

Docket No. 09-_____
Exhibit No. PPL/700
Witness: Robert M. Meredith

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PACIFICORP

Direct Testimony of Robert M. Meredith

Cost of Service

November 2009

1 **Q. Please state your name, business address and present position with**
2 **PacifiCorp (“Company”).**

3 A. My name is Robert M. Meredith. My business address is 825 N.E. Multnomah,
4 Suite 2000, Portland, Oregon 97232. I am currently employed as a Cost of
5 Service and Pricing Analyst in the Regulation Department.

6 **Qualifications**

7 **Q. Please briefly describe your education and business experience.**

8 A. I graduated magna cum laude from Oregon State University in 2004 with a
9 Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and a minor in
10 Economics. In addition to my formal education, I have attended various industry-
11 related seminars. Since 2004, I have had experience working for the Company in
12 Customer Service, Finance, Large Account Management, and Regulation. I have
13 been in my present position since 2007.

14 **Q. What are your current responsibilities?**

15 A. My primary responsibilities are to prepare and perform class cost-of-service
16 analyses and to present their results.

17 **Purpose of Testimony**

18 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

19 A. I will present the development of PacifiCorp’s functionalized class revenue
20 requirement and supporting marginal cost-of-service study for the forecast twelve
21 months ending December 31, 2011.

22 **Q. Please explain Exhibit PPL/701, Table 1.**

23 A. Exhibit PPL/701, Table 1 shows PacifiCorp’s functionalized class revenue

1 requirement results based on the proposed revenue requirement change. Line 1
2 provides normalized present revenues by function for the forecasted twelve-
3 months ending December 31, 2011. Line 2 shows the proposed revenues for each
4 of the functionalized service categories: Production (also referred to as
5 Generation), FERC Transmission, State Transmission and Distribution. Line 3
6 shows the proposed revenue changes by function.

7 **Q. Please describe Exhibit PPL/701, Table 2.**

8 A. Exhibit PPL/701, Table 2 is the summary page from PacifiCorp's December 2011
9 Revised Protocol Beginning/Ending Average Results of Operations Summary for
10 the state of California. It is the basis for the functionalized revenue requirement
11 in Exhibit PPL/701, Table 1.

12 **Q. Please describe how functionalization is employed in the Results of**
13 **Operations.**

14 A. Functionalization is the process of separating expenses and rate base items
15 according to utility function. The production or generation function consists of
16 the costs associated with power generation, including mining and wholesale
17 purchases. The transmission function includes the costs associated with the high
18 voltage system utilized for the bulk transmission of power from the generation
19 source and interconnected utilities to the load centers. The distribution function
20 includes the radial distribution system that connects customers to the transmission
21 system. This includes distribution substations, poles and wires, line transformers,
22 service drops and meters. Also included in the distribution function are the costs
23 of metering, meter reading, billing, collections and customer service.

1 **Q. How was the revenue requirement for each of the unbundled categories**
2 **determined?**

3 A. Traditional revenue requirement methodology, recovery of costs plus a return on
4 rate base, is used to determine state and functionalized category revenue
5 requirement. Costs and rate base assets are from PacifiCorp's forecasted twelve-
6 months ending December 31, 2011 Results of Operations for the state of
7 California filed by Company witness Mr. R. Bryce Dalley. The application of
8 PacifiCorp's proposed rate increase, as shown on Exhibit PPL/701, Table 1, is
9 consistent with Mr. Dalley's Exhibit PPL/501.

10 **Q. Please describe Exhibit PPL/701, Table 3.**

11 A. Exhibit PPL/701, Table 3 contains the normalized forecast revenues and
12 functional class revenue requirements for the twelve-months ending December
13 31, 2011. Columns C–H, lines 1-12 provide the functionalized forecast revenues
14 by class. Lines 13-24 are based on the results of both PacifiCorp's Functionalized
15 Results of Operations and Marginal Cost Study. For example, the total generation
16 revenue requirement shown in Column (C), line 24 is based on Column (A), line 2
17 of Exhibit PPL/701, Table 1. The total generation revenue is then allocated to the
18 various classes of customers based on the percentages shown in Exhibit PPL/701,
19 Table 6, Column (B).

20 **Q. Please describe Exhibit PPL/701, Table 4.**

21 Exhibit PPL/701, Table 4 reflects the results of Exhibit PPL/701, Table 3 in cents
22 per kilowatt hour ("kWh").

1 **Q. Please identify Exhibit PPL/701, Tables 5 and 6.**

2 A. Exhibit PPL/701, Tables 5 and 6 contain summaries from PacifiCorp's State of
3 California 2011 Marginal Cost Study. Lines 32-34 of Exhibit PPL/701, Table 5
4 provide full functionalized marginal cost for each customer class, and lines 37 –
5 41 show each class's percent contribution of the total functionalized marginal
6 cost. For example, Column (B), line 38 shows that the residential class is
7 responsible for 48.55 percent of the total Generation marginal costs. Exhibit
8 PPL/701, Table 6 summarizes lines 37 – 41 of Exhibit PPL/701, Table 5.

9 **California Marginal Cost Study**

10 **Q. Please describe PacifiCorp's Marginal Cost Study that accompanies this**
11 **filing.**

12 A. PacifiCorp's 2011 Marginal Cost Study for the state of California is provided as
13 Confidential Exhibit PPL/702. Although some tables containing confidential data
14 have been redacted, all of the summary tables described in my testimony are
15 included in the public version of this exhibit. This study shows, by customer
16 class, PacifiCorp's marginal cost of resources required to produce one additional
17 unit of electricity or to add one additional customer. One- and ten-year marginal
18 costs are calculated in order to show the range of costs over different time
19 periods. Ten-year marginal costs are the primary tool used in setting retail tariff
20 prices. Confidential Exhibit PPL/702 contains a table of contents, ten summary
21 tables, and fifteen sections of supporting data.

22 **Q. How was this study prepared?**

23 A. The Marginal Cost Study was prepared in a similar manner to the study filed in

1 PacifiCorp's most recent California general rate case, Application ("A.") 05-11-
2 022 ("2005 Rate Case") and in prior cases. Generation at full marginal cost is
3 based on ten years of generation costs, as specified in the Settlement Agreement
4 between PacifiCorp and Division of Ratepayer Advocates ("DRA") ("Settlement
5 Agreement"), reached in PacifiCorp's 1992 general rate case, A.92-12-006. Also
6 as part of the Settlement Agreement, PacifiCorp agreed not to classify transformer
7 costs as demand-related in subsequent marginal cost studies. Therefore, 100
8 percent of transformer costs contained in this study continue to be classified as
9 commitment costs. Additionally, poles and conductors continue to be classified
10 entirely to demand and a nominal levelized carrying charge is used as directed in
11 Decision ("D.") 93-12-016, which approved the Settlement Agreement.

12 **Q. Does this marginal cost study employ the New Customer Only ("NCO")**
13 **method for determining marginal transformer, meter, and service costs?**

14 A. Yes. Consistent with the Company's 2005 Rate Case and with the preferences of
15 the California Public Utilities Commission and DRA, the Company continues to
16 utilize the NCO method for determining marginal transformer, meter, and service
17 costs in this case.

18 **Q. Are there any differences between this marginal cost study and the**
19 **previously filed study?**

20 A. Yes. The calculation of customer class loads has been revised. In previous rate
21 proceedings, class loads at the generator level were derived using class load
22 factors. The class load factor method was used for a number of years before data
23 necessary to develop specific class loads was available. In this filing, specific

1 class loads were developed using load research methodology and directly adjusted
2 for demand-related losses, which is more accurate than the previous method.

3 **Marginal Cost Calculation**

4 **Q. In the marginal cost-of-service study, how are one-year and ten-year
5 marginal costs calculated?**

6 A. One-year marginal costs include only changes in operating costs, while ten-year
7 marginal costs also include the cost of expanding facilities. The cost of added
8 facilities results in long-run costs, which are higher than short-run costs. Short-
9 run costs include only one year of generation energy costs and some billing costs.
10 Long-run costs include ten years of generation plus transmission and distribution
11 costs.

12 **Q. Please explain the marginal cost summary tables in Confidential Exhibit
13 PPL/702.**

14 A. Tables 1 and 2 of Confidential Exhibit PPL/702 summarize the one- and ten-year
15 marginal costs by customer class and load size group and are shown in mills/kWh.
16 Marginal commitment costs and billing expenses, which are referred to as
17 customer costs, are shown in dollars per customer per month for both the one-year
18 and ten-year time periods.

19 Confidential Exhibit PPL/702, Table 3 summarizes the unit costs based on
20 the results of the ten-year marginal cost study. Unit costs are shown for
21 generation, transmission, distribution and various customer service functional
22 categories. This table also includes energy usage, loads and number of customers
23 by customer class for the forecast test year and is used to calculate the annual

1 class long-run marginal costs shown on Confidential Exhibit PPL/702, Table 4.

2 **Q. Please explain how marginal generation costs are calculated.**

3 A. Marginal generation costs in this study are based on the Company's most recent
4 avoided cost calculations. These new resource costs are based on the fixed and
5 variable costs of a combined cycle combustion turbine ("CCCT"), which operates
6 as a base load unit. This recognizes that base load generation produces the dual
7 products of capacity and energy. The cost of the CCCT is split into capacity and
8 energy components. The fixed cost of a simple cycle combustion turbine
9 ("SCCT") defines the fixed costs of the CCCT that are assigned to capacity.
10 CCCT fixed costs which are in excess of SCCT fixed costs are assigned to energy
11 and are added to the variable costs of the CCCT to determine total avoided energy
12 costs. Capacity and energy costs are brought to their present value, summed and
13 an annual charge is applied to the total.

14 The marginal capacity cost is the same all year since capacity is important
15 each month for meeting peak loads, load following, thermal maintenance and
16 special sales. Marginal generation costs are summarized in Confidential Exhibit
17 PPL/702, Table 5.

18 **Q. How are transmission costs calculated?**

19 A. Transmission costs in this study are based on five years (2011-2015) of forecasted
20 investment to meet the anticipated transmission system load increases.
21 Expenditures identified as growth-related are used to develop marginal
22 transmission costs. All of these growth-related transmission investments, except
23 bulk power lines, are classified entirely to demand. Bulk power lines are

1 classified both to demand and energy in the same proportions as the long-run
2 marginal cost of generation resources. Marginal transmission costs are
3 summarized in Confidential Exhibit PPL/702, Table 6.

4 **Q. Please explain Confidential Exhibit PPL/702, Table 7.**

5 A. Confidential Exhibit PPL/702, Table 7 provides a unit cost summary of marginal
6 distribution and billing costs by class and load size. Distribution costs are
7 classified into three components: demand-related, shown in dollars per kilowatt
8 (“kW”)/year; commitment-related, shown in dollars per customer/year; and
9 billing-related, also shown in dollars per customer/year.

10 **Q. How are distribution line transformer, meter, and service marginal costs**
11 **calculated?**

12 A. Derivation of marginal transformer, meter, and service costs are illustrated in
13 Confidential Exhibit PPL/702, Table 8. Calculating costs per customer using the
14 NCO method requires the development of 1) investment costs, 2) hookup and
15 replacement values based on total and incremental customer counts, and 3) a
16 present value revenue requirement (“PVR”) for California distribution assets.

17 First, transformer costs are calculated using a least squares regression
18 analysis of the current installed cost versus size of the Company’s commonly
19 installed transformers. The fixed and load-size components are separated by the
20 nature of this statistical technique. The regression provides an intercept term,
21 which represents the fixed component, and a slope, which represents the load size
22 cost per kW. On page 28 of Attachment A of the previously mentioned
23 Settlement Agreement, PacifiCorp agreed not to classify transformer costs as

1 demand-related in subsequent marginal cost studies. Therefore, both the fixed
2 and load-size transformer costs have been classified as commitment costs in this
3 study. Service costs include the costs of new service drop investment plus
4 associated operations and maintenance (“O&M”) expense. Average service drop
5 investments are determined for each customer load size by analyzing service
6 requirements, such as single or three-phase service and voltage level. Service
7 drop O&M is based on the average of ten years of historical expenditures.
8 Metering costs include the cost of metering equipment with associated O&M.
9 Average meter investments are determined for each customer load size by also
10 analyzing service requirements similar to those for service drops. Meter O&M is
11 based on historical expenditures.

12 Second, for each customer group, the difference between December 2011
13 forecasted customers included in this case and December 2007 forecasted
14 customers filed in the 2005 Rate Case was used to develop average new hookups,
15 and a plant replacement percentage of 1.5 percent was applied to December 2011
16 customer counts to calculate a plant replacement value.

17 Finally, a current PVRR value for California distribution assets of 125.4
18 percent was used to derive the transformer, service, and meter costs for each rate
19 schedule. The PVRR value, which was prepared by the Company’s Finance
20 department, employs several state-specific assumptions, including a discount rate
21 of 8.69 percent, which is the Company’s proposed rate of return.

1 **Q. Please describe how the marginal costs of distribution poles and conductor**
2 **are calculated.**

3 A. The marginal cost of distribution poles and conductor are calculated using the
4 Company's distribution circuit model. The circuit model focuses on several key
5 characteristics that influence distribution cost of service. Among these are
6 customer density, customer size and usage characteristics, and customer location
7 on the circuit. The hypothetical circuit is constructed with seven branches of
8 equal length using composite line statistics and current cost estimates for
9 PacifiCorp's California service territory. The unit cost of each branch of the
10 circuit is calculated by dividing the total cost of the branch by the branch peak
11 kW (circuit kW peak of all customers located on or served downstream from that
12 branch).

13 The circuit model complies with Attachment A, page 28 of the previously-
14 mentioned Settlement Agreement, wherein PacifiCorp agreed to classify pole and
15 conductor costs as 100 percent demand-related in subsequent marginal cost
16 studies.

17 **Q. How are substation marginal costs calculated?**

18 A. Marginal substation costs are determined using the per-kW cost of recent and
19 planned substation additions. The cost per kW is determined by dividing growth-
20 related distribution substation investment by the related increase in substation
21 capacity. Substation marginal costs are classified entirely to demand and are
22 allocated to customer classes based on the distribution peak load for each class.

1 **Q. What is included in the customer accounting, service, and information**
2 **category?**

3 A. This category includes the costs of billing, payment processing, debt recovery,
4 meter reading expense, customer accounting, and customer service activities.
5 Meter reading expense is based on the historical experience of costs and typical
6 meter reading times for each customer class. Customer accounting and customer
7 service expense are based on historical expenditures and are assigned to each
8 customer class based on the various resources required to perform billing,
9 collections, and customer service activities for different types of customers.

10 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

11 A. Yes.