

BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW)
MEXICO FOR REVISION OF ITS RETAIL)
ELECTRIC RATES PURSUANT TO ADVICE)
NOTICE NO. 513)

Case No. 15-00261-UT

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW)
MEXICO,)

Applicant)

DIRECT TESTIMONY AND EXHIBITS

OF

DANIEL G. HANSEN

August 27, 2015

NMPRC CASE NO. 15-00261-UT
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WITNESS FOR
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW MEXICO

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PNM EXHIBIT DGH-1

Résumé of Daniel G. Hansen

PNM EXHIBIT DGH-2

List of Current Revenue Decoupling Mechanisms

AFFIDAVIT

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1

I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

2 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, POSITION, AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.**

3 **A.** My name is Daniel G. Hansen. I am a Vice President at Christensen Associates
4 Energy Consulting, LLC located at Suite 400, 800 University Bay Drive,
5 Madison, Wisconsin 53705.

6

7 **Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED IN UTILITY REGULATION
8 PROCEEDINGS?**

9 **A.** Yes. I have testified on issues related to revenue decoupling in Arizona,
10 Connecticut, Minnesota, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah. In these hearings, I
11 represented a broad range of clients, including a regulator, an environmental
12 organization, a non-profit organization of utility investors, and investor-owned
13 utilities. In addition, I have conducted independent evaluations of revenue
14 decoupling mechanisms that were implemented at Portland General Electric, New
15 Jersey Natural Gas, South Jersey Gas, and Northwest Natural Gas. My education
16 and work experience are described in PNM Exhibit DGH-1.

17

18 **Q. ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU TESTIFYING IN THIS DOCKET?**

19 **A.** I am testifying on behalf of the Public Service Company of New Mexico (“PNM”).

20

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1 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

2 **A.** The purpose of my testimony is to introduce and support PNM’s proposed four-
3 year pilot for revenue decoupling, which is called the Revenue Balancing Account
4 (“RBA”). Specifically, in the sections that follow, I will discuss:

- 5 • Why decoupling is appropriate for PNM;
- 6 • Why decoupling is preferred to alternative means of addressing PNM’s
7 disincentive to promote conservation and energy efficiency;
- 8 • Decoupling trends in the United States;
- 9 • PNM’s decoupling proposal; and
- 10 • How PNM’s decoupling proposal balances the public interest, consumers’
11 interests, and investors’ interests.

12
13 **Q. HOW DOES YOUR TESTIMONY RELATE TO THE TESTIMONY
14 PRESENTED BY OTHER PNM WITNESSES?**

15 **A.** PNM Witness Chan provides the policy support for PNM’s proposal to implement
16 a four-year pilot for revenue decoupling called the RBA; and PNM Witness
17 Aguirre supports the operation of the newly proposed RBA tariff, as well as the
18 key rate-related components that are calculated in accordance with the proposed
19 RBA tariff.

20

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1 **Q. AS A PRELIMINARY MATTER, PLEASE EXPLAIN WHAT A**
2 **REVENUE DECOUPLING MECHANISM IS.**

3 **A.** A revenue decoupling mechanism reduces or eliminates a utility's disincentive to
4 promote conservation and energy efficiency by removing the link between the
5 utility's sales and revenues. A decoupling mechanism removes this disincentive
6 by creating a tracking account in which the difference between allowed and billed
7 revenues is recorded, where allowed revenues are determined in a rate case and
8 are reflective of the customer class's allocated cost of service. Over-recovery of
9 allowed revenues results in a rate decrease for customers in a future period
10 (typically the following year). Conversely, under-recovery of allowed revenues
11 results in a rate increase in a future period. Therefore, the decoupling mechanism
12 makes the utility indifferent to the level of sales.

13

14 **Q. TO WHICH CUSTOMER GROUPS DOES PNM INTEND TO APPLY ITS**
15 **PILOT?**

16 **A.** The RBA will apply to two customer groups: Residential Service (Rates 1A and
17 1B) and Small Power Service (Rates 2A and 2B).

18

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1 **Q. WHY DOES PNM HAVE A DISINCENTIVE TO PROMOTE**
2 **CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY UNDER CURRENT**
3 **RATES?**

4 **A.** As my testimony will address in detail below, under its current rate structures,
5 PNM collects a significant share of its fixed costs through volumetric (per-kWh)
6 rates. As such, when its customers use less energy, PNM's revenues decrease by
7 more than its avoided costs. In other words, lower sales reduce PNM's revenues
8 by the full amount of the volumetric rate, but only reduce its costs by the amount
9 of avoided fuel costs. This gives the utility a disincentive to promote conservation
10 and energy efficiency to its customers. By removing the link between utility sales
11 and revenues, the RBA would make PNM indifferent towards its customers'
12 usage levels, thus removing PNM's disincentive to promote conservation and
13 energy efficiency.

14

15 **II. SUMMARY OF KEY CONCLUSIONS**

16 **Q. WHAT ARE YOUR KEY CONCLUSIONS?**

17 **A.** Revenue decoupling is appropriate for PNM, is consistent with the Efficient Use
18 of Energy Act ("EUEA"), and is preferred to alternative methods of removing
19 PNM's disincentive to promote conservation and energy efficiency for
20 Residential Service and Small Power Service customers. As required by the
21 EUEA, the RBA balances the public interest, consumers' interests, and investors'
22 interests. Consumer and investor interests are balanced primarily through the

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1 symmetry of the RBA. The utility is both protected from under-recovery of fixed
2 costs and prevented from obtaining over-recovery of fixed costs. Additional
3 information on the balancing of interests may be found in Section VII. As I
4 describe below, I therefore recommend the approval of the RBA described in my
5 direct testimony.

6

7 **III. REVENUE DECOUPLING IS APPROPRIATE FOR PNM**
8 **AND NEW MEXICO STATUTES SUPPORT ADOPTION OF**
9 **REVENUE DECOUPLING FOR PNM**

10 **Q. WHAT TOPICS WILL YOU ADDRESS IN THIS SECTION OF YOUR**
11 **DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

12 **A.** In this section of my direct testimony, I will explain why the proposed RBA pilot
13 is appropriate for PNM. I also explain why New Mexico statutes support the
14 adoption of a revenue decoupling mechanism for PNM.

15

16 **Q. WHY IS PNM PROPOSING THE RBA?**

17 **A.** PNM's existing Residential Service and Small Power Service rate structures give
18 PNM a disincentive to promote conservation and energy efficiency to those
19 customer groups. PNM'S proposed RBA, as a decoupling mechanism, is a
20 commonly used means of removing this disincentive while retaining the
21 customer-level incentive to conserve. Moreover, the RBA is consistent with the
22 provisions of the EUEA. In Section IV, I describe the alternatives PNM

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1 considered to its proposed RBA and explain why this decoupling mechanism is
2 more appropriate for PNM than each of them.

3

4 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE PORTIONS OF THE EUEA THAT ARE**
5 **RELEVANT TO THE PROPOSED RBA.**

6 **A.** The EUEA requires PNM to “acquire cost-effective and achievable energy
7 efficiency and load management resources available in their service territories.”
8 *See* EUEA at § 62-17-5(G). Funding for the program costs incurred in meeting
9 this requirement “shall be three percent of customer bills, excluding gross receipts
10 taxes and franchise and right-of-way access fees.” *See* EUEA at § 62-17-6(A). In
11 addition, the Act directs that “[t]he Commission shall... identify regulatory
12 disincentives or barriers for public utility expenditures on energy efficiency and
13 load management measures and ensure that they are removed in a manner that
14 balances the public interest, consumers’ interests and investors’ interests.” EUEA
15 at § 62-17-5(F).

16

17 **Q. HAS PNM IMPLEMENTED COST-EFFECTIVE AND ACHIEVABLE**
18 **ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND LOAD MANAGEMENT RESOURCES IN**
19 **ACCORDANCE WITH THE EUEA?**

20 **A.** Yes. PNM Witness Chan discusses the Company’s implementation of energy
21 efficiency measures in accordance with the EUEA in her direct testimony.

22

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1 **Q. DOES PNM FACE A “REGULATORY DISINCENTIVE OR BARRIER**
2 **FOR PUBLIC UTILITY EXPENDITURES ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY”**
3 **AS DESCRIBED IN THE EUEA?**

4 **A.** Yes. The requirement to pursue cost-effective and achievable energy efficiency
5 places downward pressure on PNM’s sales over time. Because PNM recovers a
6 significant share of its fixed costs through volumetric rates, any resulting sales
7 reductions will cause PNM’s revenues to be reduced by more than its avoided
8 costs, thus creating a disincentive for PNM to promote conservation and energy
9 efficiency.

10

11 **Q. DOES PNM’S PROPOSED INCREASE IN MONTHLY CUSTOMER**
12 **CHARGES FOR RESIDENTIAL SERVICE AND SMALL POWER**
13 **SERVICE CUSTOMERS REMOVE PNM’S DISINCENTIVE TO**
14 **PROMOTE CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY?**

15 **A.** No. While PNM is proposing to increase its monthly customer charges for its
16 Residential Service and Small Power Service customers, the resulting charges of
17 \$13.14 and \$17.87 per month, respectively, will still only recover a fraction of the
18 fixed costs allocated to those customer groups. In order to remove PNM’s
19 disincentive to promote conservation and energy efficiency, the Residential
20 Service customer charge would need to be \$61.62 per month and the Small Power
21 Service customer charge would need to be \$163.72 per month. Therefore, even

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1 under the proposed customer charges, the RBA is needed to remove PNM's
2 disincentive to promote conservation and energy efficiency.

3

4 **Q. CAN YOU DEMONSTRATE THE EXISTENCE OF THE**
5 **“REGULATORY DISINCENTIVE” TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION**
6 **AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY?**

7 **A.** Yes. The disincentive to promote conservation and energy efficiency exists
8 because of PNM's regulatory rate design and can be demonstrated. The fact that
9 PNM recovers fixed costs through per-kWh rates means that its profitability is
10 directly tied to its sales levels.

11

12 **Q. CAN YOU DESCRIBE HOW PNM'S RATE DESIGN PRODUCES THE**
13 **REGULATORY DISINCENTIVE TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION AND**
14 **ENERGY EFFICIENCY?**

15 **A.** Yes, PNM Exhibit JCA-12 shows that for the Residential Service and Small
16 Power Service classes, the amount of revenue collected by the fixed charges is
17 substantially lower than the allocated fixed costs. For example, the Residential
18 rate class has been allocated after banding a total fixed revenue requirement of
19 approximately \$339 million, but only approximately \$72 million would be
20 collected from the proposed monthly customer charges. That leaves
21 approximately \$267 million in fixed costs to be recovered through the energy
22 charges, or \$0.083505 per kWh at test-period projected sales.

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1 **Q. DOES PNM'S REGULATORY DISINCENTIVE TO PROMOTE**
2 **CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY STILL EXIST WHEN**
3 **ITS OVERALL FINANCIAL HEALTH IS GOOD?**

4 **A.** Yes. When its customers use less energy, PNM's revenues decline more than its
5 ongoing cost to serve its customers. Therefore, reduced usage also reduces PNM's
6 realized rate of return. This is true regardless of the overall level of PNM's sales
7 or profitability. Under current rates, PNM is financially better off when its
8 customers use more electricity, and worse off when they use less. The best way to
9 remove the disincentive is to implement the proposed RBA.

10

11 **Q. GIVEN THAT PNM FACES A DISINCENTIVE TO PROMOTE**
12 **CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY, DOES THE ACT**
13 **SUPPORT THE APPROVAL OF A DECOUPLING MECHANISM?**

14 **A.** Yes, the EUEA actually requires the adoption of some mechanism to address
15 PNM's regulatory disincentive related to its energy efficiency programs, provided
16 it "balances the public interest, consumers' interests and investors' interests." *See*
17 EUEA at § 62-17-5(F).

18

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1 **Q. WHAT ACTION DID PNM NEED TO TAKE PRIOR TO REQUESTING**
2 **THE ELIMINATION OF THE REGULATORY DISINCENTIVE**
3 **ASSOCIATED WITH ENERGY EFFICIENCY?**

4 **A.** PNM was required by the Amended Stipulation approved in New Mexico Public
5 Regulation Commission (“NMPRC”) Case No. 10-00086-UT to consider
6 alternative means of addressing its disincentive and “act in good faith to
7 incorporate the suggestions of other Signatories into its filing.” Amended
8 Stipulation at ¶ 25. PNM has met with stakeholders to discuss alternative means
9 of addressing its disincentive and is making proposals to implement alternatives
10 where appropriate.

11

12 **Q. IS PNM PROPOSING TO IMPLEMENT ALTERNATIVES TO A**
13 **DECOUPLING MECHANISM FOR OTHER RATE CLASSES?**

14 **A.** PNM is proposing to increase demand charges for General Power (Rates 3B);
15 Large Power (Rate 4B); Large Industrial Service 8,000 kW minimum (Rate 5B);
16 Large Service for Universities (Rate 15B); and Large Service for Manufacturing
17 (Rate 30B). For the new proposed Rate 35B – Large Power Service $\geq 3,000$ kW
18 schedule, demand rates are initially set to recover approximately 95% of the
19 allocated demand-related costs. This change in rate structure serves as a partial
20 substitute for decoupling for these customers. However, this method is not
21 appropriate for Residential Service and Small Power Service customers, because

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1 these customers do not have the demand meters required to apply a demand
2 charge.

3
4 PNM also is proposing an increase in the monthly customer charge for the
5 Residential Service and Small Power Service rate classes, but as I discussed
6 earlier in my testimony, the increase comes nowhere near removing the
7 disincentive. I will describe below why decoupling is preferred to alternative
8 means of addressing PNM's disincentive to promote energy efficiency programs
9 to these Residential Service and Small Power Service customers.

10

11 **IV. EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO THE RBA**

12 **Q. WHAT TOPICS WILL YOU ADDRESS IN THIS SECTION OF YOUR**
13 **DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

14 **A.** In this section of my direct testimony, I describe why the proposed RBA is
15 preferred to alternative methods for removing PNM's disincentive to promote
16 conservation and energy efficiency.

17

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1 **Q. IS PNM REQUIRED TO EVALUATE ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF**
2 **REMOVING ITS DISINCENTIVE TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION**
3 **AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY?**

4 **A.** Yes, the evaluation of alternatives complies with the terms of the Amended
5 Stipulation approved in NMPRC Case No. 10-00086-UT. The Stipulation states
6 the following:

7 Before PNM requests Commission approval of any mechanism
8 to address disincentives to utility energy efficiency programs,
9 PNM and other parties shall engage in good faith consultations
10 regarding alternative ratemaking solutions, including alternative
11 mechanisms such as off-system sales credits, increased demand
12 charges or reducing the recovery of fixed costs through
13 volumetric charges for non-residential customers. PNM shall act
14 in good faith to incorporate the suggestions of other Signatories
15 into its filing. Any suggestions not incorporated by PNM must
16 be specifically identified and thoroughly analyzed in its filing.¹

17 The direct testimony of PNM Witness Chan describes PNM's meetings with
18 stakeholders, while I address the alternatives PNM considered as compared to the
19 RBA.

20

¹ Amended Stipulation at ¶ 25.

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1 **Q. WHAT ALTERNATIVES TO DECOUPLING FOR ADDRESSING ITS**
2 **DISINCENTIVE TO SUPPORT ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS**
3 **DID PNM EVALUATE?**

4 **A.** PNM evaluated the alternatives contained in the Amended Stipulation approved in
5 NMPRC Case No. 10-00086-UT: increasing demand charges or reducing the
6 recovery of fixed costs through volumetric rates for non-residential customers;
7 and off-system sales (“OSS”) credits. In addition, PNM evaluated a number of
8 alternatives discussed during the stakeholder meetings, including: future test
9 years; frequent rate cases; Straight Fixed Variable (“SFV”) rate design; Lost
10 Revenue Adjustment Mechanisms (“LRAMs”); and a minimum bill provision.

11
12 As noted above, PNM has adopted the stakeholder suggestions to use increased
13 demand charges in place of decoupling for several customer classes. For these
14 customers, who already pay a demand charge and have the meter technology
15 required to bill customers based on their demand, increasing the demand charge
16 serves as an appropriate substitute for revenue decoupling. For its Residential
17 Service and Small Power Service customers, PNM evaluated the options listed
18 above, but determined that decoupling is a superior option. A discussion of each
19 alternative follows.

20

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1 **Q. HOW ARE OSS CREDITS SHARED BETWEEN PNM AND ITS**
2 **CUSTOMERS?**

3 **A.** Currently, net margins from OSS are allocated 90 percent to customers and 10
4 percent to PNM. From January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019, customers
5 will receive 100 percent of the benefit from OSS. PNM is not allowed to share in
6 OSS net margins again until January 1, 2020, at the earliest.

7

8 **Q. HOW MIGHT OSS CREDITS BE USED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR**
9 **DECOUPLING?**

10 **A.** I believe the idea is that as customers use less energy, PNM would have increased
11 opportunities to pursue OSS. Some or all of the net revenues from these
12 transactions would, in theory, be given to PNM instead of its customers to offset
13 the lost fixed-cost recovery that occurs as customers use less energy.

14

15 **Q. WHAT ARE THE DISADVANTAGES OF USING OSS CREDITS AS A**
16 **SUBSTITUTE FOR DECOUPLING TO REMOVE PNM'S**
17 **DISINCENTIVE TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION AND ENERGY**
18 **EFFICIENCY?**

19 **A.** The primary shortcoming of using OSS credits in place of decoupling is that the
20 amount of revenue generated from OSS does not necessarily match the amount of
21 lost revenue from conservation and energy efficiency. The market price for
22 electricity varies with market conditions while the amount of fixed costs to be

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1 recovered remains constant. As it stands, PNM will pass through to customers 100
2 percent of the net margins from OSS beginning in 2017 and 90 percent of the
3 benefit in the interim. If OSS credits are not large enough to offset PNM's lost
4 fixed costs, PNM's disincentive to promote conservation and energy efficiency
5 would remain. In addition, while OSS credits currently benefit all PNM
6 customers, the use of OSS credits as a substitute for revenue decoupling would
7 benefit only the included customer classes (Residential Service and Small Power
8 Service). Finally, customers are better off with the RBA because it provides
9 credits back to customers when PNM over-recovers its fixed costs. That is not the
10 case with OSS credits. Under PNM's RBA proposal, customers can continue to
11 benefit from OSS while the proposed RBA ensures that PNM's incentives are
12 aligned with those of its customers.

13

14 **Q. DOES PNM'S USE OF A FUTURE TEST YEAR REMOVE PNM'S**
15 **DISINCENTIVE TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION AND ENERGY**
16 **EFFICIENCY?**

17 **A.** No. A future test year establishes rates based on a forecast of sales, but does not
18 remove the link between actual sales and PNM's revenues. Since this link is the
19 source of the regulatory disincentive to promote conservation and energy
20 efficiency, a future test year is not a substitute for revenue decoupling. That is,
21 even if the future test year incorporates a forecast of usage reductions from energy
22 efficiency programs, PNM would be financially better off if it underperformed the

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1 forecast. In the absence of the RBA, PNM is better off when it sells more
2 electricity and worse off when it sells less.

3

4 **Q. WOULD FILING FREQUENT RATE CASES, EACH OF WHICH TAKES**
5 **INTO ACCOUNT REDUCED SALES AS A RESULT OF ENERGY**
6 **EFFICIENCY, REMOVE PNM'S DISINCENTIVE TO PROMOTE**
7 **CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY?**

8 **A.** No. More frequent rate cases only reduce the length of time during which PNM
9 loses revenue when customers participate in energy efficiency programs. Even if
10 the sales forecast used in the rate case accounts for historical and expected sales
11 reductions from energy efficiency programs, the link between PNM's sales and
12 revenues remains intact. Therefore, in the absence of the RBA, the disincentive to
13 promote conservation and energy efficiency would continue to exist.

14

15 **Q. WHAT IS SFV RATE DESIGN?**

16 **A.** Under SFV rate design, *all* fixed costs are recovered through fixed charges, such
17 as monthly customer charges or demand charges. Because Residential Service and
18 Small Power Service customers do not have a demand meter, SFV rate design
19 would be implemented by increasing the monthly customer charge to fully
20 recover all fixed costs. Because adopting SFV rate design does not change the
21 total revenue requirement, the increase in the customer charge results in a
22 decrease in the energy rate.

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1 **Q. PNM IS PROPOSING TO INCREASE ITS CUSTOMER CHARGES.**
2 **WILL THESE INCREASES APPROXIMATE SFV PRICING?**

3 **A.** No. As shown in Section III, implementing SFV pricing for Residential Service
4 customers would require a customer charge more than four times higher than
5 PNM's proposed charge. For Small Power Service customers, SFV pricing would
6 require a customer charge more than nine times higher than PNM's proposed
7 charge.

8

9 **Q. WOULD SFV RATE DESIGN REMOVE PNM'S DISINCENTIVE TO**
10 **PROMOTE CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY TO**
11 **RESIDENTIAL SERVICE AND SMALL POWER SERVICE**
12 **CUSTOMERS?**

13 **A.** Yes. SFV rate design would remove the link between PNM's sales and revenues
14 provided the customer charges were set to recover all fixed costs allocated to
15 those customer classes. This would require customer charges of \$61.62 per
16 customer month for Residential Service customers and \$163.72 per month for
17 Small Power Service customers.

18

19 **Q. WHY DOES PNM PREFER ITS RBA PROPOSAL TO SFV RATE**
20 **DESIGN?**

21 **A.** SFV rate design would represent a dramatic change in rate design for the affected
22 customers. While the total revenue requirement for the Residential Service and

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1 Small Power Service customers would not be affected by adopting SFV pricing,
2 the intra-class bill impacts would be significant. For example, Residential 1A
3 customers using 300 kWh per month would experience a doubling of their bill
4 relative to the current rate design. Proposing SFV pricing would be inconsistent
5 with the Commission's principle of gradualism, as discussed by PNM Witness
6 Chan, in making changes to rate design. In addition, SFV pricing reduces the
7 customer-level incentive to conserve. Specifically, the reduced energy rate
8 (relative to the energy rate that would be charged at the current or proposed
9 customer charge levels) lowers a customer's return for pursuing conservation and
10 energy efficiency, which may make customers less likely to engage in those
11 behaviors. In contrast, revenue decoupling does not reduce the customer-level
12 incentive to conserve.

13
14 **Q. WHAT IS AN LRAM?**

15 **A.** An LRAM would allow PNM to recover the lost fixed costs associated with the
16 sales reductions attributable to its energy efficiency programs. To implement an
17 LRAM, the Commission would approve a rate that represents the amount of lost
18 fixed costs per kWh, which would then be multiplied by the measured and
19 verified energy savings from PNM's energy efficiency programs. The total
20 amount of lost fixed costs, calculated as the product of the conserved kWh and the
21 cent-per-kWh fixed cost rate, would be recovered through customer rates in the
22 following year.

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1 **Q. WOULD AN LRAM REMOVE PNM’S DISINCENTIVE TO PROMOTE**
2 **CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY TO RESIDENTIAL**
3 **SERVICE AND SMALL POWER SERVICE CUSTOMERS?**

4 **A.** Only partially. There are several concerns and limitations regarding PNM’s
5 incentives under an LRAM. First, an LRAM would not affect PNM’s incentive to
6 *increase* sales. That is, under an LRAM, PNM could effectively promote its
7 energy efficiency programs, while at the same time offering load *growth*
8 programs. Second, under an LRAM, PNM would only want to offer energy
9 efficiency programs for which energy savings can be reliably estimated. This
10 could exclude some programs from PNM’s consideration, such as offering
11 general energy efficiency tips without having a means of tracking whether or how
12 customers act upon them. PNM refers to these as “market transformation”
13 programs. Third, an LRAM could lead to significant disputes regarding the
14 estimates of conserved energy. While measurement and evaluation is currently
15 conducted by an independent evaluator approved by the NMPRC, various
16 stakeholders would have incentives to dispute the estimates because each
17 additional estimated kWh saved affects PNM’s revenues and customer rates.
18 Uncertainty or concerns about the accuracy of the estimated kWh savings could
19 reduce the extent to which the LRAM affects PNM’s incentives. That is, if PNM
20 believes that the energy efficiency savings are consistently underestimated for a
21 particular program, it will retain a disincentive to promote that program. By
22 contrast, because revenue decoupling is based on a comparison of metered and

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1 allowed use per customer, its performance is not affected by the accuracy of the
2 energy efficiency savings estimates.

3

4 **Q. WHY DOES PNM PREFER ITS RBA PROPOSAL TO AN LRAM?**

5 **A.** An LRAM would only be a partial solution to PNM’s energy efficiency incentive
6 issues. The proposed RBA resolves all of the concerns about LRAMs listed
7 above: it removes PNM’s incentive to increase sales; it removes disincentives to
8 promote energy efficiency programs for which the saved energy is difficult to
9 estimate; and it does not rely on estimates of saved energy. Finally, customers
10 may prefer decoupling to an LRAM due to its symmetry. That is, it is possible
11 that PNM’s average energy sales per customer could increase in spite of its
12 energy efficiency programs due to compensating factors such as a hot summer, a
13 very cold winter, or an increase in end-use appliances. If this were to occur, PNM
14 would return money to customers under its proposed RBA. In contrast, an LRAM
15 always results in additional collections from customers as long as there are energy
16 efficiency savings.

17

18 **Q. HOW DOES A MINIMUM BILL PROVISION FUNCTION?**

19 **A.** A minimum bill specifies the minimum amount that the customer will pay per
20 billing month. The customer’s bill is calculated using the charges defined in the
21 tariff (which may be limited to energy charges, but could also include customer or
22 demand charges). If the resulting amount is less than the minimum bill, the

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1 customer pays the minimum bill amount. If the resulting amount is greater than
2 the minimum bill, the customer pays that amount and the minimum bill does not
3 affect what the customer pays. For example, if a rate consisted of only a 10
4 cents/kWh energy charge and a \$5 per month minimum bill, any customer under
5 50 kWh per month (= \$5.00 per month / \$0.10 per kWh) would pay the \$5 per
6 month minimum bill while customers using more than 50 kWh per month would
7 simply pay 10 cents/kWh for all usage.

8

9 **Q. HOW DOES A MINIMUM BILL PROVISION DIFFER FROM A**
10 **MONTHLY CUSTOMER CHARGE?**

11 **A.** A monthly customer charge is paid by customers regardless of the level of their
12 usage or the total amount of their bill. A minimum bill provision only affects a
13 customer's bill if the otherwise applicable bill is below the minimum bill amount.
14 This will only be true for customers with a usage level below a certain level,
15 which is typically quite low.

16

17 **Q. CAN A MINIMUM BILL PROVISION SERVE AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR**
18 **DECOUPLING?**

19 **A.** No, unless the minimum bill amount is set at the same level required for full SFV
20 pricing (e.g., \$61.62 per customer per month for Residential Service customers).
21 At lower amounts, a minimum bill provision would exacerbate PNM's
22 disincentive to promote conservation and energy efficiency. Because the

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1 minimum bill is paid by relatively few customers while a customer charge is paid
2 by all customers, the use of a minimum bill provision shifts even more fixed cost
3 recovery to volumetric rates. The vast majority of customers are unaffected by the
4 minimum bill provision. For these customers, usage reductions from conservation
5 or energy efficiency continue to lead to a reduction in utility revenues that are
6 supposed to pay for fixed costs.

7

8 **Q. WHAT DID PNM CONCLUDE FROM ITS EVALUATION OF**
9 **ALTERNATIVES TO REVENUE DECOUPLING FOR REMOVING ITS**
10 **DISINCENTIVE TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION AND ENERGY**
11 **EFFICIENCY?**

12 **A.** PNM concluded that revenue decoupling is the most effective and appropriate
13 means of removing its disincentive to promote conservation and energy efficiency
14 for its Residential Service and Small Power Service customers. Of the
15 alternatives, only SFV pricing fully removes PNM's disincentive to promote
16 conservation and energy efficiency, but it requires very high customer charges
17 that I would expect to produce large intra-class bill impacts. In contrast PNM's
18 RBA proposal has very little effect on the proposed rate designs (it only adjusts
19 the dollar-per-kWh rate each year) and preserves the customer-level incentive to
20 conserve.

21

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1 **V. DECOUPLING TRENDS IN THE UNITED STATES**

2 **Q. WHAT TOPICS WILL YOU ADDRESS IN THIS SECTION OF YOUR**
3 **DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

4 **A.** In this section of my direct testimony, I will describe the national trends in
5 revenue decoupling, including high-level descriptions of the decoupling
6 mechanisms currently in place in other states.

7
8 **Q. IS THERE A TREND TOWARD DECOUPLING IN THE ELECTRIC**
9 **UTILITY INDUSTRY?**

10 **A.** Yes. Decoupling has become more prevalent in recent years for electric utilities.
11 One study reports that between May 2009 and May 2013, decoupling increased
12 from 12 to 27 electric utilities.² The same report notes that as of May 2013,
13 decoupling was in use for an electric and/or gas utility in 26 states and the District
14 of Columbia.

15
16 **Q. HAVE YOU EXAMINED THE DECOUPLING MECHANISMS OF**
17 **OTHER ELECTRIC UTILITIES AND DO YOU PROVIDE DETAILS**
18 **ABOUT THE MECHANISMS USED BY THESE UTILITIES?**

19 **A.** Yes. I have found 29 electric utilities that currently have a decoupling mechanism
20 in place. The utilities with decoupling mechanisms and the states these utilities

² *A Decade of Decoupling for US Energy Utilities: Rate Impacts, Designs, and Observations*, Pamela Morgan, Graceful Systems LLC (Dec. 2012) at pp. 2-3.

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1 provide service in are listed in PNM Exhibit DGH-2, along with some information
2 about the design of each mechanism.³ A “yes” in the “RPCD” column indicates
3 the mechanism uses a revenue per-customer design to determine allowed
4 revenues.⁴ Where “no” is indicated in the “RPCD” column, the utility trues up
5 revenues to a pre-specified total revenue amount. For all but one utility, United
6 Illuminating, the revenue amount changes over time according to a schedule
7 determined at the time the mechanism was approved.

8
9 The “Include Weather Effects” column indicates whether the effects of changing
10 weather conditions on customer sales, and therefore utility revenue, are included
11 in the decoupling deferrals. The “EE Performance Incentives” column indicates
12 whether the utility has a separate energy efficiency incentive program in place in
13 addition to its decoupling mechanism. The “Cap on Deferral” column indicates
14 whether the decoupling rate adjustments are capped at a certain percentage or
15 level. The “Cap Level” column contains the amount of the cap, if applicable. The
16 “Soft or Hard Cap” column indicates whether deferrals in excess of the cap
17 amount are carried over into subsequent periods, a “soft” cap, or lost forever, a
18 “hard” cap.

19

³ The list of decoupled utilities was developed using the previously cited Morgan study and the following study: *State Electric Efficiency Regulatory Frameworks*, Institute for Electric Efficiency, July 2013.

⁴ In Central Maine Power’s decoupling mechanism, the allowed revenue is adjusted annually by 75 percent of the percentage change in the number of customers served (positive or negative).

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1 **Q. IS THE RBA PROPOSED BY PNM CONSISTENT WITH INDUSTRY**
2 **PRACTICES?**

3 **A.** Yes. As I will show in the following section, the key features of PNM’s proposed
4 RBA are commonly in use by other electric utilities.

5

6 **VI. PNM’S PROPOSED RBA**

7 **Q. WHAT TOPICS WILL YOU ADDRESS IN THIS SECTION OF YOUR**
8 **DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

9 **A.** In this section of my direct testimony, I provide a detailed description of PNM’s
10 proposed RBA.

11

12 **Q. AT A CONCEPTUAL LEVEL, HOW DOES THE PROPOSED RBA**
13 **FUNCTION?**

14 **A.** In the proposed RBA, PNM records the monthly differences between allowed and
15 actual revenue toward fixed costs for each of the Residential Service (Rates 1A
16 and 1B) and Small Power Service (Rates 2A and 2B) customer classes. This
17 difference is called the “decoupling deferral.”⁵ These deferrals are accumulated
18 for 12 consecutive months, at which point the annual total is divided by forecast
19 sales for each customer class for the following year to calculate the decoupling
20 rate change. When allowed revenue is less than actual revenue, customers receive

⁵ In the tariff for the RBA (Rider 44), this “decoupling deferral” is defined as the “Deferral Balancing Amount.” For a more detailed discussion of the specifics of the RBA tariff, please see the testimony of PNM Witness Aguirre.

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1 a rate decrease in the following year. When allowed revenue exceeds actual
2 revenue, customers receive a rate increase in the following year. The total amount
3 of allowed revenue changes with the number of customers served, so that the
4 RBA ensures that PNM recovers a constant amount of revenue per customer
5 regardless of customer usage levels. Because it severs the link between PNM's
6 sales and revenues, the RBA removes PNM's disincentive to promote
7 conservation and energy efficiency. The details of the mechanism are presented
8 below. Additionally, PNM Witness Aguirre provides greater detail about the
9 specifics of the RBA tariff.

10
11 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE PROPOSED RBA IN DETAIL.**

12 **A.** PNM proposes to implement a revenue-per-customer decoupling ("RPCD")
13 mechanism. Each month, the RBA deferral will be calculated as the difference
14 between the monthly allowed revenue toward fixed costs set in this rate
15 proceeding and the actual revenue toward fixed costs billed under the volumetric
16 rates to those customers, as shown in Equation 1 below. Where customers pay
17 block or time-of-use rates (e.g., Residential Service), the "actual" revenue is
18 approximated using a single fixed energy charge ("*FCE*"). This avoids the need to
19 compile billing data by rate block, or to apportion fixed cost recovery across the
20 rate blocks or pricing periods.

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1 Specifically, the RPCD mechanism will calculate monthly deferrals for each applicable
2 customer group as follows:

3 Equation 1: $Deferral_{c,t} = (FCC_c \times C_{c,t}) - (FCE_c \times kWh_{c,t}^{Billed})$

4 where

5 $Deferral_{c,t}$ is the decoupling deferral for customer group c in month t ;

6 FCC_c is the fixed cost per customer-month for customer group c ;

7 $C_{c,t}$ is the number of customers in customer group c during month t ;

8 FCE_c is the fixed-cost portion of the energy rate for customer group c , expressed
9 in \$/kWh; and

10 $kWh_{c,t}^{Billed}$ is the billed sales to customer group c in month t .

11
12 The first term of Equation 1, $FCC_c \times C_{c,t}$, represents the total allowed revenue,
13 calculated as the fixed monthly revenue per customer multiplied by the number of
14 customers currently served. This term shows that *total* allowed revenues change
15 with the number of customers served. The second term of Equation 1 represents
16 the fixed-cost recovery attained by PNM during the same month, calculated as
17 billed sales to the customer group during the billing month ($kWh_{c,t}^{Billed}$) multiplied
18 by the fixed cost per kWh as determined in the rate case (FCE_c). Every twelve
19 months, the cumulative deferral for each customer group will be incorporated into
20 customer rates for the following year by dividing the deferral amount by the
21 forecast of sales to the customer group. A positive cumulative deferral will result
22 in a rate increase. A negative cumulative deferral will result in a rate decrease.

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1 **Q. HOW IS THE RBA APPLIED TO EACH APPLICABLE CUSTOMER**
2 **GROUP?**

3 **A.** As noted above, the RBA will apply to two customer groups: Residential Service
4 (Schedules 1A and 1B) and Small Power Service (Schedules 2A and 2B). A
5 separate RBA will be established for each customer group. That is, there will be
6 class-specific values for the *FCC* and *FCE*, and the deferrals and resulting rate
7 adjustments will be calculated separately for each class. This ensures that the
8 RBA will not cause any inter-class cross-subsidies.

9
10 **Q. HOW WILL THE PARAMETERS OF THE RBA BE SET?**

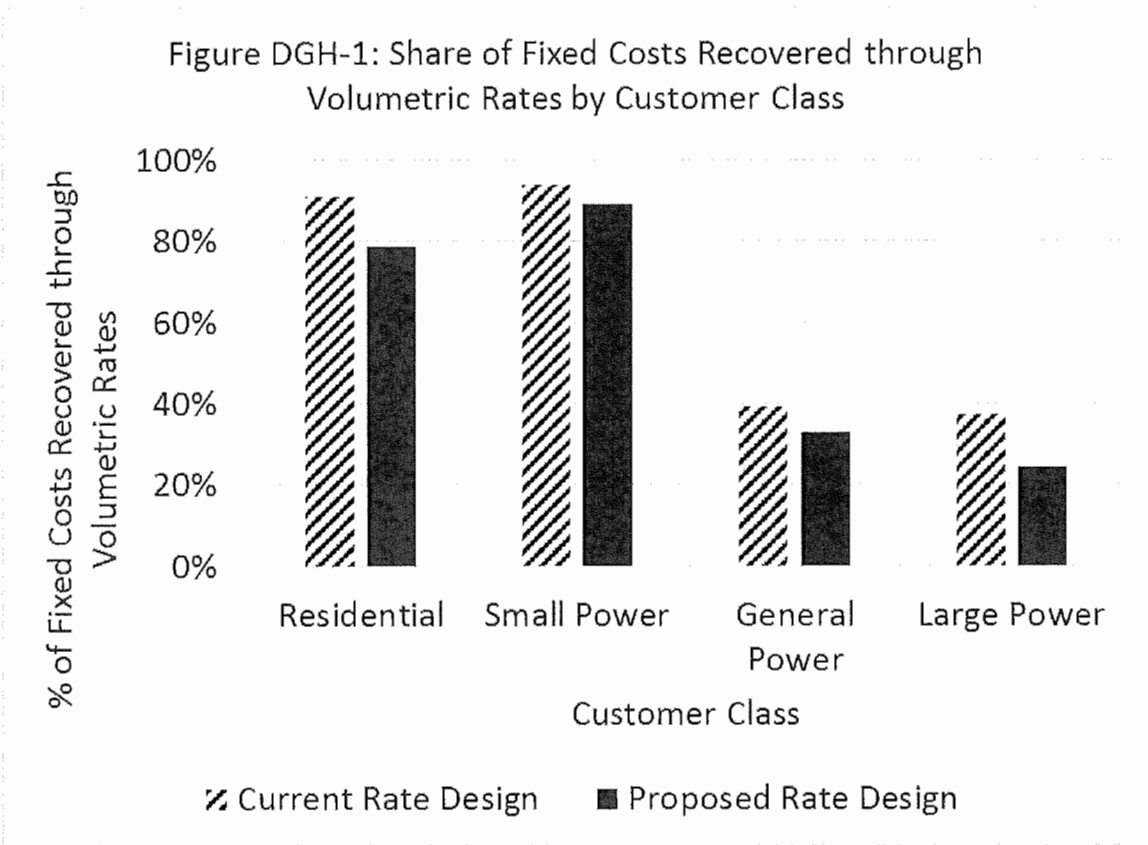
11 **A.** The methods used to set these parameters are described in PNM Witness
12 Aguirre's direct testimony.

13
14 **Q. WHY ARE GENERAL POWER SERVICE AND LARGE POWER**
15 **SERVICE CUSTOMERS EXCLUDED FROM THE RBA?**

16 **A.** General Power Service (Rates 3B and 3C) and Large Power Service (Rate 4B)
17 customers are excluded from the RBA because they have a low percentage of
18 their costs recovered through volumetric rates in comparison to Residential
19 Service and Small Power Service Customers. Figure DGH-1 compares the share
20 of fixed costs recovered through volumetric rates for each of these customer
21 classes under current and proposed rate designs. For each customer class, the
22 proposed rate design recovers a lower percentage of fixed costs through

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1 volumetric rates, but the share varies substantially by class. For Residential and
2 Small Power customers, approximately 79 percent and 89 percent (respectively)
3 of fixed costs are proposed to be recovered through volumetric rates. In contrast,
4 for General Power and Large Power customers, only approximately 33 percent
5 and 24 percent (respectively) of fixed costs are proposed to be recovered through
6 volumetric rates.



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1 **Q. WHAT DO YOU CONCLUDE FROM FIGURE DGH-1 REGARDING THE**
2 **NEED TO INCLUDE GENERAL POWER SERVICE AND LARGE**
3 **POWER SERVICE CUSTOMERS IN THE RBA?**

4 **A.** Figure DGH-1 shows that PNM faces a significantly larger disincentive to
5 promote conservation and energy efficiency to its Residential Service and Small
6 Power Service customers than it does for its General Power and Large Power
7 Service customers. PNM's proposal to include only the Residential Service and
8 Small Power Service customers in the RBA is in the interest of gradualism, which
9 may be advisable given that this would be the first electric decoupling mechanism
10 implemented in New Mexico. By focusing on the customer classes for which
11 PNM faces the largest disincentive to promote conservation and energy
12 efficiency, the proposed RBA provides a good combination of effectiveness and
13 gradualism.

14

15 **Q. HOW LONG WILL THE PROPOSED RBA BE IN PLACE?**

16 **A.** PNM proposes to implement the RBA as a four-year pilot program. Specifically,
17 RBA deferrals will be calculated for 48 months beginning in the month following
18 Commission approval of the mechanism. At some time before the end of the pilot
19 period, PNM will file to renew the program, propose modifications, or
20 recommend discontinuation. If no action is taken by the Commission, the RBA
21 will cease to be in effect at the end of the pilot period.

22

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1 **Q. HOW WILL THE RBA BE AFFECTED IF PNM FILES ITS NEXT RATE**
2 **CASE BEFORE THE END OF THE PILOT PERIOD?**

3 **A.** The parameters of the RBA will be adjusted each time new base rates go into
4 effect. Specifically, the *FCC* and *FCE* parameters will be recalculated using the
5 approved revenues, test-period sales, and test-period customer counts. The new
6 parameter values will go into effect during the same month as the approved rates.

7
8 **Q. HOW WILL THE RATE CHANGES THAT RESULT FROM THE RBA**
9 **BE IMPLEMENTED IN RETAIL RATES?**

10 **A.** The RBA rate change will be applied as a flat \$/kWh adjustment to the energy
11 charges. The same decoupling rate change will be applied to each usage block or
12 time-of-use period. Separate RBA rate changes will be calculated Residential
13 Service and Small Power Service. That is, Rate 1A – Residential Service and Rate
14 1B – Residential Service Time-of-Use customers get an RBA adjustment that is
15 the same for those two rate schedule, but different from the RBA adjustment
16 shared by Rate 2A – Small Power Service and Rate 2B – Small Power Time-of-
17 Use customers.

18
19 **Q. DOES THE RBA CONTAIN ANY CUSTOMER PROTECTIONS**
20 **AGAINST LARGE RATE INCREASES?**

21 **A.** Yes. If the rate adjustment produces a rate increase that is more than five percent
22 of each rate class's test period revenue, as approved in PNM's last rate case

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1 (excluding fuel factor revenue and all applicable riders, and including base fuel),
2 the excess deferral amount above the five percent will be carried over to the
3 decoupling deferral account for recovery in a future year. There will be no limit
4 on the rate reduction that the RBA rate adjustment produces. Given the foregoing,
5 PNM's proposal provides more customer protection than the average decoupling
6 mechanism currently in place in other jurisdictions. As PNM Exhibit DGH-2
7 shows, more than half of the decoupling mechanisms currently in place do not cap
8 surcharges at all.

9
10 **Q. WILL THE RBA DEFERRALS BE SUBJECT TO A CARRYING**
11 **CHARGE?**

12 **A.** Yes, a carrying charge will be applied to RBA deferrals, whether the deferrals
13 reflect an over- or under-collection of allowed revenues. The carrying charge will
14 be set at the Customer Deposit Interest Rate shown on the Commission web site.
15 This rate is currently 1.61 percent.

16
17 **Q. HOW DOES THE PROPOSED RBA AFFECT PNM'S COST OF**
18 **CAPITAL?**

19 **A.** PNM Witness Hevert addresses this issue in his direct testimony.
20

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1 **Q. IS IT APPROPRIATE TO USE THE PROPOSED RBA IN**
2 **COMBINATION WITH PNM'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVE?**

3 **A.** Yes. The RBA minimizes any disincentive to promote conservation and energy
4 efficiency that is caused by the recovery of fixed costs through volumetric rates.
5 However, the RBA does not provide PNM with an *incentive* to promote
6 conservation or energy efficiency. Rather, the RBA renders PNM indifferent to
7 the usage levels of the applicable customers. It is therefore appropriate and
8 compatible to provide PNM with a separate incentive to promote conservation
9 and energy efficiency, as required by the EUEA.

10

11 **Q. DOES THE PROPOSED RBA AFFECT THE CUSTOMER-LEVEL**
12 **INCENTIVE TO ENGAGE IN CONSERVATION AND ENERGY**
13 **EFFICIENCY?**

14 **A.** No. With the RBA in place, a customer who is evaluating whether to conserve
15 electricity can expect an immediate benefit that is the same as it would have
16 obtained under standard rates. That is, the customer can expect a bill reduction in
17 the amount of the full volumetric rate, including all riders and fees, multiplied by
18 the amount of saved energy (i.e., kWh). The portion of this bill reduction that is
19 associated with fixed-cost recovery is then placed in the RBA deferral account for
20 the utility to recover in the following year. Because each customer uses a very
21 small percentage of the total group-level usage, a conserving customer pays back
22 essentially none of its own lost revenues. Therefore, a customer's decision to

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1 conserve should not be affected by the presence of the RBA because the customer
2 cannot conserve enough energy to affect the rate it pays in the following year.

3

4 **Q. HAVE OTHER REGULATORS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT A**
5 **DECOUPLING MECHANISM DOES NOT AFFECT THE CUSTOMER-**
6 **LEVEL INCENTIVE TO CONSERVE?**

7 **A.** Yes. The Oregon Public Utility Commission concluded the following in Order
8 No. 09-020 for Docket UE-197, which approved a revenue decoupling
9 mechanism referred to as the Sales Normalization Adjustment, or SNA, for
10 Portland General Electric:

11 Staff also argues that the SNA would create a disincentive for
12 customers to improve their energy efficiency because the SNA
13 would increase rates and reduce the bill savings. We believe that
14 the opposite is true: an individual customer's action to reduce
15 usage will have no perceptible effect on the decoupling
16 adjustment, and the prospect of a higher rate because of actions
17 by others may actually provide more incentive for an individual
18 customer to become more energy efficient. (Page 28)

19

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**VII. PNM'S PILOT DECOUPLING PROPOSAL BALANCES
THE PUBLIC INTEREST, CONSUMERS' INTERESTS AND
INVESTORS' INTERESTS**

1
2
3

4 **Q. WHAT DOES THE EUEA REQUIRE TO SUPPORT ADOPTION OF THE**
5 **PILOT RBA PROPOSAL?**

6 **A.** The EUEA requires that the Commission “identify regulatory disincentives or
7 barriers for public utility expenditures on energy efficiency and load management
8 measures and ensure that they are removed in a manner that balances the public
9 interest, consumers’ interests and investors’ interests.” *See* EUEA at § 62-17-5(F).
10 In Section III, I established the existence of the regulatory disincentive faced by
11 PNM regarding its energy efficiency programs. The only additional requirement
12 of the Act is to ensure that the RBA balances the various interests included in the
13 EUEA.

14

15 **Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW PNM'S PROPOSAL SERVES THE**
16 **CONSUMERS' INTERESTS.**

17 **A.** The RBA serves consumers’ interests by aligning PNM’s financial interests with
18 its customers’ interests, which helps ensure PNM’s full commitment to promoting
19 conservation and energy efficiency. The successful implementation and expansion
20 of energy efficiency programs allows customers to reduce their bills without
21 sacrificing the services they receive from their energy use. In the long term, the
22 expansion of cost-effective energy efficiency programs can prevent the need for
23 capital expenditures to add or replace generation, which helps reduce rates for all

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1 customers. The proposed RBA serves consumers' interests in the following
2 additional ways:

- 3 • PNM's pilot RBA includes a cap on annual rate increases. Specifically, as
4 described in Section VI, the proposed RBA contains a five percent cap on the
5 extent to which it can increase customer rates, but no limit on the amount by
6 which it can reduce customer rates.
- 7 • The RBA balances customer interests with investor interests through its
8 symmetry. That is, the RBA will *reduce* customer rates when sales per
9 customer exceed forecast levels; and *increase* customer rates when sales per
10 customer are less than forecast levels. This symmetry helps ensure that
11 customers neither overpay nor underpay for the facilities used to serve them.
- 12 • PNM's proposed RBA, as a pilot program, protects customers by design given
13 that after the four-year pilot period expires, some Commission action will be
14 required for the program to continue. PNM Witness Chan provides a more
15 detailed explanation as to why PNM has proposed the RBA as a four-year
16 pilot program.
- 17 • PNM's proposal to include annual reporting (described in the direct testimony
18 of PNM Witness Aguirre) as part of this pilot program also serves the
19 customer interests, as the Commission and other stakeholders will be able to
20 track on an annual basis the specific elements of the RBA covered by the
21 annual report.

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1 **Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW PNM'S PROPOSAL SERVES THE**
2 **INVESTORS' INTERESTS.**

3 **A.** PNM's proposed RBA serves investor interests through the same symmetry
4 described above. That is, the RBA helps ensure that customers neither overpay
5 nor underpay for the facilities used to serve them. In addition, the RBA helps
6 protect PNM from financial harm caused by successfully promoting conservation
7 and energy efficiency.

8

9 **Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW PNM'S PROPOSED RBA SERVES THE**
10 **PUBLIC INTEREST.**

11 **A.** Section 62-17-2(A) of the EUEA declares that "the commission shall consider
12 public utility acquisition of cost-effective energy efficiency and load management
13 resources to be in the public interest." Therefore, by removing a barrier to the
14 acquisition of those resources, the proposed RBA serves the public interest
15 according to the EUEA itself.

16

17 **Q. DO YOU CONCLUDE THAT THE PROPOSED RBA "BALANCES THE**
18 **PUBLIC INTEREST, CONSUMERS' INTERESTS AND INVESTORS'**
19 **INTERESTS"?**

20 **A.** Yes. The public interest is served by removing PNM's disincentive to promote
21 conservation and energy efficiency. Consumer and investor interests are balanced

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1 primarily through the symmetry of the RBA. The utility and customers are both
2 protected from under-recovery of fixed costs and over-recovery of fixed costs.

3

4

VII. CONCLUSIONS

5 **Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS?**

6 **A.** Yes. I recommend that the Commission adopt PNM's proposal to implement a
7 pilot revenue decoupling mechanism for its Residential Service and Small Power
8 Service customers. The proposed RBA is consistent with the EUEA, in that it
9 removes a regulatory disincentive for PNM to promote conservation and energy
10 efficiency in a manner that balances the interests of consumers, investors and the
11 public. The need for the RBA will not change with more frequent rate cases, the
12 use of a future test year, or with incremental increases to the monthly customer
13 charges.

14

15 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

16 **A.** Yes.

GCG#520341

Resume of Daniel G. Hansen

PNM Exhibit DGH-1

Is contained in the following 8 pages.

Daniel G. Hansen

RESUME

July 2015

Address:

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Academic Background:

Ph.D., Michigan State University, 1997, Economics
M.A., Michigan State University, 1993, Economics
B.A., Trinity University, 1991, Economics and History

Positions Held:

Vice President, Laurits R. Christensen Associates, Inc. 2006–present
Senior Economist, Laurits R. Christensen Associates, Inc., 1999–2005
Economist, Laurits R. Christensen Associates, Inc., 1997–1999

Professional Experience:

I work in a variety of areas related to retail and wholesale pricing in electricity and natural gas markets. I have used statistical models to forecast customer usage, estimate customer load response to changing prices, and estimate customer preferences for product attributes. I have developed and priced new product options; evaluated existing pricing programs; evaluated the risks associated with individual products and product portfolios; and developed cost-of-service studies. I have conducted evaluations and provided testimony regarding revenue decoupling and weather adjustment mechanisms.

Major Projects:

Developed long-term forecasting models for an electric utility.

Conducted a review of an electric utility's load forecasting methods.

Conducted an independent evaluation of a revenue decoupling mechanism for an electric utility.

Estimated load impacts for commercial and industrial demand response programs.

Evaluated a straight-fixed variable rate design for a natural gas utility.

Estimated the load impacts from a residential peak-time rebate program.

Worked with a state's regulatory staff to evaluate alternative electricity pricing structures for residential, commercial, and industrial customers.

Assisted a utility in meeting regulatory requirements regarding the allocation of distribution services.

Evaluated a residential electricity pricing pilot program.

Evaluated the cost effectiveness of automated demand response technologies.

Evaluated and modified short- and long-term electricity sales and demand forecasting models.

Created a short-term electricity demand forecasting model.

Prepared testimony regarding the return on equity effects associated with natural gas revenue decoupling mechanisms.

Conducted an independent evaluation of two natural gas revenue decoupling mechanisms

Created forecasts of load impacts from electricity demand response programs.

Estimated historical the load impacts from electricity demand response programs.

Prepared testimony regarding a proposed natural gas decoupling mechanism.

Prepared testimony regarding the weather normalization of test year sales and revenues.

Participated on a regulatory proceeding panel to discuss decoupling mechanisms.

Prepared testimony regarding a proposed electricity decoupling mechanism.

Prepared a report and testimony regarding a natural gas decoupling mechanism.

Evaluated a model that estimated the costs associated with removing and relicensing hydroelectric facilities.

Assisted an electric utility in evaluating new rate options for commercial and industrial customers.

Designed and evaluated time-of-use and critical-peak pricing rates for an electric utility.

Reviewed cost-of-service study for a municipal electric utility.

Produced a report on rate design methods that provide appropriate incentives for demand response and energy efficiency.

Assisted in wholesale power procurement process.

Evaluated a weather-adjustment mechanism for a natural gas utility.

Assessed weather-related fixed cost recovery risk for an electric utility.

Evaluated a revenue decoupling mechanism for a natural gas utility.

Estimated price responsiveness of real-time pricing customers.

Evaluated the need for electricity transmission and distribution standby rates for a utility.

Developed a market share simulation model using conjoint survey results of electricity distributors.

Conducted conjoint surveyed of electricity distributors regarding rate structure preferences.

Developed a method to calculate a retail forward contract risk premium.

Prepared a report on the performance of Financial Transmission Rights (FTRs) in the PJM electricity market.

Reviewed a retail pricing model for use in a competitive electricity market.

Provided support in a natural gas rate case filing.

Simulated outcomes associated with alternative wholesale rate offers to electricity distributors.

Developed a business case to support a natural gas fixed bill product.

Assessed the accuracy of a natural gas fixed bill pricing algorithm.

Audited an evaluation of the costs associated with implementing a renewable portfolio standard.

Developed a model to value interruptible provisions in a long-term customer contract.

Performed a study on the determinants of electricity price differences across utilities and regions.

Developed long-term demand and energy forecasts.

Conducted market research to assess customer interest in new product options.

Recommended new retail pricing products for commercial and industrial customers.

Prepared a report on the fundamentals of retail electricity risk management.

Prepared a report that presented a taxonomy of retail electricity pricing products.

Presented at a workshop in Africa regarding deregulated electricity markets.

Prepared a report on the effectiveness of distributed resources in mitigating price risk.

Performed a valuation of energy derivatives consistent with FAS 133.

Created an electricity market share forecasting model.

Developed standby rates for an electric utility.

Developed an electricity wholesale price forecast.

Forecasted retail customer loads for an electric utility.

Assisted in mediating a new product development process with a utility and its industrial customers.

Developed a model that simulates wholesale market price changes due to retail load response.

Developed a pricing model for an innovative financial product.

Estimated changes in wholesale electricity prices due to customer load response.

Oversaw creation of software that estimates customer satisfaction with utilities.

Developed a model to economically evaluate a capital addition to a generator.

Developed a wholesale version of the Product Mix Model.

Evaluate Risk Implications of New Product Offering.

Mixed Logit Estimation of Customer Preferences.

Estimation of Customer Price Responsiveness.

Product Mix Model Workshops.

Unbundling and Rate Design.

Development of a Computer Program.

Large Commercial and Industrial Customer Rate Analysis.

Residential Customer Rate Analysis.

Survey of Power Marketers.

Development of Multi-Period Analysis Tool.

Evaluating the Effect of Alternative Rates on System Load.

Estimating the Persistence of Weather Patterns.

Electricity Customer Survey Data Analysis.

Product Mix Analysis for Small Customers.

Survey of Postal Facilities.

Professional Papers:

"2014 Statewide Load Impact Evaluation of California Aggregator Demand Response Programs: *Ex-post* and *Ex-ante* Load Impacts," with Steven Braithwait and David Armstrong, 2015.

"2014 Load Impact Evaluation of California Statewide Demand Bidding Programs (DBP) for Non-Residential Customers: *Ex-post* and *Ex-ante* Report," with Steven Braithwait and David Armstrong, 2015.

"2014 Load Impact Evaluation of California Statewide Base Interruptible Programs (BIP) for Non-Residential Customers: *Ex-post* and *Ex-ante* Report," with Tim Huegerich, 2015.

"2014 Load Impact Evaluation of Southern California Edison's Mandatory Time-of-Use Rates for Small and Medium-Sized Business and Agricultural Customers: *Ex-post* and *Ex-ante* Report," with Marlies Patton, 2015.

"2014 Load Impact Evaluation of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Mandatory Time-of-Use Rates for Small and Medium Non-residential Customers: *Ex-post* and *Ex-ante* Report," with Marlies Patton, 2015.

"FirstEnergy's Smart Grid Investment Grant Consumer Behavior Study," with EPRI (B. Neenan) and Marlies Patton, 2015.

"An Evaluation of Portland General Electric's Decoupling Adjustment, Schedule 123," with Robert J. Camfield and Marlies C. Hilbrink, 2013.

"Evaluation of the Straight-Fixed Variable Rate Design Implemented at Columbia Gas of Ohio," with Marlies C. Hilbrink, 2012.

"The Effect on Electricity Consumption of the Commonwealth Edison Customer Application Program Pilot," with EPRI and CA Energy Consulting staff, 2012.

"The Effects of Critical Peak Pricing for Commercial and Industrial Customers for the Kansas Corporation Commission," with David A. Armstrong, 2012.

"Meeting Commonwealth Edison's Distribution Allocation Requirements from Illinois Commerce Commission Order 10-0467," with Michael O'Sheasy, A. Thomas Bozzo, and Bruce Chapman, 2011.

"Residential Rate Study for the Kansas Corporation Commission," with Michael T. O'Sheasy, 2011.

"An Evaluation of the Conservation Incentive Program Implemented for New Jersey Natural Gas and South Jersey Gas," with Bruce R. Chapman, 2009.

"A Review of Natural Gas Decoupling Mechanisms and Alternative Methods for Addressing Utility Disincentives to Promote Conservation," June 2007.

"Evaluation of the Klamath Project Alternatives Analysis Model: Reply to Addendum A of the Consultant Report Prepared for the California Energy Commission Dated March 2007," May 2007, with Laurence D. Kirsch and Michael P. Welsh.

"Evaluation of the Klamath Project Alternatives Analysis Model," March 2007, with Laurence D. Kirsch and Michael P. Welsh.

"A Review of the Weather Adjusted Rate Mechanism as Approved by the Oregon Public Utility Commission for Northwest Natural," October 2005, with Steven D. Braithwait.

"A Review of Distribution Margin Normalization as Approved by the Oregon Public Utility Commission for Northwest Natural," March 2005, with Steven D. Braithwait.

"Analysis of PJM's Transmission Rights Market," EPRI Report #1008523, December 2004, with Laurence Kirsch.

"Using Distributed Resources to Manage Price Risk," EPRI Report #1003972, November 2001, with Michael Welsh.

"Hedging Exposure to Volatile Retail Electricity Prices," *The Electricity Journal*, Vol. 14, number 5, pp. 33–38, June 2001, with A. Faruqui, C. Holmes and B. Chapman.

"Weather Hedges for Retail Electricity Customers," with C. Holmes, B. Chapman and D. Glycer. In papers for EPRI International Pricing Conference 2000.

"Worker Performance and Group Incentives: A Case Study," *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, Vol. 51, No. 1, pp. 37–49, October 1997.

"Worker Quality and Profit Sharing: Does Unobserved Worker Quality Bias Firm-Level Estimates of the Productivity Effect of Profit Sharing?" Working Paper, May 1996.

"Supervision, Efficiency Wages, and Incentive Plans: How Are Monitoring Problems Solved?" Working Paper, November 1996, presented at the Western Economics Association Meetings, 1997.

"Has Job Stability Declined Yet? New Evidence for the 1990's," with David Neumark and Daniel Polsky, *The Journal of Labor Economics*, 1999.

Testimony and Reports before Regulatory Agencies:

Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM), New Mexico Case No. 14-00332-UT: Testimony supporting a revenue decoupling mechanism on behalf of PNM, 2014.

Xcel Energy, Inc, Minnesota E002/GR-13-868: Testimony supporting a revenue decoupling mechanism on behalf of Xcel Energy, 2013.

Arizona Public Service Company, Arizona Docket No. E-01345A-11-0224: Testimony supporting a revenue decoupling mechanism proposed by APS on behalf of the Arizona Investment Council, 2011.

Southwest Gas Corporation, Arizona Docket No. G-01551A-10-0458: Testimony supporting a revenue decoupling mechanism contained in a settlement agreement on behalf of the Arizona Investment Council, 2011.

Otter Tail Power Company, Minnesota Docket No. E-017/GR-10-239: Testimony regarding the weather normalization of test year sales in a general rate case on behalf of Otter Tail Power Company, 2010.

Southwest Gas Corporation, Nevada Docket No. 09-04003: Testimony regarding the return on equity effects associated with a proposed revenue decoupling mechanism on behalf of Southwest Gas Corporation, 2009.

Southwest Gas Corporation, Arizona Docket No. G-01551A-07-0504: Testimony regarding a proposed revenue decoupling mechanism on behalf of the Arizona Investment Council, 2008.

Otter Tail Power Company, Minnesota Docket No. E-017/GR-07-1178: Testimony regarding the weather normalization of test year sales and revenues in a general rate case on behalf of Otter Tail Power Company, 2008.

Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, Docket No. DPU 07-50: Participation in a panel regarding an "Investigation into Rate Structures that will Promote Efficient Deployment of Demand Resources", on behalf of Environment Northeast, 2007.

Connecticut Light & Power Company, Docket No. 07-07-01: Testimony regarding a proposed electricity revenue decoupling mechanism on behalf of Environment Northeast, 2007.

Questar Gas Company, Docket No. 05-057-T01: Testimony regarding the effectiveness of a natural gas revenue decoupling mechanism on behalf of the Utah Division of Public Utilities, 2007.

PacifiCorp, FERC Docket No. 2082: "Evaluation of the Klamath Project Alternatives Analysis Model: Reply to Addendum A of the Consultant Report Prepared for the California Energy Commission Dated March 2007," May 2007, with Laurence D. Kirsch and Michael P. Welsh.

PacifiCorp, FERC Docket No. 2082: "Evaluation of the Klamath Project Alternatives Analysis Model," March 2007, with Laurence D. Kirsch and Michael P. Welsh.

Northwest Natural Gas Company, Oregon Docket UG 163: Testimony relating to an investigation regarding possible continuation of Distribution Margin Normalization, May 2005.

Northwest Natural Gas Company, Oregon Docket UG 152: Submitted a report in compliance with a requirement to evaluate the functioning of the Weather Adjusted Rate Mechanism, October 2005.

List of Current Revenue Decoupling Mechanisms

PNM Exhibit DGH-2

Is contained in the following 1 page.

PNM EXHIBIT DGH-2 List of Current Revenue Decoupling Mechanisms

Row	Utility	State	RPCD?	Include Weather Effects?	EE Performance Incentives?	Cap on Deferral	Cap Level	Soft or Hard Cap?
1	Glendale Water & Power	California	No	Yes	No	No	n/a	n/a
2	LADWP	California	No	Yes	No	No	n/a	n/a
3	PG&E	California	No	Yes	Yes	No	n/a	n/a
4	SCE	California	No	Yes	Yes	No	n/a	n/a
5	SDG&E	California	No	Yes	Yes	No	n/a	n/a
6	United Illuminating	Connecticut	No	Yes	Yes	No	n/a	n/a
7	PEPCO	District of Columbia	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	10% of base rate	Soft
8	Hawaii Electric	Hawaii	No	Yes	Yes	No	n/a	n/a
9	Idaho Power	Idaho	Yes	No	No	No	n/a	n/a
10	Central Maine Power	Maine	Mostly	Yes	No	Yes	2% of dist. rev.	Soft
11	Delmarva	Maryland	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	10% of base rate	Soft
12	PEPCO	Maryland	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	10% of base rate	Soft
13	Baltimore Gas & Electric	Maryland	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	10% of base rate	Soft
14	Fitchburg Gas & Electric	Massachusetts	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	1% of total rev.	Soft
15	Western Mass. Elec.	Massachusetts	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	1% of total rev.	Soft
16	Mass. Elec. and Nantucket	Massachusetts	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	3% of total rev.	Soft
17	Xcel Energy	Minnesota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3% of total rev.	Hard
18	Central Hudson	New York	No	Yes	Yes	No	n/a	n/a
19	Consolidated Edison	New York	No	Yes	Yes	No	n/a	n/a
20	NYSEG	New York	No	Yes	Yes	No	n/a	n/a
21	Niagara Mohawk	New York	No	Yes	Yes	No	n/a	n/a
22	Orange & Rockland	New York	No	Yes	Yes	No	n/a	n/a
23	Rochester Gas & Elec.	New York	No	Yes	Yes	No	n/a	n/a
24	American Electric Power	Ohio	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3% of dist. rev.	Soft
25	Duke Energy Ohio	Ohio	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	3% of dist. rev.	Soft
26	Portland General Electric	Oregon	Yes	No	No	Yes	2% of total rev.	Hard
27	Narragansett Electric	Rhode Island	No	Yes	Yes	No	n/a	n/a
28	Avista	Washington	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	3% of total rev.	Soft
29	Puget Sound Energy	Washington	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	3% of total rev.	Soft
		# Yes	11	26	18	14		

BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW)
MEXICO FOR REVISION OF ITS RETAIL) Case No. 15-00261-UT
ELECTRIC RATES PURSUANT TO ADVICE)
NOTICE NO. 513,)
)
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW MEXICO,)
Applicant.)
_____)**

AFFIDAVIT

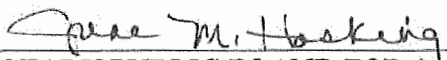
STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) ss
COUNTY OF DANE)

DANIEL G. HANSEN, Vice-President at Christensen Associates Energy Consulting, LLC, upon being duly sworn according to law, under oath, deposes and states: I have read the foregoing **Direct Testimony and Exhibits of Daniel G. Hansen** and it is true and accurate based on my own personal knowledge and belief.

SIGNED this 19th day of August, 2015.


DANIEL G. HANSEN

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 19th day of August, 2015.


NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR
THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

My Commission Expires:

10/05/2018