



0000119631

ORIGINAL

47

BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

RECEIVED

Arizona Corporation Commission

1999 JUN 30 P 4:13

DOCKETED

JUN 30 1999

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCUMENT CONTROL

CARL J. KUNASEK

Chairman

JIM IRVIN

Commissioner

WILLIAM MUNDELL

Commissioner

DOCKETED BY 

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPETITION)
IN THE PROVISION OF ELECTRIC)
SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE STATE)
OF ARIZONA.)

DOCKET NO. RE-00000C-94-0165

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF)
ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE)
COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF ITS)
PLAN FOR STRANDED COST RECOVERY)

DOCKET NO. E-01345A-98-0473

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF)
ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY)
OF UNBUNDLED TARIFFS PURSUANT)
TO A.A.C. r14-2-1601 ET SEQ.)

DOCKET NO. E-01345A-97-0773

COMMENTS OF CELLNET DATA SYSTEMS ("CELLNET")
ON THE
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS FILED BY
ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY ("APS")

CellNet hereby files comments in the above-captioned proceeding on the
proposed Settlements filed by APS.

Background

CellNet is a nationwide provider of meter services, currently servicing over 2 million meters and adding approximately 100,000 meters per month. The vast majority of these meters are on small commercial and residential customers. CellNet was the first meter data management agent (MDMA) and meter service provider (MSP) approved to operate throughout California in that state's deregulated energy market. CellNet has been an active participant in the regulatory process in Arizona and throughout the U.S., filing comments, participating in (and chairing) working groups, and testifying before state public utility commissions and legislatures, as well as the U.S. House of Representative Commerce Committee. CellNet is a potential provider of Meter Reading Service Provider (MRSP) services in APS's distribution service territories.

Billing and Metering Adjustments

CellNet commends the Settlement parties on working together in the spirit of cooperation to introduce competition and its benefits to Arizona's consumers quickly. However, CellNet respectfully urges the Commission to require that the metering and billing adjustments proposed in the Settlements be modified prior to adopting them. These changes are necessary in order to comply with the ACC's policy of non-discriminatory pricing established by the ACC in its final decision to open the Arizona market to competition (Decision No. 59943, December 1996) and affirmed for public power entities by the Legislature in HB 2663.¹

¹ - Section 30-805 of the Act states that "Public power entities shall: 1. Establish unbundled ancillary electric transmission and distribution and other service prices and terms and conditions that are *nondiscriminatory* and that reflect the just and reasonable price for providing the service." (emphasis added)

In its Decision, the Commission stated: "each Affected Utility shall file Unbundled Service tariffs to provide the services listed below to all eligible purchasers on a *nondiscriminatory* basis:

1. Distribution Service;
2. *Metering and meter reading services;*
3. *Billing and collection services;*"²

(emphasis added)

In the context of Direct Access, "nondiscriminatory" can have only one meaning: that consumers are treated exactly the same whether they purchase these services from the regulated distribution utility or from a competitive supplier. Thus, a consumer who chooses a new supplier for metering and meter reading services, and therefore is no longer receiving those services from the regulated distribution utility, should not have to pay the regulated distribution utility for those services. Unfortunately, under the adjustments proposed in the Settlements, consumers choosing new suppliers for metering and billing services would be charged twice for those services, once by their new supplier and once by their distribution utility.

Proposed Methodology For Billing and Metering Adjustments

Such double charging will occur because the proposed metering and billing adjustments are less than the amounts consumers are currently paying their bundled utility. While the proposed adjustments may represent the utilities' short-run incremental savings for not serving a customer, the adjustments exclude investment in equipment, capital and other overheads that are variable over the long-run. Such an exclusion results in consumers paying their distribution utility for services they are not receiving. How, for example, does a consumer benefit from a utility-owned handheld meter reading device or billing system if he/she does not procure those services from the utility?

CellNet respectfully posits that consumers in a competitive market should not pay for a service without a corresponding benefit. For this reason, and to implement the Commission's articulated policy of non-discrimination in pricing of billing and metering services, CellNet respectfully urges the Commission to adopt adjustments that reflect the amounts consumers are now paying APS for these services, when consumers elect to take these services from a competitive provider. In addition, CellNet believes that such a methodology should be based on audited and reported financial data— such as FERC Form 1 filings— as has been done in other states, particularly Nevada (included as Appendix A).

CellNet appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Settlements.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul W. Madden for:", is written over the typed name and title.

Andrew Madden

CellNet Data Systems, Inc.

125 Shoreway Road

San Carlos, CA 94070

650-508-6188

650-508-6900 fax

e-mail: andrew.madden@cellnet.com

Appendix A

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

In Re Application of SIERRA PACIFIC POWER)
COMPANY for approval of its proposed unbundling)
methodology.)
_____)

Docket No. 97-11018

In Re Application of NEVADA POWER COMPANY)
for approval of its proposed unbundling methodology)
_____)

Docket No. 97-11028

COST UNBUNDLING CONSENSUS REPORT NO. 2
RESOLUTION OF FINAL ISSUES

March 19, 1998

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	-3-
Consensus Workshop Participants.....	-5-
PART I: System Black Start and Backup Supply	-6-
PART II: Generation Capacity and Energy Costs.....	-7-
PART III: Customer Accounting Costs	-8-
PART IV: FERC Account 930.2XX.....	-9-
PART V: Step-up Transformers and Generation Connection Lines.....	-10-
PART VI: Other Issues	-12-
Unbundling Workshop Group Service List	-13-
Attachment CR2-A	-15-
Attachment CR2-B.....	-17-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

By a second interim order dated March 5, 1998 the Commission requested that the parties to Docket Nos. 97-11018 and 97-11028 submit to the Commission:

(a) A single report that describes:

- Those remaining issues, with the exception of the demarcation of transmission and distribution facilities, on which consensus was reached, with a full explanation of all such issues, and
- Those remaining issues on which consensus could not be reached, with neutral language describing the different positions and the proposed schedule for resolution by the Commission of these issues.

In order to accomplish this task, the parties met in person on March 16, 1998. Additionally, substantial communication was done via the Internet. All parties participated in the drafting of this document, subject of course, to their right to file testimony on March 19th where they may wish to clarify their positions.

As used in this report, the term "Commission" refers to the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada and the term "FERC" refers to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Unless otherwise stated the term "utilities" refers to Nevada Power Company, sometimes referred to as NPC or Nevada Power, and Sierra Pacific Power Company, sometimes referred to as SPPCo or Sierra Pacific. The term "parties" refers to all those parties listed in this report that participated in this endeavor and the preparation of this report.

The report is organized into seven sections described as follows:

- ◆ A list of the participants.
- ◆ Part I: Methodology for unbundling System Black Start and Backup Supply
- ◆ Part II: Separation of Generation costs into Capacity and Energy components
- ◆ Part III: Separation of Customer Accounting costs into Billing and Account Services
- ◆ Part IV: The direct assignment/allocation of FERC Account 930.2XX

- ◆ Part V: The assignment of Step-up Transformers and Generation Connection Lines to Generation
- ◆ Part VI: A section on other issues that the parties believe should be brought to the attention of the Commission.

Conclusion/Position of the Parties

Substantial consensus was reached on all of the issues included in this report. The parties wish to express their appreciation to the Commission for allowing them the opportunity to address these issues.

A copy of this report in electronic WordPerfect 8 format is enclosed for the convenience of the Commission and the Parties.

CONSENSUS WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS¹

SIERRA PACIFIC POWER COMPANY

Bob Silva
Dan Ahrens
Connie Westadt
Brent Ingebrigtsen
Duane Nelson
Gary Porter

NEVADA POWER COMPANY

Gail Sinobio
Michael Schmidt
Robert Crowell
George Kelly
Sherman Price
Don Brookhyser

ENRON

Samuel McMullen
Paul Kaufman
Chris Hendrix

MT. WHEELER POWER

Michael R. Reed

SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION

John Walley
Deborah Jacobsen
Ed Giesecking

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Lawrence Gollomp

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Regulatory Operations Staff
Larry Blank
Neil Dimmick
Dan Berry
Larry Stratman

NEWMONT GOLD/BARRICK GOLDSTRIKE MINES

Tim Shuba
Dana Martin
Whitfield A. Russell
F. Robert Reeder

UTILITIES CONSUMER ADVOCATE

Richard McIntire
William Marcus

SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY/LAS VEGAS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Robert Marshall
Dennis Peseau
George Carter

LAS VEGAS CO-GEN LP

Norman Ty Hilbrecht

¹ A list of these participants with all addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses can be found at the end of this report.

Consensus Report No. 2
Part I
System Black Start and Backup Supply

This portion of the consensus report addresses the issues involved with unbundling the costs for System Black Start Capability and Backup Supply.

System Black Start Capability:

Nevada Power does not have any units capable of providing system black start and therefore will not assign any costs to this service.

Sierra Pacific has units capable of black start, however, FERC Order 888 identifies this as an optional service. Neither Nevada Power nor Sierra include this service in their open access transmission tariff. Thus, at this time, Black Start is not a service offered.

If the utilities are either obligated or elect to file a separate FERC ancillary service tariff for black start capability, the parties agree that the terms of the service should be based on the costs used to support the tariff. If at such time as Nevada deems it necessary to implement such a generation tariff, and no FERC tariff exists as a model, the parties agree that the terms of such service should be determined by rules and under the procedure then applicable for new service tariff filings with the Commission and based on any applicable FERC non-tariff black start capability pricing principles.

Back-up Supply:

The parties recommend that no methodology is necessary for Back-up supply. This recommendation is made for the following reasons:

- 1) This service, as defined by the Commission's unbundling order, is not currently offered as a separate service at either the FERC level or the state level. While the utilities have stand-by rates for certain co-generators, this is not the same service contemplated by the Commission (it includes bundled transmission and distribution costs) and as such is inapplicable as a model to use for unbundling. While there may be a time when a retail generation tariff is required at the state level, there is no such tariff under state jurisdiction at this time.
- 2) Currently, back-up supply as contemplated by the Commission's order, is an optional component of FERC transmission ancillary services, but it may also be a retail service.
- 3) If the utilities are either obligated or elect to file a separate FERC ancillary service tariff for back-up supply, the parties agree that the terms of the service should be based on the costs used to support the tariff. If at such time as Nevada deems it necessary to implement such a generation tariff, and no FERC tariff exists as a model, the parties agree that the terms of such service should be determined by rules and under the procedure then applicable for new service tariff filings with the Commission and based on any applicable FERC non-tariff back-up pricing principles.

Consensus Report No. 2
Part II
Generation Capacity and Energy Costs

This portion of the consensus report addresses the separation of the Generation costs into Capacity and Energy components.

The latest revision of the Embedded Cost of Service Study (MS-2 REVISED), which was distributed during the February 17th hearing, contains a proposed methodology for separating generation costs into capacity and energy components. The model indicates that capacity costs are the fixed generation costs (e.g. plant in service, taxes, insurance, fuel stock, etc...) and the energy costs are the variable generation costs (e.g. fuel, water, chemical, etc...). Historically generation costs have been separated into these components for the purpose of designing demand and energy rates. The parties believe this methodology is sufficient for unbundling purposes to meet the terms of the Commission order.

Given that it is a pricing issue, the parties wish to emphasize that in that context, there may be other methods of setting prices, including but not limited to, marginal costing methods. Further, market power and must run considerations may call for a second look at these pricing methodologies.

Consensus Report No. 2
Part III
Customer Accounting Costs

This portion of the consensus report addresses the allocation of the Customer Accounting Costs to the sub-categories of Billing and Account Services. In the interim order dated March 5, 1998 the Commission expanded the Account Services function to include Customer Information and Data Processing, Payment Collection and Processing and Uncollectibles.

The parties agreed to recommend to the commission the following two options:

- 1) The comments filed for the Potentially Competitive Service portion of the Commission's investigation indicate that there would be a joint provision of Billing and Customer Accounting services. That is, those services would be offered together, thus eliminating the need to unbundle. The parties believe that it may not be necessary to unbundle these costs any further at this time.
- 2) In order to further unbundle these costs into Billing and Account Services, the utilities propose to use data gathered from internal department and accounting information. The parties are cognizant of the Commission's decision on internal accounting systems in relation to the allocation of Common Plant and A&G costs, but in this limited application, feel their use is appropriate to further unbundle these costs.

Consensus Report No. 2
Part IV
FERC Account 930.2XX

This portion of the consensus report addresses the assignment of costs included in the FERC accounts 930.XXX - Miscellaneous General Expense, in particular the costs in the sub-accounts 930.2XX.

During the February 17th hearing it was discussed that the handling of this account determined in the February 2nd Consensus report may not be appropriate. That report stated that all costs in account 930.XXX should be directly assigned to Public Goods. During the hearings it was suggested that portions of the 930.2XX charges be assigned direct and the remainder be allocated based on the wages and salaries allocator.

This led to some further evaluation of the accounts, which involved the use of data gathered from internal department and accounting information. There are specific FERC sub-accounts that are appropriate for direct assignment to other functions, for example, Nevada Power account 930.209 - RG4 A&G Expenses Billed, should be directly assigned to Generation. Where direct assignments cannot be made, the remaining costs will be allocated based on the default wages and salaries allocator.

Consensus Report No. 2

Part V

Step-up Transformers and Generation Connection Lines

This portion of the consensus report addresses the assignment of the costs associated with step-up transformers and generation connection lines to the generation function. Figure V-1 shows the facilities that are being assigned to the generation function. Attachment CR2-A contains a list of NPC's and SPPCo's generators. Each generator has a step-up transformer and a connection line associated with it. Attachment CR2-B lists the criteria that was used in determining the appropriate classifications.

The following describes the proposed methodology that will be used to arrive at the costs:

Generator Step-Up Transformers

- 1) Identify which step-up transformers are currently booked to the transmission plant accounts.
- 2) Identify the original cost of the step-up transformers directly from the accounting records.
- 3) Calculate depreciation and other costs associated with these assets.
- 4) Transfer costs to the generation total on MS-2 and reduce the transmission total by the same amount.

Generator Connection Lines

It may not be possible to isolate, from the accounting records, the costs of the connection lines that are associated with each of the generating units. Where possible, the actual book values for generator connection lines will be identified and appropriate transfers made. Where generator connection lines cannot be identified within the plant records, the following proposed methodology would be used:

- 1) Estimate the current installed cost of a generator connection line.
- 2) Apply a discount rate/construction cost index to the current cost, to determine the cost that would have been incurred at the time the generating unit was actually installed.
- 3) Calculate depreciation and other costs associated with these assets.
- 4) Transfer costs to the generation total on MS-2 and reduce the transmission total by the same amount.

Note: Any facility costs that have been accounted for as a Contribution in Aid of Construction (CIAC) will not be transferred to the generation function. These facilities are not included in rate base.

Consensus Report No. 2

Part VI

Other Issues

1) One remaining unresolved issue is Distribution Reactive Supply and Voltage Control. At this time there is no methodology that can effectively identify or unbundle these costs, but the parties agree that the terms of the service should be based on the costs used to support any tariff. Additionally, the parties agreed to continue to review accounting records to try to unbundle these costs for use in the future.

2) The Commission's March 5, 1998 order adopted the parties' request that street lighting be a separate unbundled service. The parties agreed to unbundle the costs associated with this service in the same manner that Meter Ownership and Meter O&M were unbundled from Distribution.

UNBUNDLING COMMITTEE

Dan Ahrens
6100 Neil Road
P O Box 10100
Reno, Nevada 89520
(702) 689-3480
(702) 689-4484 (fax)
dan@spp412.sppco.com

Dan Berry
Public Utilities Commission
727 Fairview Drive
Carson City, Nevada 89710
(702) 687-6048
(702) 687-6120 (fax)

Larry Blank
Public Utilities Commission
727 Fairview Drive
Carson City, Nevada 89710
(702) 687-6052
(702) 687-6120 (fax)
lblank@govmail.state.nv.us

Robert L. Crowell
P O Box 1000
510 W. Fourth Street
Carson City, NV 89702
(702) 882-1311
(702) 882-0257 (fax)
crowelllaw@mcione.com

Neill Dimmick
Public Utilities Commission
727 Fairview Drive
Carson City, Nevada 89710
(702) 687-6051
(702) 687-6120 (fax)

Patrick V. Fagan
Allison, MacKenzie, Hartman,
Sounbeniotis & Russell
402 N. Division Street
P O Box 646
Carson City, Nevada 89703
(702) 882-0202
(702) 882-7918 (f)

*Ed Geiseking
Southwest Gas Corporation
5241 Spring Mountain Road
P O Box 98510
Las Vegas, Nevada 89510
(702) 364-3271
(702) 873-3820 (fax)
ed.giesecking@usa.net

*Lawrence Gollomp
Assistant General Counsel
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, Room
6D033
Washington, D.C. 20585
(202) 586-6958
(202) 586-7479 (fax)

*Tim Shuba

Norman Ty Hilbrecht
Hilbrecht & Associates
723 S. Casino Center Blvd.
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
(702) 384-1036
(702) 384-2529 (fax)
hilbrcht@skylink.net

Brent Ingebrigtsen
Sierra Pacific Power Company
6100 Neil Road
P O Box 10100
Reno, Nevada 89520
(702) 689-3370
(702) 689-4484 (fax)
brente@spp406.sppco.com

Deborah Jacobsen
Southwest Gas Corporation
5241 Spring Mountain Road
P O Box 98510
Las Vegas, Nevada 89510
(702) 364-3271
(702) 873-3820 (fax)

Paul Kaufman
Suite 1100
121 S.W. Salmon Street
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 464-7945
(503) 464-8048 (fax)

William Marcus
JBS Energy
311 D Street
West Sacramento, CA 95605
(901) 372-0534
(916) 372-1624 (fax)
bill@jbsenergy.com

*Robert Marshall
Marshall, Hill Cassas & de Lipkau
P O Box 2790
Reno, NV 89505
(702) 323-1601
(702) 348-7250 (fax)

Dana Martin
Shea & Gardner
1800 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 828-4313
(202) 828-2195 (fax)
djmartinxx@aol.com

Richard McIntire
Utilities Consumer Advocate
1000 E. William Street, Suite 200
Carson City, Nevada 89701
(702) 687-6300
(702) 687-6304 (fax)
mcintirem@aol.com

Shea & Gardner

Samuel McMullen
165 West Liberty Street
Reno, NV 89501-1915
(702) 333-0332
(702) 333-0322 (fax)
sam.mcmullen@mcmullenstrategic.com

Cynthia K. Mitchell
530 Colgate Court
Reno, NV 89503
(702) 324-5300
(702) 324-3826
ckmitchell@powernet.net

*Terry Page
1505 Evan Street
Carson City NV 89701
(702) 884-4770
(702) 882-6239 (f)
usetpage@aol.com

Dennis Peseau
Utility Resource, Inc.
Suite 250
1500 Liberty Street, S.E.
Salem, OR 97302
(503) 370-9563
(503) 370-9566 (fax)

Michael R. Reed
Mt. Wheeler Power, Inc.
c/o Public Affairs Strategies
14315 Riata Circle 89511
Reno, Nevada 89509
(702) 852-5516
(702) 852-1510 (fax)
betme@nvgbell.net

Whitfield A. Russell
Whitfield A. Russell & Assoc.
1225 Eye Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 371-8200
(202) 371-2520 (fax)

*F. Robert Reeder
Parsons, Behle & Lattimer
P O Box 45898
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0898
(801) 536-6769
(801) 536-6111 (fax)
BobReeder@pblutah.com

*Michael Schmidt
Nevada Power Company
6226 W. Sahara
Las Vegas, NV 89102
(702) 367-5427
(702) 367-5131 (fax)
schmidt@NPC.com

1800 Massachusetts Ave. NW

Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 828-2107
(202) 828-2195 (fax)
shoobs@aol.com

* Bob Silva
Sierra Pacific Power Company
6100 Neil Road
P O Box 10100
Reno, Nevada 89520
(702) 689-4686
(702) 689-4484 (fax)
bob@spp408.sppco.com

*John Walley
Southwest Gas Corporation
5241 Spring Mountain Road
P O Box 98510
Las Vegas, Nevada 89510
(702) 364-3271
(702) 873-3820 (fax)

Connie Westadt
Sierra Pacific Power Company
6100 Neil Road
P O Box 10100
Reno, Nevada 89520
(702) 689-4196
(702) 689-4098 (fax)
connie@spp064.sppco.com

Attachment CR2-A
Generating Units

A. Nevada Power Company

Company Owned	Qualifying Facilities
Harry Allen Unit #1	Nevada Sunpeak Limited Partnership
Clark Unit #1	Saguaro Power Company
Clark Unit #2	Las Vegas Cogeneration. Limited Partnership
Clark Unit #3	Nevada Cogeneration Associates #1
Clark Unit #4	Nevada Cogeneration Associates #2
Clark Unit #5	
Clark Unit #6	
Clark Unit #7	
Clark Unit #8	
Clark Unit #9	
Clark Unit #10	
Sunrise Unit #1	
Sunrise Unit #2	
Reid Gardner Unit #1	
Reid Gardner Unit #2	
Reid Gardner Unit #3	
Reid Gardner Unit #4 ¹	
Navajo Unit #1 ¹	
Navajo Unit #2 ¹	
Navajo Unit #3 ¹	
Mojave Unit #1 ¹	
Mojave Unit #2 ¹	

Notes:

- (1) For purposes of this cost unbundling proceeding, these facilities have been classified as generation costs. Nevada Power's ownership in the step-up transformers at these plants are governed by various agreements between Nevada Power and other parties. Therefore, in some instances, it may not be possible from a contractual standpoint to isolate the step-up transformer from the other facilities that are governed by the ownership agreements.

B. Sierra Pacific Power Company

Company Owned	Qualifying Facilities
26' Drop (TCID)	Ace Hereford
Battle Mountain Diesels	Amor II - Empire
Brunswick Diesels	Beowawe
Fort Churchill Unit #1	Brady's Power Partners
Fort Churchill Unit #2	California Energy Company - Desert Peak
Fort Churchill Reserve Station Service	Far West I
Kings Beach Diesel	Far West I-A
Lahontan Power House (TCID)	Far West Capital II
North Valmy Unit #1	Far West Capital III
North Valmy Unit #2	Holman
North Valmy Reserve Station Service #1	Hooper
North Valmy Reserve Station Service #2	Sierra Pacific Industries
Portola Diesels	Soda Lake I & II
Tracy Unit #1	Stillwater I
Tracy Unit #2	TAD's
Tracy Unit #3	TAD's II
Tracy Unit #4 (Pinon Pine)	TCID Hydro
Tracy Unit #5 (Pinon Pine)	Yankee-Caithness
Tracy Station GT #2	
Clark Mt #3 Combustion Turbine	
Clark Mt #4 Combustion Turbine	
Clark Mt Reserve Station Service #1	
Clark Mt Reserve Station Service #2	
Valley Road Diesels	
Verdi	
Winnemucca GT	

Attachment CR2-B
Criteria for Classifying Facilities as
Generation Plant Costs

Facilities that connect generation to the grid were classified as generation costs if all of the following conditions held true:

- 1) The facility would NOT have been built if the generator didn't exist;
- 2) The transmission operator would allow the plant owner to independently operate and maintain the facility;
- 3) The facility that connects the generating unit to the grid currently serves no other retail or wholesale customer, nor is it planned to serve other customers in the future;
- 4) The facility would be required in order to connect a new generator to the grid.

The above criteria were also used to evaluate transmission facilities which connect independent power producers (IPPs) and qualifying facilities (QFs) to the grid.