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A. I hold a Master of Arts in Economics from the University of Arkansas located in Fayetteville, Arkansas and a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of Missouri at Rolla (now Missouri Institute of Science and Technology) located in Rolla, Missouri. I have been employed by Sierra since July 2007. Prior to my current position, I served as the Manager of Forecasting and Economic Analysis at Alliant Energy in Cedar Rapids, Iowa for nine years, where I was responsible for load and revenue forecasting and load research. Prior to that, I was a Group Manager for seven years with Aspen Systems Corporation (now a division of Lockheed-Martin) overseeing analytical consulting projects for utilities and the U.S. government. I also have served as Manager of Load Research at Midwest Resources (now MidAmerican Energy) and as the Load Research Analyst at Missouri Public Service Company (now Aquila). I have submitted reports and testimony regarding load forecasting and load research before the Iowa Utilities Board, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, the Illinois Commerce Commission and the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

4. Q. DOES EXHIBIT BAXTER-DIRECT-1 ACCURATELY DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE?

A. Yes, it does.

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5. Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?

A. The purpose of my testimony is to support the long-term forecast of native load used in this filing.

6. Q. ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE LONG-TERM LOAD FORECAST?

A. Yes, I am.

7. Q. WHAT KEY ASSUMPTIONS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE PREPARATION OF THE LOAD FORECAST FILED IN SIERRA PACIFIC POWER'S 2008-2027 INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN (DESIGNATED AS DOCKET NO. 07-06049)?

A. Four key assumptions have changed:

1. The forecast of Large commercial and Industrial customer load does not include the departure of Barrick's Cortez Pipeline under AB 661. The recent request for departure arrived too late to include in this forecast;
2. Losses have been re-calculated using updated load research data;
3. Load reductions are included to reflect the enactment of AB 178, which bans the sale of incandescent bulbs in Nevada in 2012.
4. The Nevada State Demographer's population estimate for 2007 to 2010 has been updated. The update is reflected here.

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8. Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE CHANGES IN THE STATE
DEMOGRAPHER'S POPULATION ESTIMATE.

A. The State Demographer's population estimates for 2007 to 2010 were adjusted down to reflect the housing slowdown using the population forecast from the Global Insight Reno-Sparks Metropolitan Statistical Area forecast released in December 2007.

9. Q. WHAT IMPACT DID THESE CHANGES HAVE ON THE NEW LOAD FORECAST IN THE NEAR TERM AS COMPARED TO THE LOAD FORECAST USED IN THE 2008-2027 INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN IN DOCKET NO. 07-06049?

A. For annual system peak demand, the load forecast used in this filing is higher than the forecast filed and accepted in Docket No. 07-06049. The 2009 peak forecast is 92 megawatts higher and the 2014 peak forecast is 76 megawatts higher than the peak forecast approved in Docket 07-06049.

10. Q. WHAT IS YOUR OVERALL VIEW OF THE LONG-TERM LOAD FORECAST USED IN THIS FILING?

A. The load forecast used in this filing captures the most up-to-date economic outlook at the time it was prepared. It is thus a reasonable basis upon which to make the planning decisions that necessarily flow from the long-term load forecast.

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11. Q. DOES THAT CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?

A. Yes, it does.

Other

2007 to 2008 Steering Committee, EEI Load Forecasting Group

1998 to 2007 Member, AEIC Load Research Committee
Marketing sub-committee chairman from 2001-2007.

Specialized Training

Econometric Modeling Using SAS/ETS Software, February, 1991.

SAS Macro Language, August 1990.

Forecasting Techniques using SAS/ETS Software, April, 1990.

Sampling Methods and Statistical Analysis in Power Systems Load Research, April, 1989.

A.E.I.C. Seminar in Advanced Sample Design and Analysis of Load Research Data, July 1987.

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AFFIRMATION

STATE OF NEVADA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF CLARK)

I, TERRY A. BAXTER, do hereby swear under penalty of perjury the following:

That I am the person identified in the attached Prefiled Direct Testimony and that such testimony was prepared by me or under my direct supervision; that the answers and information set forth therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and that if asked the questions set forth therein, my answers thereto would, under oath, be the same.

Terry A. Baxter
TERRY A. BAXTER

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 17th day of March 2008.

Nancy M. Barker
NOTARY PUBLIC

