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April 29, 2013

Oregon Public Utility Commission Attention: Filing Center 550 Capitol Street NE, #215 PO Box 2148

Salem OR 97308-2148

E-mail: PUC.filingcenter@state.or.us

Re: Docket UM 1610—Investigation into Qualifying Facility Contracting and Pricing

Attention Filing Center:

Enclosed for filing in UM 1610 are an original and five (5) copies of

Reply Testimony of Small Business Utility Advocates: SBUA 200 Testimony of Gregory Price

This document is being filed by electronic mail with the Filing Center. Hard copies will be sent via US Mail.

This document is being served upon the UM 1610 service list.

Sincerely,

Diane Henkels, CLP Counsel for SBUA

Enclosure

Cc: UM 1610 Service list (by e-mail)



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#### CERTIFICATE OF FILING SERVICE

I hereby certify that on April 29, 2013, I served a copy of SBUA's Reply Testimony upon the persons named in the UM 1610 Service list by electronic mail only as all parties have waived service.

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Dated: April 29, 2013.

Diane Henkels, Attorney at Law Cleantech Law Partners, PC Attorneys for SBUA

# **UM 1610 Investigation into Qualifying Facility Contracting and Pricing**

Small Business Utility Advocates

Reply Testimony of Gregory Price

April 29, 2013

- 1 Q: Are you the same Gregory Price who provided testimony for Small Business Utility
- 2 Advocates on March 18, 2013?
- 3 A: Yes.

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- 5 Q: What is the purpose of your testimony?
- 6 A: The purpose of my testimony today is to provide more information on which I based my
- 7 previous testimony and to clarify certain points.

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- Q: Refer to your testimony from March 18, 2013, on what do you base 10 MW of
- capacity as a "clear demarcation" between large and small non-PURPA projects?
- 11 **A:** Please refer to the facts, figures, calculations, or work papers used in docket UM 1129
- that established 10 MW nameplate as a threshold distinguishing projects eligible to receive
- standard contracts from utilities and larger PURPA projects which must negotiate power
- purchase agreements with the utilities. Rates for projects larger than 10 MW but eligible as
- qualifying facilities for PURPA rates must be individually negotiated with the utility. Order 05-
- 16 584 referred to parties' positions on the topic of eligibility threshold for standard contracts and
- 17 noted that:

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pose obstacles to a QF's negotiation of a power purchase contract. In addition to transaction costs, which in economics and related disciplines are traditionally considered to encompass only

"The evidence in this proceeding shows that market barriers other than transaction costs

- those costs that are incurred to make an economic exchange, parties identified other market
- barriers such as asymmetric information and an unlevel playing field that obstruct the negotiation of non-standard QF contracts. Just like transaction costs, these market barriers can render certain
- of non-standard QF contracts. Just like transaction costs, these market barriers can render certain QF projects uneconomic to get off the ground if an individual contract must be negotiated... We
- 24 QF projects uneconomic to get off the ground if an individual contract must be negotiated... We 25 rely, in particular, on the facts that Staff's proposed threshold of 10 MW took into account the
- 26 extent to which market barriers prevented successful negotiation of a contract and that [Oregon
- 27 Department of Energy] ODOE, which has significant experience with the development of QF
- projects, indicated that 10 MW represented a point at which the costs of negotiation become a
- 29 reasonable fraction of total investment costs."

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- Order 05-584, pp. 16-17, available at: http://apps.puc.state.or.us/orders/2005ords/05-
- 2 584.pdf. As stated above, in 2005, ODOE had found that 10 MW was a threshold point, and
- 3 ODOE still recommends a 10 MW as a threshold for standard contract PURPA energy projects.
- 4 In UM 1610, testimony by ODOE State Energy Loan Program staff demonstrates continued
- 5 support for a 10 MW cap. Exhibit ODOE/200/Elliott/2.

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- 7 Q: Please refer to your testimony of March 18, 2013 SBUA/100, page 5, where you state
- 8 "yet these smaller projects can be the ones that create the most local value to the
- 9 community where the projects are located. A National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- 10 Report indicates a higher rate of return to communities of smaller wind projects." Please
- provide a copy of the National Renewable Laboratory Report that supports this statement.
- 12 A: A National Renewable Energy Laboratory Report supports this statement and is available
- at http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy09osti/45555.pdf. Note that this same report was referred to in the
- 14 CREA testimony of Ormand Hilderbrand. Exhibit CREA/100/Hilderbrand/3. See also an NREL
- 15 2009 Report "Economic Development Impacts of Community Wind Projects: A Review and
- 16 Empirical Evaluation", also supporting this.
- 17 http://www.oregon.gov/energy/RENEW/Wind/docs/CommunityWindReviewAnalysis 1.pdf, p.
- 18 6.
- 19 Q: As of March 18, 2013, how many SBUA members in Oregon own a DG project or
- 20 receive power from a community DG project?
- 21 A: SBUA members include entities engaged in the renewable energy industry, and at least
- 22 one such entity, the Distributed Wind Energy Association ("DWEA"), is a membership
- 23 organization of which a publicly available list of renewable energy companies is available at the
- following website: http://distributedwind.org/home/members/. Bergey Windpower, BridgeWell

1 Resources, Southwest Windpower, Endurance, Wind Analytics, Wind Turbine Industries Corp, 2 and American Resource and Energy, for example, all have projects or technology sold in Oregon and Bridgewell is based in Oregon; however, it is unknown how many of these companies own 3 or receive power from a community distributed energy. 4 In addition, the Articles of Incorporation and mission of SBUA includes advancing small 5 6 businesses "in their efforts to develop clean and renewable technologies in a cost effective manner" (SBUA Articles of Incorporation, Art. II (b)), and to advance this goal the corporation 7 has focused, at least in part, on representing the interests of small renewable energy generators 8 nationwide in PUC proceedings. 9 10 Q: Regarding SBUA/100, page 7, lines 6-13, you appear to be asking that in return for a Mechanical Availability Percentage (MAP) being imposed on resources signed to a 11 12 standard contract, the utility raise the paid rate above avoided costs as a de facto MAP premium. Is this indeed what you support? 13 14 A: When I referred to "more amenable terms" such terms would have to relate to the 15 savings of costs not incurred by the utility. PURPA specifies that the rates paid by utilities for 16 electric energy purchased from qualifying facilities ("QFs") shall be just and reasonable to the 17 electric consumers of the electric utility and in the public interest, and may not exceed "the 18 incremental cost to the electric utility of alternative electric energy." 16 U.S.C. § 824a-3(b)(1) & 19 20 (2). PURPA defines incremental costs as "the cost to the electric utility of the electric energy which, but for the purchases from such [QF], such utility would generate or purchase from 21 another source." 16 U.S.C. § 824a-3(d). Oregon passed parallel state legislation (ORS 756.516

and ORS 758.500, et seq.). "More amenable terms" would reflect savings a utility incurs in its

incremental costs when it purchases power from a QF, including lack of line losses experienced,

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- 1 improving reliability and other benefits, such as those listed in an ODOE report, "Distributed
- 2 Generation in Oregon: Overview, Regulatory Barriers and Recommendations" ("Distributed
- 3 Generation Report") available at: http://www.oregon.gov/puc/electric\_gas/dg\_report.pdf , pp 7-
- 4 11. This report was referenced in Exhibit One Energy/100/Eddie/4, and I understand that ODOE
- 5 is undertaking an effort to update or build on this 2005 Distributed Generation Report. This and
- 6 other information such as the Distributed Wind Power Assessment by the National Wind
- 7 Coordinating Committee, available at http://www.perihq.com/documents/distributed\_wind.pdf,
- 8 pp 29-46, and especially pp 35-37, produced in 2001, regarding distributed wind generation, are
- 9 either presently available to inform this docket on distributed generation and its impacts on grid
- reliability and security, or will be available as studies on distributed generation are completed
- 11 and updated.
- 12 Q: Are there any other issues you would like to address?
- 13 A: No.
- 14 Q: Does this conclude your testimony?
- 15 A: Yes.