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January 17, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Public Utility Commission of Oregon
Attn: Filing Center
201 High Street SE, Suite 100
Salem, OR 97301-3398

RE: PCN 5—PacifiCorp's Opening Testimony

PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power encloses for filing its Opening Testimony in the above referenced docket.

If you have questions about this filing, please contact Cathie Allen, Regulatory Affairs Manager, at (503) 813-5934.

Sincerely,

Matthew McVee
Vice President, Regulatory Policy and Operations

Enclosure

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

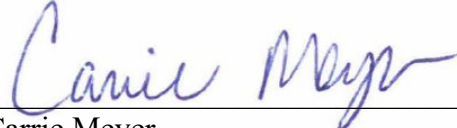
I certify that I delivered a true and correct copy of **PacifiCorp's Opening Testimony** on the parties listed below via electronic mail in compliance with OAR 860-001-0180.

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Dated this 17th day of January 2023.


 Carrie Meyer
 Adviser, Regulatory Operations

Docket No. PCN 5
Exhibit PAC/100
Witness: Rick T. Link

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

PACIFICORP

Opening Testimony of Rick T. Link

January 2023

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1 **I. INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

2 **Q. Please state your name, business address, and position with PacifiCorp d/b/a**
3 **Pacific Power (PacifiCorp or the Company).**

4 A. My name is Rick T. Link. My business address is 825 NE Multnomah Street, Suite
5 600, Portland, Oregon 97232. My position is Senior Vice President, Resource
6 Planning, Procurement and Optimization.

7 **Q. Please describe the responsibilities of your current position.**

8 A. I am responsible for PacifiCorp's energy supply management and resource planning
9 and procurement functions.

10 **Q. Please describe your professional experience and education.**

11 A. I joined PacifiCorp in December 2003 and assumed the responsibilities of my current
12 position in September 2021. Over this period, I held several analytical and leadership
13 positions responsible for developing long-term commodity price forecasts, pricing
14 structured commercial contract opportunities and developing financial models to
15 evaluate resource investment opportunities, negotiating commercial contract terms,
16 and overseeing development of PacifiCorp's resource plans. Before joining
17 PacifiCorp, I was an energy and environmental economics consultant with ICF
18 Consulting (now ICF International) from 1999 to 2003, where I performed electric
19 sector financial modeling of environmental policies and resource investment
20 opportunities for utility clients. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in
21 Environmental Science from the Ohio State University in 1996 and a Masters of
22 Environmental Management from Duke University in 1999.

1 **Q. Have you testified in previous regulatory proceedings?**

2 A. Yes. I have testified in proceedings before the Public Utility Commission of Oregon
3 (Commission), the California Public Utilities Commission, the Idaho Public Utilities
4 Commission, the Utah Public Service Commission, the Washington Utilities and
5 Transportation Commission, and the Wyoming Public Service Commission.

6 **II. PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

7 **Q. What is the purpose of your opening testimony?**

8 A. The purpose of my testimony is to support Idaho Power Company's (Idaho Power)
9 request for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for the
10 Boardman to Hemingway Transmission line (B2H Transmission line or B2H Project).
11 In particular, I respond to the direct testimony of Idaho Power witness Mr. Jared L.
12 Ellsworth,¹ who in part provides Idaho Power's justifications for the B2H Project.

13 **III. JUSTIFICATION FOR B2H PROJECT**

14 **Q. Please describe the B2H Transmission line.**

15 A. The B2H Transmission line is an approximately 298-mile-long, 500-kilovolt (kV)
16 electric transmission line that will extend from a switching station proposed to be
17 constructed near Boardman, Oregon to the existing Hemingway Substation located in
18 Owyhee County, Idaho. Approximately 274 miles of the B2H Transmission line is in
19 Oregon. A 24-mile segment of the B2H Project will be in Idaho. Construction of the
20 B2H Project would also require rebuilding just less than one mile of an existing 230-
21 kV transmission line and 1.1 miles of an existing 138-kV transmission line. A

¹ Idaho Power/100.

1 complete description of the B2H Transmission line design is found in the direct
2 testimony of Idaho Power witness Ms. Lindsay Barretto.²

3 **Q. Is PacifiCorp a participant in the B2H Project?**

4 A. Yes, Idaho Power, PacifiCorp and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) are
5 participants in the B2H Project. Once definitive agreements among and between the
6 parties are executed, PacifiCorp will own 54.55 percent of the B2H Transmission
7 line. Idaho Power has the responsibility for construction of the B2H Transmission
8 line.

9 **Q. What are Idaho Power's justifications supporting the need for the B2H
10 Transmission line?**

11 A. As explained by Mr. Ellsworth, Idaho Power's justifications for the B2H Project
12 includes achieving clean energy goals; reliability and affordability; capacity to the
13 Four Corners market hub; Borah West and Midpoint West capacity upgrades; and
14 improving economic efficiency, renewable integration, grid reliability/resiliency,
15 resource reliability, contingency reserves, reduced electrical losses, flexibility, Energy
16 Imbalance Market value, and economic value along the B2H Project route.³

17 **Q. What are PacifiCorp's justifications for its participation in the B2H
18 Transmission line?**

19 A. There is great overlap between PacifiCorp's and Idaho Power's justifications for the
20 B2H Transmission line. For example, PacifiCorp's justifications include securing
21 firm transmission rights needed to serve load in Oregon, increasing the potential for

² Idaho Power/200.

³ Idaho Power/100, 34-45.

1 economic transfers of energy between PacifiCorp's East and West balancing authority
2 areas; and improving grid reliability.

3 **Q. Please explain the justifications regarding load-serving capability and the**
4 **transfer of energy between PacifiCorp's two balancing authority areas.**

5 A. PacifiCorp's 2021 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) demonstrates the need for the B2H
6 Project in 2026 to avoid a shortfall in load-serving capability, which has only
7 increased since the 2021 IRP was filed. The B2H Project will allow PacifiCorp to
8 export 600 megawatts (MW) of additional generation capacity from its East balancing
9 authority area to its West balancing authority area.⁴ Moreover, once the B2H Project
10 is energized, PacifiCorp will receive incremental firm transmission rights from BPA
11 needed to serve load in central Oregon. Thus, the B2H Transmission line is a
12 strategic project that can facilitate the transfer of energy of diverse resources between
13 the Company's balancing authority areas.⁵

14 **Q. Will the B2H Transmission line help PacifiCorp integrate clean, renewable**
15 **energy between its two balancing authority areas?**

16 A. Yes. PacifiCorp's 2019 and 2021 IRPs have included accelerated coal plant
17 retirements, which may further be accelerated with ongoing and future environmental
18 rulemaking. With the retirement of these plants, it becomes increasingly important
19 for the Company to maintain an electric system that allows it to integrate a growing
20 portfolio of clean, renewable energy and storage resources across its two balancing
21 authority areas.⁶ The transfer of renewable energy into Oregon is important due to

⁴ PacifiCorp 2021 Integrated Resource Plan at pp. 89; see <https://www.pacificorp.com/energy/integrated-resource-plan.html>

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

1 House Bill (HB) 2021. Under HB 2021, PacifiCorp is required to reduce greenhouse
2 gas emissions below the baseline emissions levels by 80 percent by 2030; 90 percent
3 by 2035; and 100 percent by 2040. PacifiCorp is transitioning its generation
4 resources to a non-emitting renewable energy mix and has made substantial progress
5 to meet the requirements of HB 2021; however, a robust electric grid is essential to
6 move resources across PacifiCorp's system to help achieve these goals.

7 **Q. Please explain how the B2H Transmission line will improve grid reliability.**

8 A. The B2H Project will improve grid reliability and provide better operational control
9 of the backbone transmission system by interconnecting PacifiCorp's East and West
10 balancing authority areas.⁷ Currently, only one 500-kV transmission line connects
11 PacifiCorp's two balancing authority areas, the loss of which would reduce transfer
12 capability by 1,050 MW. The B2H Project also enhances PacifiCorp's ability to
13 comply with mandated reliability and performance standards.⁸

14 **Q. Do you recommend that the Commission approve Idaho Power's CPCN**
15 **Application?**

16 A. Yes. The B2H Transmission line will provide PacifiCorp and its customers a number
17 of benefits, including securing firm transmission rights needed to serve load in
18 Oregon, increasing the potential for economic transfers of energy between
19 PacifiCorp's East and West balancing authority areas; and improving grid reliability.

20 **Q. Does this conclude your opening testimony?**

21 A. Yes.

⁷ *Id.* at 90.

⁸ *Id.*