STATE OF OREGON

Public Utility Commission

In the Matter of PacifiCorp's Filing of Revised Tariff Schedules for Electric Service in Oregon

Docket No. UE 246

Direct Testimony of William Steinhurst, Ph.D.

> On Behalf of Sierra Club

June 20, 2012

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1 1. INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS

2 **Q.** Please state your name and occupation.

A. My name is William Steinhurst, and I am a Senior Consultant with Synapse
Energy Economics (Synapse). My business address is 32 Main Street, #394,
Montpelier, Vermont 05602.

6 Q. Please describe Synapse Energy Economics.

A. Synapse Energy Economics is a research and consulting firm specializing in
energy and environmental issues, including electric generation, transmission and
distribution system reliability, ratemaking and rate design, electric industry
restructuring and market power, electricity market prices, stranded costs,
efficiency, renewable energy, environmental quality, and nuclear power.

12

Q. Please summarize your work experience and educational background.

13 A. I have over thirty years of experience in utility regulation and energy policy, 14 including work on renewable portfolio standards and portfolio management 15 practices for default service providers and regulated utilities, green marketing, 16 distributed resource issues, economic impact studies, and rate design. Prior to 17 joining Synapse, I served as Planning Econometrician and Director for Regulated 18 Utility Planning at the Vermont Department of Public Service, the State's Public 19 Advocate and energy policy agency. I have provided consulting services for 20 various clients, including the Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel, the 21 Illinois Citizens Utility Board, the California Division of Ratepayer Advocates, 22 the D.C. and Maryland Offices of the Public Advocate, the Delaware Public 23 Utilities Commission, the Regulatory Assistance Project, the National Association 24 of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), the National Regulatory 25 Research Institute (NRRI), American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), 26 The Utility Reform Network (TURN), the Union of Concerned Scientists, the 27 Northern Forest Council, the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, the U.S. 28 EPA, the Conservation Law Foundation, the Sierra Club, the Southern Alliance

1 for Clean Energy, the Oklahoma Sustainability Network, the Natural Resource 2 Defense Council (NRDC), Illinois Energy Office, the Massachusetts Executive 3 Office of Energy Resources, the James River Corporation, and the Newfoundland 4 Department of Natural Resources. 5 I hold a B.A. in Physics from Wesleyan University and an M.S. in Statistics and 6 Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Vermont. 7 I have testified as an expert witness in over 30 cases on topics including utility 8 rates and ratemaking policy, prudence reviews, integrated resource planning, 9 demand side management policy and program design, utility financings, 10 regulatory enforcement, green marketing, power purchases, statistical analysis, 11 and decision analysis. I have been a frequent witness in legislative hearings and 12 represented the State of Vermont, the Delaware Public Utilities Commission 13 Staff, and several other groups in numerous collaborative settlement processes 14 addressing energy efficiency, resource planning and distributed resources. 15 I was the lead author or co-author of Vermont's long-term energy plans for 1983, 16 1988, and 1991, as well as the 1998 report Fueling Vermont's Future: 17 Comprehensive Energy Plan and Greenhouse Gas Action Plan, and also 18 Synapse's study Portfolio Management: How to Procure Electricity Resources to 19 *Provide Reliable, Low-Cost, and Efficient Electricity Services to All Retail* 20 *Customers*. In 2008, I was commissioned by the National Regulatory Research 21 Institute (NRRI) to write *Electricity at a Glance*, a primer on the industry for new 22 public utility commissioners, which included coverage of energy efficiency 23 programs. In 2011, NRRI commissioned a second edition of that work. 24 My resume is attached to this testimony as Exhibit Sierra Club 201. 25 On whose behalf are you testifying in this case? **Q**. 26 A. I am testifying on behalf of the Sierra Club. 27 **O**. Have you testified previously before the Oregon Public Utility Commission (the Commission)? 28 29 A. No, I have not.

1	Q.	What is the purpose of your testimony?
2	A.	The purpose of my testimony is to consider whether certain capital expenses for
3		certain environmental retrofits made by Pacificorp, doing business as Pacific
4		Power (the company) were prudent and should be allowed recovery. As I
5		conclude that those capital expenses were not prudent, I propose disallowances
6		and remedial requirements. I also address the question of coordination between
7		the company's integrated resource plan (IRP) activities and its rate case requests.
8	Q.	How is your testimony organized?
9	A.	My testimony is organized as follows:
10		1. Introduction and Qualifications.
11		2. Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations.
12		3. Prudence and the Company's Proposal
13		4. Recommendations
14	2.	SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
15	Q.	Please summarize your primary conclusions.
16	A.	My primary conclusions are summarized as follows:
17		(1) The company seeks recovery in this proceeding for the capital and operating
18		costs of certain major environmental retrofits (specifically, LNB and FGD for
19		Naughton 1 and 2, plus certain Naughton common facilities (collectively, the
20		Naughton Environmental Retrofits). The company also seeks recovery in this
21		proceeding for certain major environmental retrofits (specifically Hunter 1
22		and 2 SO2 Retrofits, Hunter 2 SO2 Project, Hunter 302 Clean Air – PM, and
23		Hunter 1 Turbine Upgrade – Interconnection) to Hunter 1 and 2 (collectively,
24		the Hunter Environmental Retrofits).
25		(2) Over the near- to mid-term, the company faces substantial additional costs due
26		
20		to known and likely environmental regulations that will have to be made to
27		to known and likely environmental regulations that will have to be made to keep those plants in operation, and the company knew or should have known

- relevant decision points for the Naughton and Hunter Environmental
 Retrofits.¹
- 3 (3) Furthermore, the available evidence indicates that the company failed to 4 determine in a reasonable manner whether the Environmental Retrofits would 5 be cost effective, in general, and, specifically, in the light of those known and 6 likely environmental regulations. The company's 2009 analysis of the 7 Naughton Environmental Retrofits not only failed to account for those known 8 and likely regulations, but was also fundamentally flawed in its assumptions, 9 methods, scope and timing. The company's 2009 analysis of the Hunter 10 Environmental Retrofits suffered from similar shortcomings. Those flaws and 11 omissions were ones that were inconsistent with the duties of a reasonable 12 person charged with responsibility for managing a utility business affected 13 with the public interest.
- (4) The flaws and omissions in analysis and management decision making just
 described constitute imprudence. The decisions to incur the Environmental
 Retrofit capital expenses were imprudent. Likewise, the company's failure to
 reanalyze and reverse those decisions at suitable times prior to
 commencement of construction was an act of ongoing imprudence.
- 8 commencement of construction was an act of ongoing imprudence.
- (5) The available evidence also indicates that the company until recently
 continued to fail to properly reflect those known and likely environmental
 regulations or their potential costs in its resource planning.
- 22 Q. Please summarize your primary recommendations.
- A. The Commission should disallow the costs of the Naughton and Hunter
- 24 Environmental Retrofits, including return of and on the capital invested, the
- associated operation and maintenance (O&M) costs for those Environmental

¹ Those regulations, their timing, and their likely consequences are explained in the prefiled testimony of Sierra Club witness Dr. Jeremy Fisher.

- Retrofits, and the costs due to lost output from the affected plants as a result of the
 Environmental Retrofits.²
- The company should be required to make a compliance filing to document the amount of those costs. That compliance filing should be subject to review and approval in this proceeding by the parties and Commission.
- 6 The Commission should also require the company to provide a prompt and full analysis and accounting for the effect of existing and upcoming environmental 7 8 regulations on its entire fleet of coal plants, as well as the full range of options for 9 addressing those regulations, including both supply- and demand-side resources 10 as well as alternatives to continued operation such as retirement or repowering. 11 The costs facing the existing fleet should be reflected properly and fully in that 12 analysis, including not only the costs requested for meeting environmental 13 compliance criteria today, but also the capital and operating expenses associated 14 with reasonably anticipated environmental retrofits and other environmental 15 mitigation requirements, as well as a price on carbon dioxide (CO₂) representative 16 of likely regional and federal policies on greenhouse gas emissions. Such analyses 17 should be fully documented and transparent and should provide the Commission 18 and intervenors with an opportunity to evaluate fully the proposed investments in 19 the context of the full range of costs that the company will face at its units and a 20 full range of alternatives to keeping those units in operation in order to determine 21 if ratepayers should bear the costs, among any other purposes to which the 22 analysis may be put.
- Without such an analysis, it is impossible for the Commission or any intervener to
 fully assess whether the company's plans for the maintenance, upgrades, and
 operations of its fleet of plants is in keeping with least-cost principles, and

² By "costs due to lost output from the affected plants," I mean the sum of (1) the cost of replacement power or additional production at other plants needed by the company due to any plant or unit downtime caused by the installation or operation and maintenance of the Environmental Retrofits, (2) the cost of additional production at other plants or of replacement power needed by the company due to either parasitic loads or reduced capacity at any plant or unit caused by the operation of the Environmental Retrofits, less (3) the variable costs of production avoided at the plants or units affected by the installation and operation of the Environmental Retrofits.

1 whether the company's proposed investments represent a suitable use of ratepaver 2 monies. The Commission may wish to require that the company use existing and 3 appropriate venues, such as the ongoing 2012 coal study and screening analysis, 4 for the submission and review of the recommended analysis and for evaluating the 5 company's planning and decision-making regarding existing coal-fired units. To 6 the extent that the 2012 coal study and screening analysis or some other ongoing 7 activity fully meet this recommendation, the evidence in this proceeding form an 8 additional justification for the Commission to mandate full and responsive 9 completion of such activities.

10 3. PRUDENCE AND THE COMPANY'S PROPOSAL

11 Q. What are the costs that the company is seeking to recover and that you conclude are imprudent?

- A. A portion of the requested rate base increase in this proceeding is due to rate base
 additions for the Naughton and Hunter Environmental Retrofits. I will explain
 below why those capital expenses, along with their associated operation and
- 16 maintenance (O&M) costs and costs due to lost output from the affected plants,
- 17 were imprudent. Dr. Fisher details the Naughton and Hunter Environmental
- 18 Retrofits and the company's analyses of them in his prefiled testimony.
- 19Q.Has the company presented information sufficient for the Commission to be20able to evaluate the prudence of the capital expenses for pollution control21equipment proposed for recovery in the current docket?
- A. No. The company has presented testimony asserting certain reasons supposedly
 supporting the need for the Environmental Retrofits. Dr. Fisher explains why
 those arguments do not hold water. He also explains various flaws in the analysis
 and management decision-making leading to capital expenses for the Naughton
 and Hunter Environmental Retrofits. I will explain below why those flaws
 amounted to imprudence.

1 2	Q.	Please explain your understanding of prudence determinations and their effect in a rate case.
3	A.	It is my understanding that only prudently incurred expenses, including recovery
4		of and on prudently incurred investments used and useful for the provision of
5		utility service, may be recovered in retail rates. In addition, only prudent
6		investments used and useful for the provision of utility service may be included in
7		rate base. Conversely, imprudently incurred expenditures are traditionally
8		disallowed. Finally, costs must also be reasonable, necessary and verifiable in
9		order to be recoverable.
10 11	Q.	Who must demonstrate the imprudence or non-used and useful status of costs?
12		A rate-regulated utility traditionally enjoys a rebuttable presumption that its
13		expenditures and investments are prudent, as well as used and useful. That
14		presumption can be rebutted by evidence sufficient to support a finding that utility
15		expenditures or investments were imprudent or not used and useful. Once that
16		presumption has been rebutted, then the burden traditionally shifts to the utility to
17		provide evidence sufficient:
18		(1) to form the basis for findings that costs were prudent and used and
19		useful; and,
20		(2) to overcome any evidence to the contrary.
21		In Oregon, statute provides that "At the hearing [on a rate increase
22		request] the utility shall bear the burden of showing that the rate or schedule of
23		rates proposed to be established or increased or changed is fair, just and
24		reasonable." ORS 757.210(1)(a). Just and reasonable rates do not include costs
25		that are imprudent, are not used and useful, or are not consistent with sound and
26		economical management of the utility. However, the Commission has ruled that a
27		utility need not initially present evidence on the prudence every item of expense.
28		Commission Order No. 02-469. As I am not an attorney, I will not attempt to sort
29		out that issue, but simply observe that the case presented by witness Fisher and
30		myself is adequate to burst any presumption of prudence the company may enjoy.

1Q.Please explain your conclusions regarding the prudence of the company's2Naughton Environmental Retrofits.

A. With respect to prudence, the company's actions count as imprudent for several
reasons.

5 First, installing the Naughton Environmental Retrofits was not a cost effective 6 decision given the information the Company had or should have had at the time 7 the investment decisions were made and at times after that decision when the 8 company could have changed course.

9 Second, the company chose to exercise its management discretion and to invest in
10 the Naughton Environmental Retrofits in such a manner that would result in
11 ratepayers bearing substantial and unnecessary costs, a clear abuse of discretion
12 by the management of an enterprise entrusted with the public good and, therefore,
13 imprudent.

14 Third, the most basic duty of a public utility is to provide adequate service at just 15 and reasonable rates, but the Naughton Environmental Retrofit costs were not necessary nor were they the least cost resource choice for the provision of utility 16 17 service over the long term. Among other errors and omissions, the company did 18 not properly consider all the relevant costs of and alternatives to the Naughton 19 Environmental Retrofits. Therefore, rates that include recovery for these costs are 20 inimical to the public interest, create economic waste, and would be, by definition 21 in excess of just and reasonable rates and thus not recoverable in rates.

22 Fourth, the company knew or should have known about—and did not properly 23 consider—a number of emerging federal requirements that will require additional 24 expenditures on control technology or may lead to plants being repowered or 25 retired. In this way, the company has asked ratepayers to fund piecemeal work 26 that could be done more efficiently or not at all once it has a better understanding 27 of the full suite of federal requirements. Instead, the company chose to gamble on 28 the installation of pollution controls that it hoped would meet (or be a cost 29 effective foundation for meeting) EPA's final requirements and any other 30 requirements. This gamble not only violates the principle that utility property

1		must be used and useful for public convenience at the time of rate consideration,
2		but it is, at bottom, imprudent speculation.
3		Thus, the Naughton Environmental Retrofit capital expenses were not prudent.
4		The prudent action would have been to fully evaluate the likelihood and costs of
5		future regulations and to act on that knowledge as required to provide long term
6		least cost service and to properly analyze the Naughton Environmental Retrofits
7		against all the relevant alternatives. To have done otherwise risks installing
8		expensive pollution controls that fall short of meeting EPA requirements and
9		would therefore require a new round of capital expense, shutdowns, or both.
10 11 12	Q.	Are there examples that show that the company knew or should have known about the potential cumulative effect on its coal plants of then current and emerging environmental regulations?
13	А.	Yes. The company's own documents that shows it has known of the potential for
14		such a cumulative effect prior to April 2009. ³ Pacificorp's SEC 10-K of March
15		31, 2003, said:
16 17 18 19 20 21		While the Company is unable at this time to predict with certainty the level of capital expenditures relating to air quality and carbon dioxide emissions, it believes these amounts could be significant but will be spread over a number of years. The Company also believes that the impact will be mitigated by recovery through the regulatory ratemaking process. ⁴
22		There is similar material in the more recent SEC filings. For example, in the 10-K
23		for the transition from April 1 2006 to Dec 31 2006 (PacifiCorp acquired by
24		MEHC), the New Source Review section reads:
25 26 27 28 29 30		Pending or proposed air regulations will require PacifiCorp to reduce its electricity plant emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and other pollutants below current levels. The reductions will be required to address regional haze programs, mercury emissions regulations and possible re-interpretations and changes to the federal Clean Air Act. In the future, PacifiCorp expects to incur significant costs to comply with

 ³ See 2009 Hunter SAP included as Exhibit Sierra Club 117. That SAP was dated April 2009, so the company clearly was aware of the cumulative regulatory requirement issue prior to that date.
 ⁴ PacificCorp SEC 10-K of March 31, 2003 available at http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/75594/000007559403000009/p03310310kfinal.htm

1 2 2	various stricter air emissions requirements. These potential costs are expected to consist primarily of capital expenditures. PacifiCorp
3 1	expects that these costs would be recovered in rates and, as such,
4 5	results. ⁵
6	In the 2008 IRP Update, the company acknowledges that the impending
7	regulations may have a significant impact on its fleet:
8	There are currently a multitude of environmental regulations, which
9	are in various stages of being promulgated, as outlined on the timeline
10	below. Each of these regulations will have an impact on the utility
11	industry and could affect environmental control requirements, limit
12	operations, change dispatch, and could utilinately determine the
13 1 <i>1</i>	Environmental Protection A gency has undertaken a multi-pronged
15	approach to minimize air land and water-based environmental
16	impacts. Aside from potential greenhouse gas regulation, no single
17	regulation is likely to materially impact the industry: however, in
18	concert they are expected to have a significant impact –especially on
19	the coal fueled generating units that supply approximately 50% of the
20	nation's electricity. [IRP Update, p. 17, <u>emphasis</u> added]. ⁶
21	This foreknowledge of the likely cumulative effect of then-current and emerging
22	regulations is precisely the knowledge that makes the company's failure to
23	comprehensively assess the costs of those regulations in its management decisions
24	a clear act of imprudence. Indeed, the company has only recently begun to
25	evaluate the regulations "in concert," even though it anticipated that those
26	regulations would have a significant impact on coal-fired power plants.
27	This management behavior is the epitome of imprudence. To the extent that the
28	company makes any investment or incurs any costs based on that faulty and
29	shortsighted analysis, those investments and costs would be imprudent.

 ⁵ Pacificorp 10-K for Transition April 2006 to Dec 2006 available at http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/75594/000007559407000003/p10k123106.htm
 ⁶ For Pacificorp 2008 IRP Update, see

For Pacificorp 2008 IRP Update, see http://www.pacificorp.com/content/dam/pacificorp/doc/Energy_Sources/Integrated_Resource_Plan/20 08IRPUpdate/PacifiCorp-2008IRPUpdate_3-31-10.pdf

- 1Q.Please explain your conclusions regarding the prudence of the company's2Hunter Environmental Retrofits.
- A. With respect to prudence, the company's actions here also count as imprudent for
 several reasons.

5 The reasons are similar to the case of the Naughton retrofits. The retrofit was not 6 necessary and the company's analyses did not consider the merits of deferring this 7 decision. They also were flawed and, when corrected and combined with a 8 reasonable carbon costs, show that the retrofit is marginal and risky under the best 9 circumstances, and a significant liability under reasonably expected conditions.⁷

- 10 Thus, the Hunter Environmental Retrofit capital expenses were not prudent. The 11 prudent action would have been to fully evaluate the likelihood and costs of future 12 regulations and to act on that knowledge as required to provide long term least 13 cost service and to properly analyze the Hunter Environmental Retrofits against 14 all the relevant alternatives. To have done otherwise risks installing expensive 15 pollution controls that fall short of meeting EPA requirements and would 16 therefore require a new round of capital expense, shutdowns, or both.
- Q. Can you identify the other costs that the company is likely to incur, and that
 Oregon ratepayers may be asked to bear, in the near- to mid-term for power
 plant retrofits?
- A. Yes, in broad terms. According to Dr. Fisher, EPA has or is poised to promulgate
 a series of rules that will apply to generating units in the electric sector, including
 the company's fleet of generating units. The rules will address air emissions, coal
 combustion residue, water intake and water effluent. Public statements of the
 company, set out above, explain that it anticipates substantial additional
 expenditures on retrofits to meet certain of these rules.

Q. Why must the Commission consider costs outside those proposed for recovery in the current docket?

A. Determination of the prudence of the company's investment and the most
economically efficient resource choices requires a comprehensive and detailed

1 assessment of the costs associated with a variety of options. This assessment must 2 include a full understanding of all of the known costs associated with specific 3 options, as well as an understanding and evaluation of costs that can reasonably 4 be anticipated for specific options. While the company is not seeking cost 5 recovery for all of the upcoming costs in this docket, evaluating these 6 expenditures in isolation from known and likely upcoming expenditures biases the 7 review in favor of the Environmental Retrofits. 8 **Q**. Please explain how a rate case is related to the company's IRP process. 9 A. An integrated resource planning process, by definition, must abide by two broad 10 principles. First, all resources must be considered—and considered on a "level 11 playing field." Second, the IRP process must deliver an integrated portfolio of 12 resources with the mix of resources that will provide adequate and reliable service 13 at the lowest life cycle cost, with the life cycle cost comparisons (between 14 resources or portfolios) and with an acceptable level of risk to ratepayers. The 15 company has used IRP for years, and it is appropriate that the company's rate 16 requests be consistent with these principles of IRP. 17 Q. Can it be difficult for utilities to plan for compliance given the sheer number 18 of regulatory activities that EPA is currently undertaking? 19 Although anticipating upcoming regulations can be challenging, EPA is expressly A. 20 pursuing a multi-pollutant approach to help companies comprehensively plan for 21 compliance. For example, in January, 2010, EPA announced its intention to 22 ensure better air quality, and promote a cleaner and more efficient power sector 23 and have strong but achievable reduction goals for SO_2 , NO_x , mercury, and other 24 air toxics. In other words, the company moved forward on these retrofits prior to 25 having a full understanding of the magnitude of later, related costs.

⁷ Witness Fisher details the flaws in assumptions and modeling for the Hunter retrofits in Sec. 8 of his prefiled testimony.

1	The company's premature actions are all the more imprudent because EPA has
2	emphasized the agency's efforts to take a multi-pollutant sector-based approach to
3	regulation in order to provide certainty and clarity. ⁸
4	On this issue, the company argues
5	Q. Does the Company believe that its CAl properly balances
6	stakeholder interests?
7	A. Yes. Environmental benefits, including visibility improvements,
8	will flow from the projects installed under the Company's CAl.
9	The Company believes that the emission reduction projects and
10	their timing appropriately balance the need for emission reductions
11	with the concerns of our customers for low-cost energy, concerns
12	of state utility commissions, and concerns of other stakeholders.
13	(Direct Testimony of Chad A. Teply at 11, ll. 3-7.) While additional controls
14	would result in environmental improvements, the question of whether the
15	generation in question is "low-cost" cannot be resolved without taking into
16	account known and likely upcoming rules and associated compliance costs. In
17	evaluating additional investment in existing capacity for recovery from
18	ratepayers, the Commission should be rigorous in its scrutiny and require the
19	utility to go beyond simply the question of whether a particular retrofit is
20	mandated for continued operation.
21	In some regards, the company's most recent planning and decision processes
22	demonstrate efforts to consider a range of compliance options at different plants,
23	as well as new resource options for meeting its customer's needs. However, the
24	company's planning and decision process for the Environmental Retrofits was
25	shortsightedly based on the assumption that existing units must continue to
26	operate regardless of likely costs, with ratepayers bearing the burden. The

⁸ Lisa Jackson, *Remarks on the 40th Anniversary of the Clean Air Act, As Prepared*; September 14, 2010. Available at <u>http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/a883dc3da7094f97852572a00065d7d8/b6210c1d1d49b7a48</u> <u>52577fb006f435a!OpenDocument</u>. Accessed 4/8/11.

1 company failed to use appropriate venues, such as integrated resource planning, to 2 allow the Commission to consider in comprehensive fashion whether ratepayers 3 should fund continued operation of existing coal-fired units in light of existing 4 and future regulatory requirements. Resource retirement, repowering, energy 5 efficiency, and portfolio replacement do not appear to have been options in 6 compliance planning, nor did resource replacement emerge as an option in 7 integrated resource planning until required by this Commission for the the 8 company's 2011 IRP Update.

9 Q. Is it sufficient for the company to determine the cost-effectiveness of the retrofits 10 currently required for compliance?

11 No. While Dr. Fisher and I have explained why the specific Environmental A. 12 Retrofits were not necessarily required for compliance, such an evaluation would 13 be incomplete even if they had been necessary, as it ignored relevant planning 14 information that the company's management knew or should have known, and put 15 ratepayers at risk for the costs of capital expenses that, when considered as part of 16 a whole, might not be cost-effective. In fact, Dr. Fisher shows that the capital 17 expenses actually were not the least cost choice given the information that the 18 company had or should have had at that time.

19 Even worse, however, the company pursued a piecemeal approach-planning for 20 meeting only one or two upcoming requirements, rather than considering the full 21 costs to ratepayers of continuing to operate the affected plants. Without factoring 22 in the full range of known and likely costs that ratepayers would have to bear, it is 23 not possible to assert that the power plants in question produce low-cost 24 generation. It is worth noting that, among all the other reasons given here for 25 considering the company's decisions to be imprudent, its piecemeal approach to 26 evaluating capital retrofits to existing power plants ignores the 40-year-plus trend 27 of steadily increasing and tightening environmental regulation nationwide. Now 28 and for future analyses, it is reasonable for the Commission and the company to 29 assume additional regulation and additional regulatory costs will be imposed. 30 Such an assumption will support evaluation of individual compliance 31 expenditures within a broader context of the full range of compliance obligations

and costs that the company is likely to face at a particular unit rather than
 reviewing compliance obligations one by one.

3 The company's piecemeal approach to evaluating the upcoming costs of 4 compliance deprived ratepayers of the benefit of a comprehensive review and 5 prudence management of utility investments. The Commission should not 6 countenance consideration of one regulation at a time in an environment of multi-7 pollutant requirements when evaluating the known and likely costs of continued 8 operation and retrofit. It is not reasonable to put ratepayers at risk of having to 9 fund multiple modifications or retrofits to meet compliance obligations if, taken 10 as a whole, those compliance activities are less economical than alternatives.

11 The summaries of upcoming environmental requirements presented in Dr. 12 Fisher's testimony evidence the potential synergistic magnitude of existing and 13 proposed regulatory requirements. These mandates will inevitably inform utilities 14 decisions as they make future resource allocations to meet customer demand and 15 determine the most appropriate investments for recovery from ratepayers. Given 16 the wide coverage of these mandates, it will be essential that, for future planning 17 purposes and rate treatment, the Commission and the utilities consider their 18 potential impact in a comprehensive, rather than singular, case-by-case basis. A 19 step-wise, consistent decision-making process for deciding whether to retrofit 20 existing plants, new plants or employ some other resource will be essential to 21 ensuring the best outcome for ratepayers. When evaluating alternatives, utilities 22 must consider the market cost of existing, unused natural gas capacity, the cost of 23 a new combined cycle natural gas plant, as well as that of wind, other renewables, 24 demand response, and energy efficiency, in comparison to the specific retrofit 25 costs faced by an individual unit.

It is critical for companies to consider a reasonable range and intensity of risks
and uncertainties, particularly those associated with environmental regulation.
These include carbon costs, ozone regulation, mercury regulation, coal
combustion waste risks and requirements, and other pending regulatory issues, as
discussed in Dr. Fisher's testimony. I recommend that utilities be directed to

include the costs and risks of existing and emerging regulations on a joint, multi pollutant basis in evaluating investment plans, even when the final form or timing
 of a regulation is unknown, given the capital intensive and long-lived nature of
 investments in the electric industry.

5Q.Are there other reasons why the Naughton Environmental Retrofit capital6expenses were imprudent?

7 A. Yes. As explained by Dr. Fisher, the company failed to update its analyses 8 between decision dates, despite rapid and substantial changes in the planning 9 environment. Among the crucial errors were failure to reflect in the analysis 10 changing market prices for power, changing fuel costs, and changing O&M costs, 11 using inconsistent generation estimates, and the serious error of assuming that the 12 plants would have to be retired in 2008 or 2009, rather than 2012 or more likely 13 2015. The changes in the power planning environment were well known to utility 14 managers. The company's management likely knew of them as soon as they 15 occurred and certainly should have known of them. In the face of such 16 knowledge, failure to reconsider such large capital expenses while there was time 17 to do so was imprudent. Further, those analyses, while they may have had a 18 positive present value revenue requirement differential (PVRR(d)) over the full 19 life of the plant, did not break even for so long a period that a reasonable person 20 would have considered the positive PVRR(d) be quite risky, especially compared 21 to more modular options such as energy efficiency and renewables, not to 22 mention the simple option of considering the whole decision inside the company's 23 portfolio analysis as it uses in its IRP. The analysis supporting the Naughton FGD 24 retrofits was executed months before the NTP date, and nearly a year and a half 25 before the project broke ground. Circumstances, and particularly natural gas price 26 outlooks, had changed markedly during that time. As the long-term outlook for 27 natural gas fell, the Company's long-term electricity market price fell as well, 28 weakening the justification for the Naughton retrofits markedly. It is incumbent 29 on management to review their decisions diligently and, in the face of new 30 information or findings, re-assess their findings and act accordingly. Even given 31 the highly flawed analysis in this case, simply repeating the analysis prior to

proceeding and prior to construction would have revealed a very different set of
 outcomes.

Q. Are there other reasons why the Hunter Environmental Retrofit capital expenses were imprudent?

5 As explained above, the reasons are similar and the flaws in analysis and decision A. 6 making leading to those reasons were also similar. However, the way they fit 7 together is slightly different. One key question was the choice of carbon costs for 8 the analysis. As Dr. Fisher showed, the company analyzed on a wide range of 9 carbon cost projections, but took decisions that made sense only if it had relied 10 only on the lowest of those projections, a projection (\$8) that was about one-fifth 11 the dollar value of the next highest projection it considered at that time. Even so, 12 combined with the corrections to the company's other assumptions and analysis 13 set out by Dr. Fisher, the benefits become so marginal in the \$8 case that a 14 reasonable person would have reconsidered, and the supposed benefit becomes 15 wholly unsupportable with higher carbon prices.

16

4.

RECOMMENDATIONS

17 Q. What recommendations do you have for Commission?

18 A. I recommend that the company's Naughton and Hunter Environmental 19 Retrofit capital expenses be disallowed. That disallowance should include not 20 only recovery of and on the capital costs of the Environmental Retrofits, but also 21 any associated operation and maintenance (O&M) costs and costs due to lost 22 output from the affected plants. The term "costs due to lost output from the 23 affected plants," means the cost of replacement power or additional production 24 needed by the company due to any plant or unit downtime caused by the 25 installation or operation and maintenance of the Environmental Retrofits. This 26 also includes the cost of additional production or replacement power the company 27 needs due to either parasitic loads or reduced capacity at any plant or unit caused 28 by the operation of the Environmental Retrofits, less the variable costs of 29 production avoided at the plants or units affected by the installation and operation 30 of the Environmental Retrofits. The company should be required to make a

1 compliance filing to document the amount of those costs. That compliance filing 2 should be subject to review and approval in this proceeding by the parties and 3 Commission. 4 Does your opinion change if construction has already commenced or is **O**. 5 complete on one or more of the imprudent retrofits that are being proposed 6 for cost recovery in this proceeding or if any such construction has already 7 been permitted? 8 No. Such costs should still be disallowed. The disallowances I recommend are A. 9 fully consistent with traditional ratemaking, whether or not the imprudent capital 10 expenses have already been made, in whole or in part. 11 **O**. Does your opinion change if additional capital expenses for a specific 12 imprudent retrofit are being proposed for recovery, but some of that retrofit's cost was already allowed in rate base in a prior rate case? 13 14 No. The Commission should disallow as imprudent that portion of the capital A. 15 expenses not already allowed into rate base by prior Commission Order. The 16 Commission should also consider, now and in the future, whether any of those or 17 similar capital expenses (that is, capital expenses now found to have been 18 imprudent but which have been allowed into rate base by prior Commission 19 Order) are used and useful in the provision of utility service. Under traditional 20 ratemaking practice, the cost of capital expenses that have already been allowed 21 into rate base (whether by an explicit finding of prudence or in accordance with a 22 utility's presumption of prudence), but which are no longer used and useful (if 23 they ever were) may be subject to a disallowance, the extent of which is within 24 the Commission's discretion. 25 Does your opinion change if any of the associated operation and maintenance **O**. 26 (O&M) costs and costs due to lost output from the affected plants have 27 already been allowed in a prior rate case? 28 That would depend on the specific circumstances. For example, if any of those A. 29 costs were booked as a current expense in a prior year and, so, are no longer to be 30 recognized in a future rate year, there would be nothing to disallow. On the other 31 hand, if any of those costs had been booked and deferred for later amortization 32 but not yet reviewed for rate recovery, any remaining unamortized balances 33 should be disallowed, along with any accrued carrying charges. If there is some

other mixed circumstance, the proper treatment would depend on the details. As
 the company is in the best position to know how it booked and amortized any
 such costs, it should be required to identify them and describe their treatment to
 date for consideration as part of the compliance filing recommended above.

5

Q. Do you have additional recommendations for the Commission?

6 A. The company is requesting the opportunity to recover significant costs from 7 ratepayers associated with the continued operation of its existing coal-fired power 8 plants. It is my understanding that the company has made numerous investments 9 similar to the Environmental Retrofits at other existing generators, as well as 10 transmission and distribution investments associated with the operation of such 11 plants. Further, it is quite likely that continued operation of many of the 12 company's existing generators will require further environmental retrofits or 13 equally large non-environmental capital expenses.

- 14 The facts and events presented in the Sierra Club's testimony in this proceeding 15 demonstrate that the company's management and decision making processes for 16 such generation and transmission and distribution investments has, at least in the 17 past, been fundamentally flawed. This does not create an atmosphere of 18 confidence consistent with the usual presumption that utility management is 19 prudent and economical. However, I would not go so far as to recommend that the 20 Commission remove that customary presumption entirely, at least not yet.⁹ 21 However, the Commission should also require the company to provide a prompt 22 and full analysis and accounting for the impact of existing and upcoming 23 environmental regulations affecting its entire fleet of coal plants, as well as the 24 full range of options for addressing those regulations, including both supply- and 25 demand-side resources as well as alternatives to continued operation such as 26 retirement or repowering.
- I discuss how the Commission might consider doing so above in this testimony,
 but specifically I recommend that the Commission take a proactive approach to

1 ensure sound decision-making and to ensure that the Commission has sufficient 2 information to evaluate company decisions that could result in significant costs to 3 ratepayers. In particular, I recommend that the Commission establish as its norm 4 an expectation that a comprehensive and consistent planning process, fully 5 documented and available for later scrutiny, be carried out by any utility that wishes to seek rate recovery for major capital improvements to existing 6 7 generation and transmission assets. In general, the Commission's guidelines for 8 such a process should require: 9 (1) A thorough inventory and description of all the relevant resource 10 options, together with an assessment of their costs, benefits, uncertainties and risks, as well as the probabilities of those risks, 11 12 (2) An objective analysis of how those uncertainties and risks affect the 13 performance of various resource plans individually and in combination, 14 (3) Development of a plan relying on a portfolio of resources that manages 15 risk and uncertainty to a reasonable level while delivering the lowest life cycle 16 cost over the fullest possible range of plausible future scenarios. 17 If the company fails to do so or fails to coordinate its rate requests with its IRP 18 planning processes and principles, the Commission should consider imposing a 19 further penalty in the form of a reduction to the company's allowed rate of return. 20 Does this conclude your testimony? 0. 21 Yes, it does. A.

⁹ As mentioned earlier in this testimony, it may be that no such presumption exists in Oregon. If so, this recommendation is all the more reasonable.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

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SIERRA CLUB EXHIBIT 201

Résumé of William Steinhurst, Ph.D.

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Synapse Energy Economics Inc., Cambridge, MA.

Senior Consultant, July 2003 to Present

Consulting services to state and provincial energy regulators and public advocates, state provincial and national energy departments, and non-governmental organizations on regulatory policy, power supply procurement, electric industry restructuring, portfolio management, rate setting and rate design, economic impacts of efficiency and renewable generation programs, and other utility and energy topics. Expert witness services and litigation advice. Co-authored reports, journal articles and conference presentations on portfolio management, energy efficiency programs, and electric reliability.

Vermont Department of Public Service, Montpelier, VT.

Director for Regulated Utility Planning, 1986-2003

Preparation of long range policy plans in the areas of electric utilities, energy and telecommunications, including oversight of research, modeling, public input processes, policy analysis and writing. Development of policy positions and drafting of legislation and rules concerning utility resource planning, power supply acquisition, generation and transmission permitting, environmental costing, energy efficiency and alternative generation, utility restructuring and retail choice, distributed utility planning, rate setting and rate design, mergers, financing and acquisitions, decision analysis, power contract restructuring, Qualifying Facility contracts and permits, net metering, and other critical regulatory issues. Extensive expert testimony on those matters, as well as utility bankruptcy, prudence reviews, and critical utility policy matters. Extensive legislative testimony.

Planning Econometrician, 1981-1986

Energy demand forecasting, economic and demographic projections, economic and policy impact analysis, avoided cost estimates, and other quantitative analysis for utility and energy policy making. Development of State's basic policies regarding least cost planning and resource selection, including methods for evaluation of and program design for generation, transmission and demand-side options. Implementation of utility energy efficiency program requirements.

Vermont Agency of Human Services, Montpelier, VT.

Director of Planning, 1979-1981

Vermont Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Waterbury, VT.

Director of Planning and Evaluation, 1977-1979 Acting Deputy Commissioner, 1977

Vermont Department of Corrections, Montpelier, VT.

Director of Planning and Research, 1974-1977 *Chief of Research and Statistics*, 1973-1974

Pre-2004 Energy Consulting

Illinois Energy Office, 1986. Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy Resources, 1986. Northern Technology, Inc., Gorham, NH, 1983-1985. James River Corporation, Green Bay, WI, 1985. Newfoundland Department of Natural Resources, 1995

Teaching

University of Vermont, Burlington, Vt., 1977 to 1989 Adelphi University, Garden City, N.Y., 1980 to 1988 University of N. H., Complex Systems Ctr., Grad. Studies Comm., 1992-1994 Institute of International Education, Least Cost Planning Seminar, 1999 Community College of Vermont, 2002-2004

Miscellaneous

National Science Foundation Undergraduate Research Grant, 1965. Wesleyan University Astronomy Prize, 1967. Association for Criminal Justice Research (Northeast/Canada), Director, 1973 to 1981, Secretary/Treas., 1973 to 1980. University of Vermont Graduate Award in Statistics, May, 1980. Contributing Editor, Current Index to Statistics, 1976-1985. Chair, Session on Energy Economics, New England Business and Economics Association Annual Meeting, 1983. Member, Intl. System Dynamics Soc., Tau Beta Pi. Northeast International Committee on Energy, New England Governors' Conference/Eastern Canadian Premieres, various periods, 1986 to 2003 Director, Vermont Girl Scout Council, 1989-1991, 2000-2008; Secy., 1991-1997 3rd Vice President, Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains, 2009 to date Editor, Intl. System Dynamics Soc. Bibliography, 1990-Advisory Group Member, New England Project, MIT Analysis Group for Regional Electricity Alternatives, 1991-1995. Chair, Steering Committee & Modeling Subcommittee, New England Governors Conf. Regional Energy Planning Project, 1991-1995. Member, Montpelier School System Technology Steering Committee and Montpelier High School Technology Committee, 1992-1993. Reviewer, Vermont Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, 1993-Invited Speaker, 3rd Intl. Conf. on Externality Costs, Ladenburg, FDR, 1995. Member, Steering Committee, New England Governors Conference, Restructuring/ Environmentally Sustainable Technologies Project, 1996-1997 U. S. DOE Distributed Generation Collaborative, 2000-2003 Justice of the Peace, Montpelier, Vermont, 2007-

EDUCATION

Degrees

B.A., Physics, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, 1970M.S., Statistics, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, 1980Ph.D., Mechanical Engineering , University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, 1988

Continuing Education

Seminar in Electricity and Telecommunications Demand, 1981 Advanced Workshop in Regulation and Public Utility Economics, June, 1982 and June, 1983, Rutgers University Transmission Reliability Assessment, Power Technologies, Inc., 1986 Regional Forecasting and Simulation Modeling, January, 1991, U. Massachusetts-Amherst

TESTIMONY, EXPERT REPORTS and AFFIDAVITS

Vermont Public Service Board

On behalf of the Vermont Department of Public Service: Docket 4661 - Green Mountain Power Rate Increase Dockets 5009/5112 - Vt. Electric Coop. Rate Increase Dockets 5108/5109 - Vt. Marble Co. Small Power Rate Docket 5133 - Moretown Hydro Energy Co. Small Power Rate Docket 5202 - VPPSA Refinancing Docket 5248 - DPS Ontario Hydro Power Purchase Docket 5270 - Least Cost Planning and Demand-Side Management Docket 5270-GMP-1 - Highgate Apartments Fuel Switching Docket 5270-CV-1&3 - Demand-Side Management Preapproval and Ratemaking Principles Docket 5270-CV-4 - IRP Docket 5270-VGS-1 - Demand-Side Management Preapproval Docket 5270-WEC-1 - Demand-Side Management Preapproval Dockets 5270-BRTN-1, 5270-CUC-3, 5270-HDPK-1, 5270-JHNS-1, 5270-JKSN-1, 5270-LDLW-1, 5270-LYND-1, 5270-MRSV-1, 5270-ORLN-1, 5270-RDSB-1, 5270-ROCH-1, 5270-STOW-1, 5270-SWNT-1, 5270-VMC-1 - IRP's Docket 5270-VGS-2 - Demand-Side Management Preapproval Docket 5277 - DPS Ontario Hydro Transactions Agreement Docket 5330A - Hydro Quebec Power Purchase Docket 5330E - Hydro Quebec Power Purchase, Waiver and Amendment Docket 5372 - CVPSC Rate Increase Docket 5491 - CVPSC Rate Increase Docket 5630/32 - VEC Debt Restructuring & Rate Increase Docket 5634 - NET Toll Dialing Plan Docket 5638 - CVPSC Mack Molding* Docket 5664 - EPACT Standards Docket 5810/11/12 - VEC Debt Restructuring & Rate Increase Docket 5825 - Ludlow IRP - externalities Docket 5826 - Vermont Marble Electric Division - IRP - externalities

Docket 5832 - Lyndonville IRP - externalities

Docket 5841/5859 - Citizens Utilities Prudence Review & Revocation Petition

Docket 5854 - Electric Restructuring*

Docket 5857 - GMP Rate Increase*

Docket 5971 - VEC Bankruptcy Reorganization*

Docket 5980 - Proposal for Statewide Efficiency Utility

Docket 5983 - GMP Rate Increase (HQ Issues)

Docket 6018 - CVPSC Rate Increase (HQ Issues)

Docket 6107 - GMP Rate Increase (HQ Issues)

Docket 6140 - Electric Industry Restructuring (various presentations)*

Docket 6033/6053/6110/6142/6158/6326/6327/6371/6462/6464 - various municipal electric rate increases*

Docket 6270 - Qualifying facility contract reform

Docket 6290 - Distributed Generation*

Docket 6300 - Sale of Vermont Yankee

Docket 6330 - Petition of CVPSC and GMP on Restructuring (various presentations)*

Docket 6149/6315 - WEC electric rate increases* (HQ and Settlement Issues)

Docket 6460 - CVPSC Rate Increase (HQ Issues)

Docket 6495 - Vermont Gas Systems Rate Increase (Deferral Account and Hedging)

Docket 6565 - Various station service contracts

Docket 6596 - CUC rate Increase (HQ Issues)

Docket 6758 - Fourteen Utilities - Violations of Statutes on Special Contracts and Special Rates—Phases I & II For consulting clients:

Docket 6958 - Green Mountain Power Rate Design - for AARP

Docket 6958 - Green Mountain Power Rate Design - for Conservation Law Foundation

Docket 6958 - Green Mountain Power Rate Design - for Conservation Law Foundation

Docket 7085 - CVPS Street Lighting Tariff - for Village of Woodstock

Docket 7175 - Green Mountain Power Rate Design - for Conservation Law Foundation and AARP

Docket 7176 - Green Mountain Power Alternative Regulation Plan—for Conservation Law Foundation and AARP

Docket 7336 - CVPS Alternative Regulation Plan - for Conservation Law Foundation*

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Vermont State Environmental Board

Docket 5W0584-EB - Developers Diversified Land Use Permit

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

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California Public Utilities Commission

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Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control

Docket No. 03-07-16 - Alternative Transitional Standard Offer (live testimony Dec. 2004, prefiled comments Jan. 2003) *

Delaware Public Service Commission

Docket No. 04-391 - Standard Offer Service - for the Commission Staff (live testimony October 2006)

District of Columbia Public Service Commission

Formal Case 1047 – Investigation into the Structure of the Procurement Process for Standard Offer Service – for the District Office of People's Counsel (June 2006 to date) **

Florida Public Service Commission

Dockets 080407 through 080413-EG – Commission Review of Numeric Conservation Goals – for the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and the Natural Resources Defense Council (August 2009)

Illinois Commerce Commission

Docket No. 05-0159 - Commonwealth Edison Basic Utility Service Procurement Docket No. 05-0160, 0161 and 0162 - Ameren CILCO, AmerenCIPS, and AmerenIP - Basic Utility Service Procurement

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

CAUSE NO. 42598 - Vecrtren North - Gas cost rate making mechanism and demand side management programs (Sept. 2004)

CAUSE NO. 42612 - Public Service of Indiana - demand side management programs (Sept. 2004)

Kansas Corporation Commission

Docket No. 11-GIME-492-GIE – Predetermination Rulemaking – Sierra Club (February 2011) * Docket No. 11-KCPE-581-PRE – Predetermination hearing – Sierra Club (June 2011)

Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities

Docket 07-050 – Investigation into Rate Structures that will Promote Efficient Deployment of Demand Resources – for The Energy Consortium (June 2007) *

Mississippi Public Service Commission

Docket 2008-AD-158 – Proceeding to Review Statewide Electric Generation Needs – for The Sierra Club (June 2008)

Docket 2008-AD-477— Docket to Consider Standards Established by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, Section 111(d) of Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act (16 U.S.C. § 2621)—for The Sierra Club (November 2009) *

New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission

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New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

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Ohio Public Utilities Commission

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Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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South Carolina Public Service Commission

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U.S. District Court for the District of Vermont

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Civ. No. 11-cv-99 – Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee, LLC, and Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. v. Peter Shumlin, et al. – for the Defendants (September 2011) **

U.S. District Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia

No. 11-1315 (Consolidated with Lead No. 11-1302 and Associated Cases 11-1323, 11-1329, 11-1338, 11-1340, 11-1350, and 11-1357—Luminant Generating Co., LLC, *et al.* v. U.S. EPA *et al.*—for American Lung Association, Clean Air Council, Environmental Defense Fund, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Sierra Club (October 2011) **

Utah Public Service Commission

Docket No. 10-035-124 – Rocky Mountain Power Rate Case – Sierra Club (May 2011)

Virginia State Corporation Commission

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Docket # PUE-2009-00081 – Demand Side Management Program Approvals – the Southern Environmental Law Center, Appalachian Voices, Chesapeake Climate Action Network and the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club (December 2009)

Docket # PUE-2009-00096 – Dominion IRP – the Southern Environmental Law Center, Appalachian Voices, Chesapeake Climate Action Network and the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club (February 2010)

Docket # PUE-2009-00097 – APCo IRP – the Southern Environmental Law Center, Appalachian Voices, Chesapeake Climate Action Network and the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club (March 2010) (testimony filed pending hearing)

Wyoming Public Service Commission

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