1	BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON				
2	UM 1209				
3	In the Matter of				
4)				
5	MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company and PacifiCorpRESPONSE OF RENEWABLE NW PROJECT AND NRDC TO BENCH REQUEST				
6	Joint Application for an Order Authorizing) MEHC to Exercise Substantial Influence)				
7	Over the Policies and Actions of) PacifiCorp)				
8)				
9	I. HARMS DISCUSSED IN RNP'S AND NRDC'S OPENING COMMENTS AND TESTIMONY				
10	RNP and NRDC offered the testimony of RNP's Director, Rachel Shimshak in UM 1209.				
11	In her testimony, Ms. Shimshak noted that MEHC had included preliminary commitments about				
12 13	renewable resources and energy efficiency and had acknowledged the environmental significance of				
13	greenhouse gas emissions-all issues of importance to RNP and NRDC. Ms. Shimshak noted that				
	under its current ownership, PacifiCorp had provided leadership on certain climate and other				
15	environmental issues that are important to its customers and the public generally. The primary				
16	"harm" that Ms. Shimshak noted was the uncertainty whether PacifiCorp would continue this				
17	leadership under the ownership of MEHC. In addition, Ms. Shimshak identified seven areas in				
18	which MEHC needed to make additional commitments and give additional assurances in order to				
19	meet the statutory standard of serving "the public utility's customers in the public interest." ORS				
20	757.511(3). These seven areas were:				
21	1. Make a stronger commitment to acquiring renewable resources;				
22	2. Clarify the connection between planned transmission investments and renewable				
23	acquisitions;				
24	3. Commit to implementing a conditional-firm transmission product pilot project				
25	program within one year;				
26					
	Page 1 RESPONSE OF RENEWABLE NW PROJECT AND NRDC TO COMMISSION'S BENCH REQUEST ESLER, STEPHENS & BUCKLEY Attorneys at Law 888 S.W. Fifth Avenue, Suite 700 888 S.W. Fifth Avenue, Suite 700				

- 1 4. Evaluate and report on flows on PacifiCorp's transmission system;
- 2
- 5. Implement a stable rate Blue Sky product;
- 3

6. Make a strong commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions;

4

7. Agree to support national policies that reduce global climate change.

In particular, in her testimony, Ms. Shimshak expressed a concern about PacifiCorp's two 5 year delay in starting the process of acquiring their IRP's 1400 MW of cost-effective renewable 6 resources over the "next" ten years, and a concern about the strength of Applicant's commitment to 7 acquire 100 MW of cost-effective wind power within one year of closing the transaction. She also 8 noted that PacifiCorp had been a leader in the region for recognizing the potential for future 9 regulation of global warming, and that she was concerned about the lack of a plan by MEHC to 10 address climate change with real emission reductions. Ms. Shimshak explained that wind energy 11 provides benefits by being highly cost competitive with other new resources, by providing stable 12 prices, resource diversity, no harmful emissions, and wind has very short lead times. 13

In her testimony, Ms. Shimshak noted that Applicants' new transmission project proposals, 14 particularly the Walla Walla project, provided a real long term opportunity for PacifiCorp to 15 16 integrate more renewable resources into its system, but she expressed a concern about the strength of Applicants' commitment to these projects. Ms. Shimshak also expressed a concern whether 17 Applicants were saying that PacifiCorp might not go forward with its commitment to acquire the 18 1400 MW of renewable resources if it did not proceed with the new transmission projects. Ms. 19 20 Shimshak pointed out that without the new transmission projects PacifiCorp could take interim measures that would free up transmission capacity and that there were a number of short term 21 transmission products that PacifiCorp could offer that would allow more wind resources to come on 22 line and would facilitate the delivery of existing wind resources. 23

Ms Shimshak pointed out that PacifiCorp is the largest emitter of global warming pollution in the Northwest, but that under its current ownership, it had emerged as an industry leader in identifying financial risks associated with CO₂ emissions. Ms. Shimshak said that MEHC had yet

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to provide satisfactory assurances on global climate issues. 1 2 Ms. Shimshak, on behalf of RNP and NRDC, called upon the Applicants to: Commit to meeting 10% of PacifiCorp's load with new, nonhydro 3 1 renewables within the next 10 years and 20% within twenty years. Make a stronger commitment to acquire renewables within the first year of the transaction or, at the very 4 least, clarify when the 400 MWs will be acquired. 5 2. Agree to develop a stable rate Blue Sky green power product. 6 Revise Commitment 50 so that MEHC and PacifiCorp provide quarterly 3. reports to the PUC about its renewables and transmission commitments. 7 Agree to launch a Conditional Firm pilot program within a year of the 4 8 close of the transaction. Agree to evaluate flows on PacifiCorp's transmission system and report on their utilization every other year. 9 5 Maintain support for Grid West and, in the absence of Grid West, other 10 regional transmission planning and coordination efforts in the Northwest. 11 Provide a plan for ensuring real reductions in carbon dioxide emissions at 6. PacifiCorp and indicate support for mandatory national limits on global warming 12 pollution. 13 All seven of the areas that Ms. Shimshak addressed on behalf of RNP and NRDC addressed, 14 and each of the six proposals they made, fell within the "Infrastructure and Resource Investments, 15 including renewable resources and the commitment to renewable resources, transmission 16 investment, energy efficiency and global climate leadership" issue that the ALJ had identified. 17 MITIGATING MEASURES IN THE STIPULATION THAT ELIMINATE OR II. **REDUCE HARMS** 18 As noted above, the primary "harm" that Ms. Shimshak noted was the uncertainty whether 19 20 PacifiCorp would continue, under the ownership of MEHC, to provide leadership on certain climate and other environmental issues that are important to its customers and the public generally. In 21 addition, Ms. Shimshak identified seven areas in which Applicants needed to make additional 22 commitments and give additional assurances in order to meet the statutory standard of serving "the 23 public utility's customers in the public interest." ORS 757.511(3). 24 In some cases, the commitments made by Applicants are exactly what RNP and NRDC had 25 sought. In other cases, consistent with the stipulation being a settlement, the commitments are 26 **ESLER, STEPHENS & BUCKLEY** Page 3 **RESPONSE OF RENEWABLE NW PROJECT AND**

NRDC TO COMMISSION'S BENCH REQUEST

somewhat different from what RNP and NRDC had sought. That being said, the commitments that 1 2 are somewhat different, nevertheless, address the very same areas of concern and do provide benefits such that RNP and NRDC, in the context of the larger stipulation reached by PUC Staff and 3 other parties such as CUB, concluded that in so far as they were concerned, this transaction serves 4 "the public utility's customers in the public interest." ORS 757.511(3). 5

6

A. **COMMITMENTS BY APPLICANTS**

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26

1. **Renewable Resource Commitments**

In their original application and supplemental testimony, MEHC made what is now 8 Commitment 40, reaffirming PacifiCorp's commitment to acquire 1400 MW of new cost effective 9 renewable resources, representing approximately 7% of PacifiCorp's load, and to work to bring at 10 least 100 MW of cost-effective wind resources in service within one year of the close of the 11 transaction. 12

Applicants made a number of renewable resource-related commitments in the stipulation 13 that go beyond Commitment 40, and which address the issues Ms. Shimshak raised in her testimony 14 on behalf of RNP and NRDC. 15

In Commitment O25, Applicants commit to have 400 MW of cost effective new renewable 16 resources in PacifiCorp's generation portfolio by December 31, 2007. (The 100 MW commitment 17 in Commitment 40 is part of the 400 MW commitment.) RNP worked more on obtaining this 18 commitment more than any other. Despite the qualifiers, RNP and NRDC believe the commitment 19 is valuable. Currently, the federal Production Tax Credit, which provides a provides an inflation-20 adjusted tax credit of $1.5 \notin/kWh$ for electricity generated from qualifying projects during the first 10 21 years of operation, is set to expire at the end of December 31, 2007. RNP and NRDC considered it 22 important to obtain a commitment from Applicants to acquire renewables in advance of the 23 expiration so that renewable energy could be obtained for ratepayers at a lower net cost. 24 In Commitment O26, PacifiCorp commits to file a specific 10 year plan for achieving the 25 1400 MW of renewable commitments it has made in its IRPs. This is another commitment RNP

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1 worked hard to obtain.

In Commitment 52, Applicants commit to evaluate increasing generation at the Blundell
geothermal facility—the incremental amount is expected to be 11 MW and perhaps as much as 100
MW. This commitment provides the potential for new baseload renewable generation in
PacifiCorp's largest growing service territory. This was offered by Applicants and RNP and NRDC
believe it has value.

7 2. Transmission Related Commitments

8 In their original application and supplemental testimony, Applicants made what is now
9 Commitment 34, to use their best efforts to make the transmission system infrastructure
10 improvements: Path C Upgrade; Mona-Oquirrh; Walla Walla-Yakima or Mid-Columbia.

Applicants made a number of transmission-related commitments in the stipulation that go beyond Commitment 34, and which address the issues Ms. Shimshak raised in her testimony on behalf of RNP and NRDC.

In Commitment 35(e), Applicants commit to support BPA's development of short-term 14 transmission products and to begin a process to design similar products for PacifiCorp. In 15 16 Commitment 35(f), PacifiCorp commits to continue to offer its Partial Interim Service product, to make reasonable efforts to offer transmission customers as much firm service as studies show is 17 available, and to continue its OATT tariff provisions. These commitments are related to short term 18 transmission products, the availability of which is important for renewable energy—wind, in 19 particular. RNP and NRDC directly addressed this issue in their testimony and worked on obtaining 20 this commitment. 21

In Commitment 53, the Applicants also commit to study constructing a new transmissionfacility in Wyoming that has the potential of making important new wind resources available.

24 **3.** Climate-Related Commitments

In Commitment O31, Applicants commit to form an IGCC ("Integrated Gasification
Combined Cycle") Working Group, sponsored by PacifiCorp to discuss various policy and

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1 technology issues associated with IGCC, carbon capture, and sequestration, and to seriously study

2 an IGCC option. This is a modification of a commitment crafted in Utah. This commitment is

3 related to reducing risks associated with climate change. RNP and NRDC believe it is a solid

4 commitment to study this new technology

- In Commitment 42 (b), Applicants commit to establish a global warming working group.
 As noted above, PacifiCorp, under its current ownership has been an industry leader with respect to
 these issues and this was an important commitment for RNP and NRDC.
- 8 4. Other Commitments

9 In Commitment O19, Applicants commit to support the renewal of the 3% public purpose 10 charge under ORS 757.612 beyond 2011 provided the Commission supports the renewal. CUB 11 took the lead in seeking this commitment. As the Commission knows, the public purpose funding 12 provides a critical component of funding for new cost-effective conservation, the above-market 13 costs of new renewable energy resources, and new low-income weatherization. Again, RNP and 14 NRDC believe this is another very important commitment.

15 III. MAGNITUDE OF THE BENEFITS AND ANY REMAINING HARMS, AND THE BASIS FOR CONCLUDING THAT THE APPLICATION MEETS THE PUBLIC 16 INTEREST STANDARD SET OUT IN ORS 757.511

RNP and NRDC did not undertake to address every issue or every harm or benefit that the 17 proposed transaction potentially raised. The Commission's rule on petitions to intervene, OAR 18 860-012-0001(1) requires petitioners to state the nature and extent of their interest in the proceeding 19 and any special knowledge or expertise they have that would assist the Commission in resolving the 20 issues in the proceeding. Consistent with that requirement and their petition, RNP and NRDC 21 limited their testimony to those areas in which they had a particular interest and possessed special 22 knowledge and expertise. Other parties, such as PUC Staff and CUB, have looked at broader issues. 23 As noted above, as a consequence of the benefits associated with the stipulations on renewable 24 resources, transmission, and global climate leadership, in the context of the larger stipulation 25 reached by PUC Staff and other parties such as CUB, RNP and NRDC believe that this transaction 26

Page 6 RESPONSE OF RENEWABLE NW PROJECT AND NRDC TO COMMISSION'S BENCH REQUEST

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1	serves "the p	public utility's customers in the public interest," and that it should	d be approved by the
2	Commission. ORS 757.511(3).		
3	DAT	ED this 6th day of February, 2006.	
4		ESLER STEPHENS & BUCK	CLEY
5		A IN AP	
6 7		By: John W. Stephens, OS Of Attorneys for Rene	B No. 77358 wable Northwest
8		Project	
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	Page 7	RESPONSE OF RENEWABLE NW PROJECT AND NRDC TO COMMISSION'S BENCH REQUEST	ESLER, STEPHENS & BUCKLEY Attorneys at Law

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I served the foregoing **RESPONSE OF RENEWABLE NW PROJECT AND NRDC TO BENCH REQUEST** on the following persons on February 6, 2006, by e-mailing, hand-delivering, faxing, or mailing (as indicated below) to each a copy thereof, and if mailed, contained in a sealed envelope, with postage paid, addressed to said attorneys at the last known address of each shown below and deposited in the post office on said day at Portland, Oregon:

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DATED this 6th day of February, 2006.

ESLER STEPHENS & BUCKLEY

By:

John W. Stephens, OSB No. 77358 Of Attorneys for Renewable Northwest Project