Determine the total on-peak payment to the QF by adding the energy and capacity payment amounts.

QF resource type	Volumetric Capacity Payment (\$/MWh)	Energy Payment from Schedule 37 (\$/MWh)	Total On-Peak Payment (\$/MWh)
Baseload	\$ 30.62	\$ 39.06	\$ 69.68
Wind	\$ 4.15	\$ 39.06	\$ 43.21
Solar	\$ 13.89	\$ 39.06	\$ 52.95

DOCKET NO. UM 1610
Phase 2
EXHIBIT: ODOE/700
WITNESS: PHILIP CARVER

**Before the
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON**

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Testimony of Philip Carver

May 22, 2015

1 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ORGANIZATION.**

2 A. I am Phil Carver with the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE). The
3 business address is 625 Marion St. NE, Salem, Oregon. I am the same
4 witness as in ODOE/400 in Phase 1. I am testifying on behalf of ODOE.

5 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS.**

6 A. I have a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of
7 California, San Diego (1972) and a Ph.D. in natural resource and utility
8 economics from the Johns Hopkins University (1978).

9 From 1978 to 1980, I was an assistant professor at Dartmouth College.

10 From 1980 until 2008, I worked for the ODOE. During that time I
11 testified in a number of Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC)
12 dockets, including UM 1129, a previous docket relate to implementing
13 section 210 of the federal Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act (PURPA)
14 of 1978.

15 From November 2008 to July 2009, I was the lead OPUC staff on the
16 Renewable Portfolio standards rulemaking (AR 518). From May 2010
17 to December 2012, I was a half-time senior policy analyst with the
18 OPUC.

19 Since then I have worked half-time for ODOE as a senior policy
20 analyst. This work focuses on removing key barriers to generating
21 more renewable power and reducing energy use.

22 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS TESTIMONY?**

1 A. I will address issues number one, five and six from the ALJ memo of March
2 26, 2015. The other ODOE witness, Diane Broad, will address issues number
3 three, four and nine.

4 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR TESTIMONY.**

5 A. On issue number one I will describe ODOE's proposal that the qualifying
6 facility (QF) is the party that should own the Green Tags (a.k.a. renewable
7 energy certificates or RECs) during the period of the contract for which the
8 QF is paid market prices.

9 On issue number five I will describe ODOE's proposal for establishing a
10 contested case docket in parallel with each utility's integrated resource docket
11 in order to resolve issues and assumptions related to calculating the utility's
12 avoided costs.

13 On issue number six I will describe ODOE's proposal for resolving the
14 question of whether market prices sufficiently compensate for capacity, based
15 on an assessment of the utility's actual purchasing practices as part of the
16 proceeding proposed under issue five.

17 **ISSUE NUMBER ONE**

18 **Q. WHO SHOULD OWN THE GREEN TAGS DURING THE LAST FIVE**
19 **YEARS OF A 20-YEAR FIXED PRICE PPA DURING WHICH PRICES PAID**
20 **TO THE QF ARE AT MARKET?**

21 A. There is apparent confusion over the interpretation of the following statement
22 from page 1 of Commission Order No. 11-505 as it relates to the last five

1 years of a fixed-price renewable QF contract: “The QF will ... transfer those
2 RECs [renewable energy certificates, a.k.a. “green tags”] to the purchasing
3 utility during period of renewable resource deficiency.” While the last five
4 years of the fixed-price renewable contract period could be interpreted as part
5 of the “period of renewable resource deficiency,” the QF is paid only the
6 market price during this period. Applying this interpretation, a QF would
7 transfer the RECs and the power but only be compensated for the power.
8 This would conflict with requirement under PURPA that a utility must pay for
9 all costs that it avoids. Under this interpretation the utility would receive the
10 RECs and avoid compliance costs associated with Oregon’s Renewable
11 Portfolio Standard (RPS), but would not pay the QF for the compliance costs
12 that it avoids.

13 That the Commission did not intend this outcome can be seen from its
14 statement on page 5 of Commission Order No. 11-505: “If the QF chooses
15 the standard avoided cost stream, it would retain the RECs associated with
16 the energy.” In selecting a 20 year fixed-price renewable PPA the QF is
17 choosing to receive the *standard avoided costs* (i.e. market prices) during the
18 last five years of the contract. Therefore, the QF is entitled to retain the RECs
19 associated with the energy during the last five years of a fixed-price
20 renewable contract.

21

1 **ISSUE NUMBER FIVE**

2 **Q. IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH THE CURRENT PROCESS TO RESOLVE**
3 **DISPUTES ON THE INPUTS AND ASSUMPTIONS USED TO CALCULATE**
4 **AVOIDED COSTS?**

5 A. Yes. The current process, where the utility files its avoided cost calculations
6 after the acknowledgement order, does not allow sufficient opportunity to
7 challenge the assumptions in the filing.

8 **Q. PLEASE ELABORATE ON THE PROBLEMS WITH THE CURRENT**
9 **SYSTEM OF HAVING THE ELECTRIC COMPANY FILE ITS AVOIDED**
10 **COSTS AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PROCEEDING RELATED TO**
11 **THE COMPANY'S INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN (IRP).**

12 A. While some key issues, such as the date for the next avoidable facility, may
13 be decided in an IRP acknowledgement order, many are not. The
14 acknowledgement order focuses on whether or not to acknowledge action
15 items over the next three or four years. Actions taken beyond that time will be
16 addressed in the next IRP and subsequent proceeding, so the Commission
17 need not assess those actions in the acknowledgement order. The
18 acknowledgement order does not explicitly address most of the input
19 assumptions in the IRP that affect avoided costs. Parties interested in these
20 assumptions do not currently have their "day in court." For example, there
21 was no proceeding to resolve the issue of the proper level of integration costs

1 for a wind QF. The issue is less controversial now, but not as the result of a
2 Commission order.

3 **Q. WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PROPOSE?**

4 At the same time that an IRP is filed with the Commission, a separate
5 proceeding should begin to address the assumptions affecting avoided cost
6 calculations. This additional proceeding should conclude around the same
7 time as the acknowledgement order.

8 **Q. WHY THIS KIND OF PROCEEDING?**

9 A. ODOE proposes that the Commission require utilities to file avoided cost
10 calculations when they file their IRPs. Parties could ask the Commission to
11 address any disputes related to avoided costs in a proceeding that would run
12 parallel to the IRP proceeding. To start an avoided cost proceeding at the
13 same time as the IRP proceeding would allow parties to challenge the
14 assumptions underlying the calculation of avoided costs, while allowing the
15 avoided costs to be put into place at roughly the same time as the
16 acknowledgement order. By contrast, starting an avoided cost proceeding
17 after the order would result in a delay similar in length to the nine month IRP
18 proceeding, impeding timely implementation of refreshed avoided costs.
19 The OPUC staff should publish and the Commission should approve a set of
20 minimum filing requirements (MFR) for these avoided cost filings. The MFR
21 should be sufficiently detailed to ensure that filings demonstrate that the
22 assumptions underlying the avoided cost estimates are reasonable. If an

1 input assumption is unresolved at the end of the proceeding, the Commission
2 should choose an estimate that is supported by the preponderance of the
3 evidence.

4 **Q. AVOIDED COSTS FILINGS HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT**
5 **CONDUCTING A SEPARATE CONTESTED CASE PROCEEDING SINCE**
6 **IRPs WERE BEGUN AROUND 25 YEARS AGO. WHAT HAS CHANGED**
7 **THAT REQUIRES A NEW PROCEEDING?**

8 A. One big change is the addition of renewable avoided costs, where the QF
9 transfers the RECs to the utility. Calculating a need date for a renewable
10 resource to satisfy the Oregon renewable portfolio standard (RPS) is more
11 complex than calculating a standard need date. Determining this date can
12 depend on a company's future decisions about how to comply with the RPS,
13 some of which may not be appropriate for acknowledgement. Also, more
14 recently the need dates for both standard and renewable avoided costs for
15 some companies are now well beyond the time encompassed by the action
16 plan.

17 **Q. WOULD HAVING A PARALLEL PROCESS BE MORE COSTLY THAN**
18 **RESOLVING ISSUES AT THE TIME UTILITIES UPDATE AVOIDED**
19 **COSTS, AFTER THE COMMISSION HAS ISSUED AN IRP**
20 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ORDER?**

21 A. It would not add substantially to the costs, assuming that the non-parallel
22 process were as complete and thorough as the parallel process ODOE is

1 proposing. The key issue is that if the Commission chooses to address these
2 issues after it has issued an acknowledgement order, the updated avoided
3 costs would not be implemented until the conclusion of the subsequent
4 process. Delaying the update would not be timely and would give the utility an
5 undue influence in resolving the controversy.

6 **Q. CAN YOU PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE OF NEW TYPES OF IRP ISSUES**
7 **THAT ARE NOT RESOLVED IN COMMISSION ACKNOWLEDGMENT**
8 **ORDERS?**

9 A. Yes, an example can be seen in the IRP filed by PacifiCorp March 31, 2015.

10 The company's preferred portfolio¹ (Table 8.7, IRP page 196, see Exhibit
11 701, page 1) does not include plans to build or buy new renewable resources
12 through 2034. The IRP assesses renewable resource needs to fulfill the RPS
13 requirements only through 2024 (IRP page 194, see Exhibit 701, pages 2-3).
14 During this period, RPS requirements are met through purchases of
15 unbundled RECs and regular allocations of bundled RECs. The IRP defers
16 any recommendation related to renewable acquisition until the next IRP, at
17 the earliest.

18 Action Item #1 (Renewable Portfolio Standard Compliance) on page 10 of the
19 IRP states:

20 *With a[n Oregon] projected bank balance extending out through*
21 *2027, defer issuance of RFPs seeking unbundled RECs that will*

¹ Page 186, pages 193-194 and page 10 of
http://www.pacificorp.com/content/dam/pacificorp/doc/Energy_Sources/Integrated_Resource_Plan/2015IRP/PacifiCorp_2015IRP-Vol1-MainDocument.pdf

1 *qualify in meeting Oregon renewable portfolio standard targets until*
2 *states begin to develop implementation plans under EPA's draft*
3 *111(d) rule, providing clarity on whether an unbundled REC strategy*
4 *is the least cost compliance alternative for Oregon customers.*

5 Thus the IRP makes no representation about the deficiency date for
6 renewable resources. Nor does it contain information about the likely
7 incremental cost of RPS compliance. Given this, the current PacifiCorp IRP
8 acknowledgement process is unlikely to determine a deficiency date or
9 incremental costs of the RPS. A parallel contested case process would be a
10 better venue to estimate these values.

11 **Q. ARE THERE OTHER ISSUES THAT HAVE EMERGED SINCE IRPs WERE**
12 **INSTITUTED THAT REQUIRE A PARALLEL PROCESS FOR**
13 **DETERMINING AVOIDED COST?**

14 A. Yes. As noted above, wind integration costs have been contentious in the
15 past. In relation to standard avoided costs, assigning the appropriate capacity
16 credit for variable renewable generation has become contentious. While the
17 OPUC has opened dockets to address this issue (UM 1716 and UM 1719), it
18 is likely that different assumptions will be needed for different companies. It
19 would be unusual for the Commission to rule on this kind of technical
20 assessment in an acknowledgement order.

21 In the future parties may also have disputes over how to apply issues that are
22 addressed outside the IRP process. For example, docket UM 1719 will
23 address how capacity credits for wind and solar resources should be

1 calculated in IRPs. It will not address how capacity credits should be
2 calculated for standard (10 MW and under) QF contracts.

3 Also, the Commission in Order No. 14-058 decided that transmission costs to
4 a company associated with a “load pocket” be assigned to the Qualifying
5 Facility (QF) and avoided costs be adjusted accordingly.² ODOE witness
6 Diane Broad addresses this issue in her testimony.

7 Whether or not a particular delivery point is in a load pocket is an empirical
8 question, and the answer will change over time. Such a determination is not
9 likely to be adequately addressed in an acknowledgement order. It would be
10 best addressed in the parallel proceeding that ODOE recommends.

11 **Q. IS THERE ANOTHER ISSUE THAT ODOE WILL RAISE IN THIS**
12 **PROCEEDING THAT MIGHT BE BETTER ADDRESSED IN A PARALLEL**
13 **PROCEEDING?**

14 A. Yes. The issue of whether a utility used appropriate forecasts of market prices
15 in avoided cost calculations in their IRPs is also not likely to be addressed
16 adequately in the IRP Order. ODOE suggests below that whether or not a
17 particular price forecast is appropriate should be treated as an empirical
18 question that depends on a utility’s actual purchasing practices (see ODOE
19 response to Issue number six below).

^{2 2} “We anticipate asking parties to recommend how third-party transmission costs to transport QF output from receipt in a load pocket to load should be accounted for in standard contracts; for example, by lowering avoided standard avoided cost rates, separately in interconnection cost assessments, through an addendum as suggested by Pacific Power, or by some other means.” Order No. 14-058, pp. 22-23. This is issue number nine in this docket which is addressed by ODOE witness Diane Broad.

1 **ISSUE NUMBER SIX**

2 **Q. DO MARKET PRICES USED DURING THE RESOURCE SUFFICIENCY**
3 **PERIOD SUFFICIENTLY COMPENSATE FOR CAPACITY?**

4 A. The answer depends on how market prices are forecast and whether that
5 forecast accurately reflects the actual purchasing practices of a utility.

6 When a utility files its avoided cost prices with the Commission, it includes a

7 forecast of the market price during the Resource Sufficiency Period. This

8 forecast is typically taken from the IRP. Whether these prices accurately

9 reflect the costs the utility would avoid depends upon the utility's actual

10 purchasing practices. For example, a utility might use a forecast of Mid-

11 Columbia monthly wholesale power prices. However, if it typically purchases

12 capacity separately from its energy purchases or if it contracts for a longer

13 term at fixed prices, this forecast is unlikely to reflect the costs the utility will

14 actually avoid. Whether or not a utility's forecast reflects its actual practices is

15 an empirical question that could be determined in a proceeding that would

16 parallel the IRP proceeding, as discussed in the answers to issue number five

17 above.

18 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

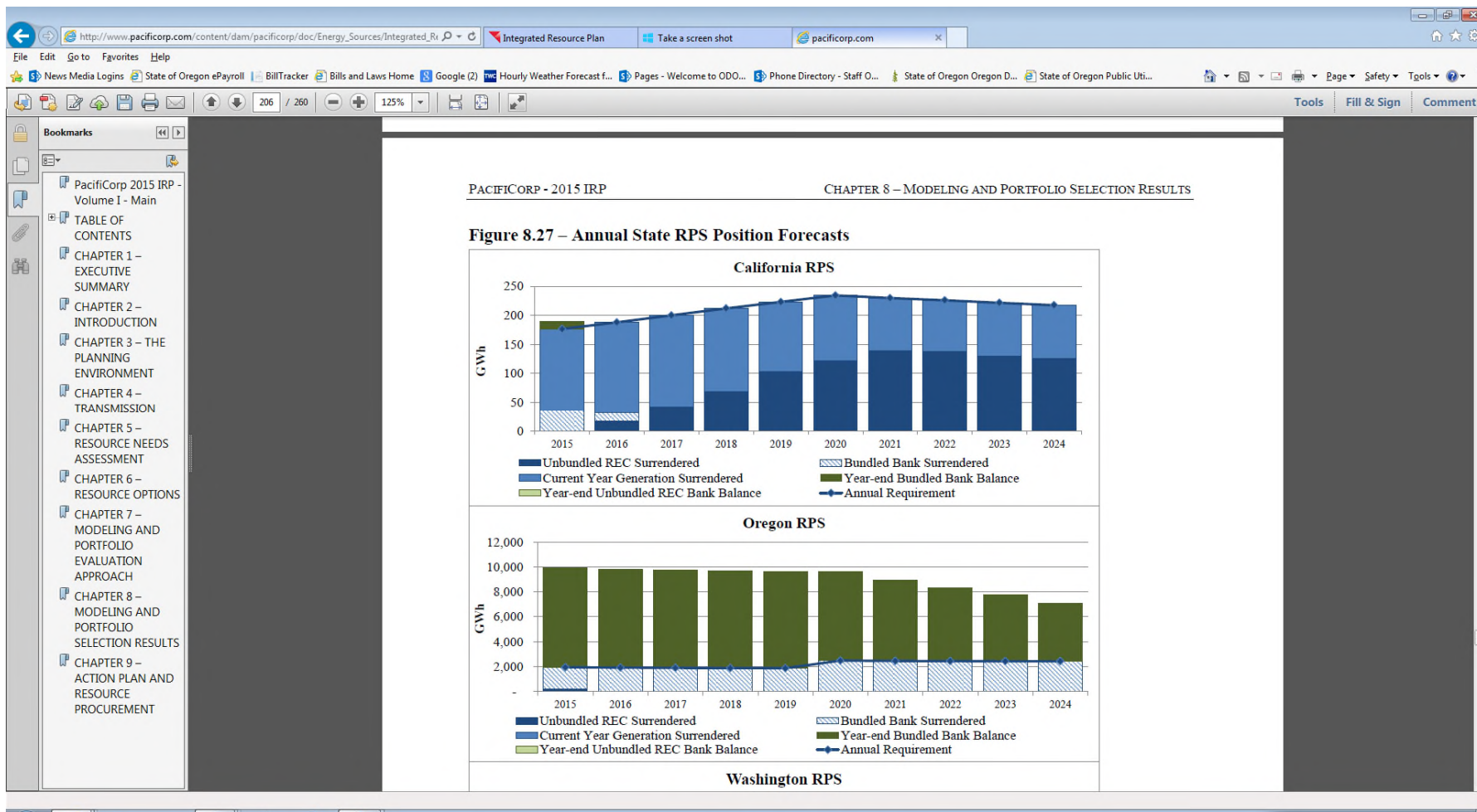
19 A. Yes.

DOCKET NO. UM 1610
Phase 2
EXHIBIT: ODOE/701
WITNESS: PHILIP CARVER

**Before the
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON**

**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Exhibit 701
Accompanying the Testimony of
Philip Carver**

May 22, 2015



The chart, titled "Washington RPS", displays CO₂ emissions in GWh from 2015 to 2024. The y-axis ranges from 0 to 800 GWh. The x-axis shows years from 2015 to 2024. The chart is a stacked bar chart with a line graph overlaid. The stacked bars represent: Unbundled REC Surrendered (dark blue), Current Year Generation Surrendered (medium blue), Bundled Bank Surrendered (hatched), and Year-end Bundled Bank Balance (green). The line graph represents the Annual Requirement (blue line with diamond markers). The Year-end Unbundled REC Bank Balance is also indicated by a light green bar at the bottom of the stack for 2015-2019.

Year	Unbundled REC Surrendered	Current Year Generation Surrendered	Bundled Bank Surrendered	Year-end Bundled Bank Balance	Year-end Unbundled REC Bank Balance	Annual Requirement
2015	100	0	0	0	0	100
2016	250	100	0	0	0	350
2017	250	100	0	0	0	350
2018	350	50	0	0	0	400
2019	350	50	0	50	50	450
2020	150	450	0	0	0	600
2021	150	450	0	0	0	600
2022	150	450	0	0	0	600
2023	150	450	0	0	0	600
2024	150	450	0	0	0	600

Figure 8.28 shows CO₂ emissions from the preferred portfolio through 2034 under base price curve assumptions. Relative to 1990 CO₂ emissions of approximately 46 million tons, PacifiCorp's forecasted CO₂ emissions from the preferred portfolio fall below 1990 levels by 2025. By the end of the 20-year planning period, PacifiCorp's CO₂ emissions from the preferred portfolio are projected to drop 14% below 1990 emission levels.

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PACIFICORP - 2015 IRP CHAPTER 8 – MODELING AND PORTFOLIO SELECTION RESULTS