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January 14, 2013

## VIA ELECTRONIC AND U.S. MAIL

PUC Filing Center  
Public Utility Commission of Oregon  
PO Box 2148  
Salem, OR 97308-2148

**Re: UM 1182 – In the Matter of PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON,  
Investigation Regarding Competitive Bidding.**

Enclosed for filing in Docket UM 1182 are an original and five copies of Idaho Power Company's Reply Testimony of M. Mark Stokes.

A copy of this filing has been served on all parties to this proceeding as indicated on the attached certificate of service.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendy McIndoo". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Wendy McIndoo  
Office Manager

Enclosures  
cc: Service List

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON

**DOCKET UM 1182**

In the Matter of	)
	)
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF	)
OREGON	)
	)
	)
Investigation Regarding Competitive	)
<u>Bidding.</u>	)

**IDAHO POWER COMPANY**  
**REPLY TESTIMONY**  
**OF**  
**M. MARK STOKES**

**REDACTED**

**January 14, 2013**

1 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

2 A. My name is M. Mark Stokes and my business address is 1221 West Idaho Street,  
3 Boise, Idaho. I am employed by Idaho Power Company ("Idaho Power" or  
4 "Company") as the Manager of Power Supply Planning.

5 **Q. Are you the same M. Mark Stokes who previously testified in this docket?**

6 A. Yes. My witness qualifications are set forth in my Direct Testimony, Idaho  
7 Power/100.

8 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this matter?**

9 A. My testimony will respond to the testimony filed by the Northwest Independent Power  
10 Producers Coalition ("NIPPC") on November 16, 2012. Specifically, my testimony  
11 will address inaccurate statements regarding cost over and underruns and heat rate  
12 degradation.

13 **COST OVER AND UNDERRUNS**

14 **Q. Have you had an opportunity to review the direct testimony of Mr. William**  
15 **Monsen, witness for NIPPC, regarding the issue of construction cost**  
16 **overruns?**

17 A. Yes, I have.

18 **Q. Please describe your understanding of Mr. Monsen's recommendation**  
19 **regarding construction cost overruns.**

20 A. Mr. Monsen developed proposed bid adders based upon numerical analysis by  
21 NIPPC using publicly available data for eight utility-owned generation ("UOG") plants  
22 in California.<sup>1</sup> The UOG plants included four CCCTs, three SCCTs and one  
23 reciprocating engine. Mr. Monsen concludes that a bid adder of 7.0 percent should  
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25 <sup>1</sup> Mr. Monsen's testimony presents his analysis as if it were based on 11 projects; in fact,  
26 four of the plants were developed simultaneously as a single project.

1 be applied to the estimate of initial construction costs for UOG projects, and  
2 additionally, cost calculations for UOG projects should include annual overrun  
3 additions equal to at least 5.7 percent of the initial capital costs (including the 7  
4 percent adder) for the first five years of plant operations.

5 **Q. Based upon your understanding of Mr. Monsen's proposal, would you agree**  
6 **that bid adders should be added to all UOG projects?**

7 A. No, I do not agree that bid adders are appropriate. I agree with Staff Witness Robert  
8 Procter that the NIPPC analysis is not consistent with the framework of Phase II of  
9 this docket and that NIPPC's methodology and analysis is fundamentally flawed.  
10 NIPPC's proposed bid adders do not consider how the risk of a cost overrun is  
11 accounted for in Idaho Power's current bid evaluation process. NIPPC does not  
12 even determine whether a bias exists in the evaluation method. NIPPC just  
13 assumes that there is a bias in favor of the benchmark resource without presenting  
14 any evidence that such an assumed bias actually exists. Based on their assumption,  
15 NIPPC then proposes bid adders even though NIPPC has not evaluated Idaho  
16 Power's bid evaluation methodology.

17 **Q. Please explain why you do not believe a bid adder is required for all UOG**  
18 **projects.**

19 A. NIPPC's summary recommendation is a broad brush approach. If competing bids  
20 are not comparable because some bids do not include amounts for contingencies or  
21 future "cost of ownership," such as periodic major maintenance and parts, then  
22 adjusting bids to ensure comparability may be appropriate. However, the actual  
23 adjustment depends on the specific situation and specific evaluation. Idaho Power  
24 does adjust bids, both upward and downward, to ensure comparability between bids  
25 as part of the evaluation process. Moreover, none of the evidence presented by  
26 NIPPC suggests that Idaho Power systematically under-estimates construction costs

1 in the utility bid. Therefore, there is no basis for including adders as proposed by  
2 NIPPC. In Idaho Power's case, a mandatory adder would act as a penalty to all  
3 proposals rather than a mechanism to "level the playing field." By definition, a  
4 mandatory adder to the baseline comparison bid adds costs to the resource  
5 acquisition. Idaho Power customers will end up paying the penalty for acquiring a  
6 higher cost resource because of the bid adders. It appears that the bid adder  
7 methodology proposed by NIPPC is designed to increase the costs of utility-owned  
8 generation which falsely makes independent power generation appear more  
9 attractive by comparison.

10 **Q. Please provide an example of how Idaho Power's evaluation methodology**  
11 **already accounts for the concerns NIPPC is trying to address with its**  
12 **proposed bid adder.**

13 A. A good example would be the Company's most recent UOG, Langley Gulch. Idaho  
14 Power requested that the utility bid for the Langley Gulch Request for Proposal  
15 ("RFP") include estimates for ongoing operating and maintenance costs and future  
16 capital expenses. The RFP team used this information to make an "apples to  
17 apples" total cost of ownership comparison between the OUG and the non-utility-  
18 owned proposals. The Company believes this approach, with careful consideration  
19 of estimated future costs of the UOG project when comparing to competing bids, not  
20 just initial installation costs, is necessary to ensure the proposals are evaluated on a  
21 level playing field. Applying general, arbitrary adders to utility-owned generation  
22 proposals is exactly that, arbitrary, with no consideration given to the actual details of  
23 the process used to evaluate the proposals. Requiring utilities to evaluate UOG  
24 proposals using a "total cost of ownership approach" is the more appropriate way to  
25 ensure bids are being evaluated fairly.

26

1 **Q. Is it fair to assume that customers bear the risk if a utility self-build project**  
2 **exceeds the estimate that was used to develop the winning bid?**

3 A. No, not at all. As I stated in my direct testimony, it is important to note that the actual  
4 costs that are incurred by a utility to acquire a utility-owned resource are included in  
5 rates only if the investment is determined to be prudently incurred. Thus, if  
6 construction of the utility-owned resource results in a cost overrun, the utility will be  
7 required to justify and defend that cost overrun before the full costs of the resource  
8 are included in rates. It is incorrect to assume that customers will always bear cost  
9 overruns.

10 **Q. Did NIPPC rely on any data gathered from Idaho Power in determining their**  
11 **proposed bid adder?**

12 A. No. Mr. Monsen did state that Idaho Power provided links to Certificate of Public  
13 Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") documents, but that the applications only  
14 showed the Company's "commitment estimate." Mr. Monsen stated that it was not  
15 clear whether the commitment estimate was the same value as used in the bid for  
16 the plant. Instead, Mr. Monsen relied upon the publicly available data for eight  
17 California utility-owned generation projects I mentioned above.

18 **Q. Is the commitment estimate the same as the cost estimate used in the RFP**  
19 **bidding process for a generation plant?**

20 A. Yes. As I stated in my direct testimony, during the fully contested CPCN process  
21 before the Idaho Public Utilities Commission ("IPUC"), Idaho Power includes a  
22 commitment estimate, which is the Company's best estimate of the project capital  
23 costs that would be included in rate base. The term "commitment" is significant  
24 because Idaho Power commits to developing the project for the costs identified in the  
25 CPCN application. The commitment estimate is the same as the estimated costs  
26 included by Idaho Power in the self-build bid included in the RFP process. In other

1 words, if the Company's self-build option is the winning bid in the RFP process, the  
2 Company must then obtain a CPCN from the IPUC and as part of the CPCN process  
3 the Company must commit to constructing the resource at the same cost that was  
4 included in the winning bid.

5 **Q. Have you provided an exhibit that compares the actual installed costs of Idaho  
6 Power generation projects with the bid costs of those projects?**

7 A. Yes. Idaho Power/201 is a summary table for the actual versus bid costs of the  
8 Company's last three generation projects. The three projects include Bennett  
9 Mountain, Danskin 1, and our most recent project, Langley Gulch. Both Bennett  
10 Mountain and Danskin 1 are SCCT gas plants and Langley Gulch is a CCCT gas  
11 plant.

12 **Q. Please describe the information contained in Idaho Power/201.**

13 A. For each of the three plants, Idaho Power/201 contains the actual installed costs  
14 (Column A); the dollar amounts the Company filed as its commitment estimates  
15 (Column B); and the final amount allowed to be recovered from customers (Column  
16 C). The last two columns (Columns D and E) provide a comparison between the first  
17 three columns.

18 **Q. Does the information provided in Idaho Power/201 support Mr. Monsen's  
19 proposed need for a bid adder?**

20 A. No, and in fact, a mandatory adder would have been an unreasonable penalty to  
21 UOG proposals and may have resulted in a winning bid that had higher costs to  
22 customers. What the exhibit does show however is that the Company's actual  
23 installed cost for these three projects was below their commitment estimates (which  
24 was the same as the bid cost). Langley Gulch was over \$26 million below the  
25 commitment estimate. In addition, the amounts approved to be recovered through  
26 rates were below the actual installed costs incurred by the Company, again dispelling

1 the myth that utilities are able to recover all of their costs from the customer, and  
2 dispelling the myth that customers bear the risk of cost overruns in utility-owned  
3 generation.

4 **Q. Believing that UOG projects pose greater risk of cost overruns than IPP**  
5 **projects, Mr. Monsen recommends that the Independent Evaluator apply a 7.0**  
6 **percent bid adder to the estimate of initial construction costs for UOG**  
7 **projects. Do you agree?**

8 A. No. First, Mr. Monsen has not demonstrated that UOG projects pose a greater risk  
9 of cost overruns than IPP projects. Indeed, NIPPC has failed to produce any data,  
10 whether PPAs or EPC contracts or actual construction and operating cost data,  
11 related to IPPs.<sup>2</sup> Second, UOG bids become commitment estimates for utility cost  
12 recovery, and generally include contingency amounts to address unforeseen  
13 problems. The contingency amounts are specifically identified in the utility  
14 commitment estimates. Adding another seven percent to utility bids as suggested by  
15 Mr. Monson would needlessly add a second contingency.

16 **Q. Do you agree with Mr. Monsen's implication that cost overruns are so frequent**  
17 **on UOG projects that an adder is necessary to account for the risk?**

18 A. No. In Idaho Power's experience, cost overruns have not occurred such that an  
19 adder is necessary or even appropriate. Moreover, Idaho Power's state regulators  
20 can and will disallow recovery of unreasonable construction decisions that are within  
21 control of the utility or that represent optional investment beyond the base project.  
22 For instance, in Idaho PUC Order No. 32585, the Idaho Commission denied Idaho  
23 Power's request to recover transmission built at 230 kV rather than 138 kV to  
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25 <sup>2</sup> See NIPPC's Response to Idaho Power Request No. 2.4-2.6.  
26

1 accommodate future need for Langley Gulch generation through an environmentally  
2 sensitive area. This same amount was not included in rates in Oregon, pursuant to a  
3 stipulation approved by the Commission.

4 **Q. Mr. Monsen argues that under a PPA, the IPP would be forced to absorb any**  
5 **cost overruns. Is that true?**

6 A. Mr. Monsen correctly describes a fixed price contract. However, he also presumes  
7 that no reopener exists in an IPP fixed bid for cost changes. In the event of a  
8 significant cost change that is greater than the "cushion" the IPP built into the bid, the  
9 IPP may be incentivized to breach the contract and simply pay liquidated damages.  
10 Idaho Power can argue that a cost adder to an IPP fixed bid is necessary to account  
11 for the risk that potential costs and losses exceed the liquidated damages threshold.

12 **Q. Do you have any other concerns about the methodology and analysis Mr.**  
13 **Monsen used to develop his proposed adder?**

14 A. Yes. In addition to the problems identified above, there are several additional  
15 problems with Mr. Monsen's analysis that are caused by the UOG projects Mr.  
16 Monsen selected for his analysis. First, and foremost, Mr. Monsen's conclusions are  
17 based on a sample size that is simply too small. Mr. Monsen supports a significant  
18 and fairly radical proposal to assign a 7 percent bid adder to all utility-owned  
19 projects. To support Mr. Monsen's conclusion that utilities systematically understate  
20 the capital costs for self-build projects, Mr. Monsen relies on only eight different  
21 projects built by California utilities. Analyzing only eight projects does not result in a  
22 statistically valid conclusion and in no way demonstrates that Idaho Power (or any  
23 other utility for that matter) systematically understates the capital costs for self-build  
24 projects.

25 **Q. Are the eight UOG projects used by Mr. Monsen reasonably representative of a**  
26 **self-build option that Idaho Power would develop for purposes of an RFP?**

1 A. No. The examples relied on by Mr. Monsen are atypical and are in no way  
2 representative of a normal self-build project that would be included in a competitive  
3 bidding process. For example, the Barre, Center, Grapeland, and Mira Loma plants  
4 were developed in response to an August 2006 mandate from the California Public  
5 Utilities Commission ("CPUC") directing Southern California Edison ("SCE") to  
6 develop up to 250 MW of black-start, dispatchible capacity by the summer of 2007.<sup>3</sup>  
7 The CPUC directed SCE to ignore its normal resource procurement process  
8 because there was insufficient time to conduct a full RFP in light of the anticipated  
9 reliability crisis that was expected in summer 2007. Within eight days of the CPUC  
10 order requiring SCE to develop these plants, SCE submitted an advice letter that  
11 included an estimate of the costs for the plant. According to the CPUC, SCE  
12 estimated that the costs would "probably exceed \$250 million."<sup>4</sup> Ultimately, as  
13 expected by SCE and recognized by the CPUC, the costs exceeded this estimate.  
14 However, SCE explained that this occurred because SCE was required to submit its  
15 estimate quickly and therefore did not have sufficient time to "allow for site selection  
16 and for preliminary engineering to occur."<sup>5</sup> Indeed, SCE testified that if it had  
17 sufficient time, as would presumably have been the case in a normal resource  
18 solicitation process, the original estimate would have been greater. SCE also  
19 testified that the accelerated time line required by the pending reliability crisis  
20 contributed to their increased costs. In other words, these plants were developed  
21 outside of conventional resource procurement processes, were developed in

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23 <sup>3</sup> NIPPC/102 at 1-2.

24 <sup>4</sup> NIPPC/102 4.

25 <sup>5</sup> *Southern California Edison Peakers Cost Recovery Testimony*, Application No. A-07-12 at  
26 27-28 (Dec. 31, 2007). This testimony is available at the following website:  
[http://www3.sce.com/sscc/law/dis/dbattach1e.nsf/0/711F5C51C633EABC882573C50075E7C5/\\$FILE/A.07-12-029\\_Peakers+-+SCE+Testimony.pdf](http://www3.sce.com/sscc/law/dis/dbattach1e.nsf/0/711F5C51C633EABC882573C50075E7C5/$FILE/A.07-12-029_Peakers+-+SCE+Testimony.pdf)

1 response to an emergency, and the initial estimates were developed without  
2 sufficient time to conduct full site selection and engineering analysis. Mr. Monsen  
3 cannot reasonably claim that these plants demonstrate that in a normal competitive  
4 resource solicitation process Idaho Power systematically under-states capital costs.

5 Mr. Monsen also relied on the Gateway project developed by Pacific Gas and  
6 Electric ("PG&E"). However, again, the development of this project was anything but  
7 typical and should not be relied on to claim that utilities systematically under estimate  
8 project development costs. First, like the SCE plants discussed above, Gateway  
9 was not developed through a competitive solicitation process.<sup>6</sup> This plant was in the  
10 process of being developed by an IPP who subsequently abandoned the project and  
11 sold the partially constructed plant to PG&E. PG&E's original cost estimates were  
12 based on the IPP's original design and permits. However, in order to be constructed,  
13 PG&E was required to modify the design and in doing so incurred additional  
14 development costs. The CPUC approved these additional costs because "not  
15 constructing the unit could have significant adverse reliability and cost implications"  
16 and because the original agreement approved by the CPUC authorizing the  
17 development of the plant specifically contemplated that design modifications may be  
18 required and those modifications might lead to increased costs. In other words, the  
19 cost increase was specifically contemplated by PG&E and included as part of the  
20 CPUC approval process.

21 Mr. Monsen also relies on SCE's Mountainview project. Again, however, that  
22 project is simply not representative of a typical resource solicitation and therefore  
23 differences between SCE's anticipated costs and the actual development costs are

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25 <sup>6</sup> The CPUC's Resolution E-4054 describes this project and forms the basis of my testimony  
26 related thereto. This resolutions is available at the following website:  
[http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/WORD\\_PDF/FINAL\\_RESOLUTION/64802.PDF](http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/WORD_PDF/FINAL_RESOLUTION/64802.PDF)

1 not typical of utility self-build options. First, this project was not subject to  
2 competitive bidding and therefore any cost estimate prepared by SCE was not  
3 prepared with the anticipation that it would be subject to an RFP process.<sup>7</sup> Second,  
4 this project was unique and, like the projects discussed above, developed in  
5 response to a crisis. Indeed, FERC noted that SCE “asserts that this is a unique  
6 request, unlikely ever to be repeated, because of the urgent need for new generating  
7 capacity in California.”<sup>8</sup>

8 The resource acquisitions identified in Mr. Monsen’s testimony demonstrate  
9 the flaws in Mr. Monsen’s analysis. Mr. Monsen’s conclusions are based on a  
10 statistically insignificant number of projects, the projects were not developed through  
11 competitive processes, the projects were developed in response to unique market  
12 conditions existing in California at the time (and that are not present in Oregon), and  
13 in the most egregious examples of cost-over runs the facts actually demonstrate that  
14 the utility’s forecasted costs specifically warned the commission at the beginning of  
15 the resource acquisition process that there was the potential for significant cost  
16 overruns.

17 **Q. What is the impact of removing just these three plants from Mr. Monsen’s**  
18 **results?**

19 A. Removing just these plants from Mr. Monsen’s analysis results in his proposed adder  
20 being reduced from 7 percent to negative 0.5 percent—meaning that utility self-build  
21 projects should actually have their costs reduced by 0.5 percent to reflect the fact  
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23 <sup>7</sup> The CPUC’s Decision 03-12-059 describes this project and forms the basis of my  
24 testimony related thereto. This decision is available at the following website:  
[http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/WORD\\_PDF/FINAL\\_DECISION/32841.PDF](http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/WORD_PDF/FINAL_DECISION/32841.PDF)

25 <sup>8</sup> *Southern California Edison Comp.*, 106 F.E.R.C. ¶ 61,183 at 2 (F.E.R.C. 2004). Portions  
26 of this FERC decision were included as part of NIPPC/105. However, the page relied on for this  
statement was not included by NIPPC.

1 that Mr. Monsen's data indicates that utility projects are built for less than the  
2 projected costs and customers realize the benefit of utility project that are  
3 constructed for less than the projected costs..

4 **Q. Under the theory that utilities defer capital expenditures that should have**  
5 **occurred before plants come online, Mr. Monsen also proposes that the cost**  
6 **calculations for UOG projects should include an incremental bid adder equal**  
7 **to at least 5.7 percent of the initial construction costs per year for the first five**  
8 **years of plant operations. Is this proposal within the scope of issues to be**  
9 **addressed in this phase of UM 1182?**

10 A. No. Order No. 12-324 identified four risks to be addressed in Phase II: Cost Overrun  
11 and Underrun Risk, Wind Capacity Factor Risk, Counter-Party Risk, and Heat Rate  
12 Degradation Risk. To the extent they are made, post-operating date investments in  
13 plant are not cost overruns and not appropriately considered in Phase II. Indeed, the  
14 parties specifically identified this as a separate issue that was not included in the  
15 final issues list approved by Commission in Order No. 12-324.<sup>9</sup>

16 **Q. Why is it not appropriate to adopt NIPPC's deferred capital expenditure adder?**

17 A. The adder described by Mr. Monsen attempts to over-generalize real issues  
18 encountered in the operation and maintenance of generation plants once online.  
19 Applying adders to any UOG bid seems too broad and without rigor given that bids  
20 often account for contingencies or future "cost of ownership," such as periodic major  
21 maintenance and parts. If utilities include these types of items in its bids and  
22 evaluations (as Idaho Power does), a mandatory adder would act as an unnecessary  
23 penalty to UOG proposals rather than a mechanism to "level the playing field."  
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25 <sup>9</sup> See *Staff's Recommendation for Initial Topics and Further Analysis* (March 19, 2012) (Item  
26 8 was "Capital Additions over the Resource Life").

1 **Q. Assuming that the deferred capital expenditure adder is determined to be**  
2 **appropriate, do you agree with how Mr. Monsen has calculated the 5.7 percent**  
3 **proxy?**

4 A. No. Mr. Monsen calculated his adder by comparing the year-to-year changes in the  
5 Cost of Plant taken from FERC Form 1 filings. Mr. Monsen's adder is based on his  
6 entirely unsupported assumption that "any increase to the Cost of Plant above the  
7 expected value is assumed to be due to the capital expenditures that are deferred  
8 plant construction costs."<sup>10</sup> Mr. Monsen's generic adder ignores the possibility that  
9 other investments occur during the first five years that are unrelated to the  
10 construction of the plant. For instance, the balance could increase because of an  
11 investment in capital parts, which may be related to the plant's maintenance strategy  
12 if the utility determined that it was more cost effective to perform some maintenance  
13 and repairs to the plant itself rather than entering into a comprehensive service  
14 contract. These on-going capital investments also provide value for customers  
15 because long-term ownership motivates an owner to periodically invest to ensure the  
16 long-term viability of the plant. The fact that UOG has value beyond the term of the  
17 competing PPA is a benefit provided by UOGs that is lacking when compared with  
18 PPAs.

19 **Q. On page 19 of his direct testimony, Mr. Monsen references Idaho Power's**  
20 **Bennett Mountain power plant and uses what he refers to as a "latent**  
21 **construction defect" to support his proposed 7 percent bid adder to cover**  
22 **ratepayer risk associated with cost overruns. Does Mr. Monsen accurately**  
23 **characterize the post-construction incident that occurred at the Bennett**  
24 **Mountain plant?**

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25 <sup>10</sup> NIPPC/100 Monsen/21, lines 3-4.  
26

1 A. No, he does not. First of all, the repair costs to the turbine were in excess of \$15  
2 million, not \$14 million as stated by Mr. Monsen. Second, the repair costs were  
3 covered by insurance and Idaho Power's customers were never at risk of having to  
4 bear these costs.

5 **Q. Was there an investigation following the incident?**

6 A. Yes, there was. Following the incident, a root cause investigation and metallurgical  
7 examination were performed and it was determined that the damage to the turbine  
8 was due to an improperly installed bolt in the turbine's air inlet. On July 18, 2006,  
9 after the plant had been placed in service, the bolt ultimately came loose and was  
10 sucked through the turbine causing the damage.

11 **Q. Was the project developer willing to accept responsibility for the improperly  
12 installed bolt and the resulting damage?**

13 A. No, they were not. The project developer was a partnership of two IPPs, and when  
14 Idaho Power contacted the IPP partners following the incident, both IPP partners  
15 were unwilling to accept responsibility for the incident or the resulting damage.  
16 Because the damage was covered by Idaho Power's insurance, the IPP's contractual  
17 warranty obligations were not litigated. If the damage had not been covered by  
18 insurance, Idaho Power's customers would have been at risk of having to bear the  
19 cost due to the IPP's unwillingness to accept responsibility for the incident.

20 **Q. Do you believe Mr. Monsen's testimony regarding the Bennett Mountain plant  
21 supports his proposed 7 percent bid adder to cover ratepayer risk associated  
22 with cost overruns?**

23 A. No, I do not. As I previously explained, the incident that occurred at the Bennett  
24 Mountain power plant was covered by insurance and Idaho Power's customers were  
25 never exposed to the risk of a cost overrun as a result of the incident.

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**HEAT RATE DEGRADATION**

**Q. Has Idaho Power reviewed the direct testimony of other parties concerning heat-rate degradation?**

A. Yes. NIPPC proposed a heat rate adder that purports to account for a plant's heat rate degradation, which increases the costs to operate a thermal plant. Idaho Power does not agree with the NIPPC conclusions.

**Q. Do you agree that heat rates degrade over time?**

A. Not exactly. It is true that without regular maintenance a unit's heat rate will generally degrade over time. However, with regular maintenance, a unit's efficiency will increase after scheduled maintenance is performed. Therefore, it is incorrect to assume that heat rates always degrade at a constant rate over time.

**Q. Does Idaho Power conduct regular maintenance on its combustion turbine plants?**

A. Yes, Idaho Power follows the manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedule and uses the replacement parts identified by the manufacturer. The Idaho Power combustion turbine plants all employ Siemens equipment. Idaho Power follows the maintenance schedule recommended by Siemens, uses Siemens technicians, and uses parts recommended by Siemens on the combustion turbines owned and operated by Idaho Power.

**Q. Does Idaho Power account for heat-rate degradation in the bid evaluation procedure?**

A. Yes. When developing a self-build bid, Idaho Power assumes that the unit's heat rate will degrade over time, consistent with the manufacturer's specifications. Assuming heat rate degradation at the manufacturer's specification for a self-build plant ensures that the self-build bid is fairly compared to PPAs, which, presumably,

1 also assumes heat rate degradation. While the actual operating heat rate of an  
2 individual project will deviate from that used in the analysis, it is important to  
3 remember that with a UOG, the actual operating heat rate of the unit determines the  
4 costs to customers as opposed to a contractual heat rate. If efficiency improvements  
5 are made to a UOG, the cost reductions as a result of those improvements flow  
6 through to customers.

7 **Q. Are there any conceptual flaws in NIPPC's approach to developing a heat rate**  
8 **adder?**

9 A. Yes. Like Staff, the Company agrees that NIPPC has failed to provide a calculation  
10 of the actual risk associated with heat rate degradation. NIPPC assumes that  
11 customers bear a risk that a UOG plant will experience heat rate degradation but that  
12 customers bear no risk associated with heat rate degradation under PPAs. As Staff  
13 points out, assuming no risk associated with heat rate degradation with a PPA  
14 makes no sense because varying heat rates may well affect the total generation  
15 delivered under a PPA even if the cost per unit is fixed.

16 In addition, Mr. Monsen has not demonstrated, or even discussed, how heat-  
17 rate degradation differs between utility-owned generation and generation owned and  
18 operated by IPPs. Mr. Monsen has not provided historical data demonstrating the  
19 different risks or different values of heat-rate degradation in utility-owned and  
20 independent power producer generation. Mr. Monsen provides heat-rate  
21 degradation values in his testimony, but the specific risk or risks associated with  
22 heat-rate degradation are never calculated.

23 **Q. Do you have any comments concerning the values used by Mr. Monsen to**  
24 **calculate his heat rate adder?**

25 A. On page 16 of the Staff testimony, Mr. Procter summarizes heat rate degradation  
26 values using the dataset and the methods proposed by Mr. Monsen. Staff witness

1 Procter uses the proposed methodology and dataset provided by Mr. Monsen to  
2 calculate the Monsen heat-rate adder under different assumptions. Mr. Procter  
3 notes that the lowest value using Mr. Monsen's methods and dataset is 0.11 and the  
4 highest value is 5.6. The highest heat-rate degradation value using the dataset and  
5 methods of NIPPC witness Monsen is about fifty times the low value. My conclusion  
6 is that by using the methods and dataset provided by Mr. Monsen and making  
7 different but reasonable assumptions, the calculated values for heat-rate degradation  
8 may vary by as much as a factor of 50. Such wide variation leads me to question  
9 whether Mr. Monsen's proposed methods and dataset are sufficiently accurate for  
10 application in a regulatory proceeding such as Oregon UM 1182.

11 **Q. Mr. Monsen's testimony also discusses the actual heat rates for Idaho Power's**

12 **Danskin plant. He testifies: [begin confidential] "**

13 [REDACTED]

14 **[end confidential] Is Mr. Monsen's testimony accurate?**

15  
16 **A.** No, Mr. Monsen's calculations are misleading and incorrect because Mr. Monsen is  
17 comparing two different heat rate values—the "high" and "low" heat rates. The "high  
18 heat rate," also referred to as the "gross heating value," is "the amount of heat  
19 produced by the complete combustion of a unit quantity of fuel."<sup>11</sup> The high heat rate  
20 is "obtained when all products of the combustion are cooled down to the temperature  
21 before the combustion [and] the water vapor formed during combustion is  
22 condensed."<sup>12</sup> The "low heat rate," or "net heating value," on the other hand, is  
23 "obtained by subtracting the latent heat of vaporization of the water vapor formed by

24  
25 <sup>11</sup> [http://www.engineeringtoolbox.com/gross-net-heating-value-d\\_824.html](http://www.engineeringtoolbox.com/gross-net-heating-value-d_824.html)

26 <sup>12</sup> *Id.*

1 the combustion from the gross or higher heating value.”<sup>13</sup> In other words, the high  
2 heat rate value assumes that at the end of the combustion reaction all of the water in  
3 the combustion reaction is liquid, while the low heat rate assumes that the water is  
4 vapor. The difference between low and high heat rate can be significant. Indeed, for  
5 natural gas, the difference between the high and low heat rate is over 10 percent.<sup>14</sup>

6 The distinction between low and high heat rates is important here because  
7 Idaho Power’s FERC Form 1 data reports the low heat value whereas plant  
8 specifications submitted in bids usually refer to the high heat value. Mr Monsen’s  
9 presumed heat-rate difference is based on incorrectly comparing the low heat value  
10 reported in the FERC Form 1 with the high heat value identified in the bids. As I  
11 stated earlier, Mr. Monsen’s calculations are misleading and attempt to compare  
12 dissimilar information..

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

14 **A.** Yes.

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25 <sup>13</sup> *Id.*

26 <sup>14</sup> [http://www.engineeringtoolbox.com/heating-values-fuel-gases-d\\_823.html](http://www.engineeringtoolbox.com/heating-values-fuel-gases-d_823.html)

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

**UM 1182**

**IDAHO POWER**

**Exhibit Accompanying  
Reply Testimony of M. Mark Stokes**

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Idaho Power/201

January 14, 2013

**Idaho Power Company Gas Plant Fleet  
Actual Installed vs. Bid Cost  
Power Plant Accounts Only**

	A	B	C	D	E
	Actual Installed Cost <sup>1</sup>	Idaho CPCN Filed Commitment Estimate "Bid" <sup>2</sup>	In Rates per Idaho Final Order	A minus B Difference	A minus C Difference
Bennett Mountain	\$53,096,364	\$54,000,000	\$50,124,997	-\$903,636	\$2,971,367
Danskin 1	\$57,268,050	\$60,000,000	\$56,690,763	-\$2,731,950	\$577,287
Langley Gulch	\$369,254,750	\$395,857,639	\$366,260,429	-\$26,602,889	\$2,994,322

1. Actual installed cost on primary plant work orders; Langley Gulch primary work order remains open therefore charges reflected through 11/30/2012.

2. Reflects plant cost commitment estimates filed, rather than actual amounts in CPCN final orders.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing document in Docket UM 1182 on the following named person(s) on the date indicated below by email addressed to said person(s) at his or her last-known address(es) indicated below.

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DATED: January 14, 2013

  
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