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BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

In the Matter of Application No. 2009-01: WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY LLC; WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY PROJECT	EXHIBIT NO. 17.00r
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**APPLICANT'S PREFILED REBUTTAL TESTIMONY**  
**WITNESS #18: MICHAEL RASCHIO**

Q Please state your name and business address.

A My name is Michael Raschio. My business address is Elcon Associates, Inc., 12670  
NW Barnes Rd., Portland, OR 97229.

Q What is your present occupation and profession, and what are your duties and  
responsibilities?

A I am a transmission engineer. I am currently employed by ELCON Associates, Inc.,  
an engineering consulting firm that specializes in energy system engineering work.  
Among its engineering work, ELCON provides engineering, design, and construction

1 support in a variety of utility areas, including utility power systems, substation  
2 design, transmission and distribution, power system studies, energy management and  
3 SCADA systems.

4  
5 Q Please summarize your education and prior professional experience.

6  
7 A I have a Bachelors Degree in engineering from the University of Portland. I have  
8 worked as an electrical transmission engineer and planner for over 35 years. From  
9 1973 to 2003, I provided professional service to the Bonneville Power Administration  
10 (BPA). I have spent my entire career specializing in transmission system planning,  
11 transmission marketing and Sales, and generation interconnections with the  
12 Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) transmission grid.

13 As a Customer Account Executive from 1999 to 2004 in the Transmission  
14 Marketing and Sales Department, I performed the following functions: I was a BPA  
15 Account Executive for a number of PUD customers, Direct Service Industry (DSI)  
16 customers, Puget Sound Energy, PPM Energy and selected generation and wind farm  
17 developers, and I developed and executed transmission, interconnection and  
18 construction agreements with BPA customers. Also, as an Account Executive, I was  
19 member of BPA Transmission Service's Queue Management and Available  
20 Transmission Capacity Long Term and Short Term Teams.

21 During the years 1994 through 1999, I was a Customer Service Engineer,  
22 providing interface between the utilities and marketers with the BPA Engineering and  
23 Transmission Marketing Department. During my first 20-plus years at BPA I was  
24 employed to serve in the System Engineering and Transmission Planning  
25 Departments where my responsibilities included: Power Flow and Transient Stability  
26

1 Studies and Analysis; Technical Studies Management; Project Development and  
2 Coordination Management; and Managing the Transmission Planning Branch.

3 During my employment at BPA, I gained specialized knowledge in the  
4 following areas: (1) the BPA and Northwest transmission system; (2) system  
5 operations and constraints; (3) the WECC system and its relationship with other  
6 Northwest utilities; (4) BPA transmission constrained paths; (5) BPA available  
7 transmission capacity and policies; (6) transmission reassignment and redirect  
8 policies; and (7) BPA power flow utilization factors, including implementation of  
9 constrained paths.

10  
11 Q Please describe your experience since joining Elcon.

12  
13 A Since joining Elcon in 2004, I have provided technical expertise in the areas of: (1)  
14 requesting and obtaining transmission services and generation interconnections; (2)  
15 negotiating contracts with BPA; (3) reviewing and analyzing interconnection studies  
16 and system impact studies; and (4) consulting on BPA's procedures and practices.

17  
18 Q What services have you provided to the Whistling Ridge Energy Project?

19  
20 A Elcon has provided transmission consultation to the Whistling Ridge Energy Project  
21 ("Whistling Ridge").

22  
23 Q Attached to your testimony as Exhibit 17.01r is your professional Resume. Is this  
24 document your current Resume, accurately reflecting your education and professional  
25 experience?

26 /////

1 A Yes.

2

3 Q Are you able to answer questions under cross examination regarding your testimony?

4

5 A Yes.

6

7 Q Please describe the purpose of your testimony.

8

9 A I am providing this testimony to respond to SOSA Exhibit No. 29.04, which includes  
10 an email from Chuck Mathews dated October 28, 2010, and an accompanying  
11 “Transmission System Impact Study” (“Study”) prepared for Puget Sound Energy,  
12 dated April 3, 2008. The Transmission System Impact Study is stamped “BPA  
13 Critical Infrastructure Information.” These documents were filed with SOSA’s  
14 November 1, 2010 testimony. While SOSA did not provide any testimony  
15 specifically addressing or accompanying the document, it has been dropped into the  
16 record as an attachment to attorney Aramburu’s sworn declaration. While I am aware  
17 that Whistling Ridge will likely object to this document, Whistling Ridge has asked  
18 me to respond to it.

19

20 Q Does the April 2, 2008 Study reflect current conditions related to the Whistling Ridge  
21 Energy transmission interconnection?

22

23 A No. The April 3, 2008 Study was completed prior to the BPA Network Open Season  
24 Process. It does not reflect the current transmission situation. On the face of the  
25 email transmittal, a BPA transmission planning engineer did not object to its  
26 publication into the public record (notwithstanding the “Critical Infrastructure

1 Information” stamp on its face, because the report is out of date and not a valid  
2 reflection of the current circumstances.

3  
4 Q Please describe why the April 3, 2008 Study no longer reflects the transmission  
5 interconnection situation related to the Whistling Ridge Energy Project.

6  
7 A BPA's 2008 Network Open Season (“NOS”) Process identified a number of projects  
8 required to meet requests under the 2008 NOS, including the West of McNary  
9 Reinforcement, identified in the April 3 2008 Report as required to provide service to  
10 Whistling Ridge. The McNary to John Day 500-kV line portion of the West of  
11 McNary Reinforcement project is now under construction, and the Knight to Big  
12 Eddy 500-kV line portion is in the design and environmental review stage.

13  
14 The BPA 2008 NOS Cluster Study indicated that the Cross Cascades North (“CCN”) and  
15 Cross Cascades South (“CCS”) paths had sufficient capacity to accommodate all  
16 of the approximately 1400 MW of additional flow across each path requested in the  
17 2008 NOS.

18  
19 The BPA 2009 NOS Cluster Study did not identify any problems on either CCN or  
20 CCS. The 2010 NOS Cluster Study is not complete at this time.

21  
22 BPA used the Network Composite Load Available Transfer Capability (ATC)  
23 methodology in calculating impacts in the April 3, 2008 Report. BPA is proposing to  
24 modify its ATC methodology to a direct Point of Receipt (POR) to Point of  
25 Delivery (POD) analysis. A final decision is expected in December 2010 on ATC  
26 methodology. If BPA moves back to the POR to POD methodology, which I expect

1 is the case, deliveries from Whistling Ridge POR to the NW Marketing Hub POD  
2 will have no adverse impact on the Cross Cascades North Path. Flow would be in the  
3 opposite direction of the constraint. There may be flow on the Cross Cascades South  
4 Path, but BPA has not identified constraints related to that path as an issue for  
5 Whistling Ridge.

6  
7 Q Please summarize your response to the April 3, 2008 Study.

8  
9 A In short, the April 3, 2008 Study attached to attorney Aramburu's sworn declaration,  
10 on its face, has absolutely no relevance and does not reflect the resolution of  
11 constraints that has occurred since its creation. The status of the transmission queue  
12 on that date does not reflect current conditions nor does it reflect the project's current  
13 transmission request. The BPA system is extremely dynamic, and BPA, along with  
14 other transmission providers, is constantly working on system upgrades to integrate  
15 new generation. It is common for BPA to issue these reports, finding interconnection  
16 constraints under current, transitory conditions.

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