in each of Oncor's geographic regions to make forward decisions
 concerning maintenance and restoration activities.

Oncor's control center personnel have access to these insights and predictions as well. As a result, these control center personnel are able to use their broader situational awareness to verify and support field activities more efficiently. The information provided in this context directly results in shortening outage times, avoiding outages, and improving planning and preparation for future maintenance and grid capacity investments.

9

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#### A. Enhanced Operational Decisions To Improve Reliability

10 Q. HOW HAS ONCOR'S IMPLEMENTATION OF ADVANCED DATA
11 ANALYTICS AFFECTED OPERATIONAL DECISIONS AND
12 RELIABILITY?

A. Advanced Data Analytics is providing data points and predictions to allow
more timely and accurate operational decisions. These data points and
predictions were not available prior to Oncor's implementation of Advanced
Data Analytics. The ability to make more timely and accurate decisions
based on data analytics has led to increased reliability.

18 Q. PLEASE PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE OF HOW ONCOR HAS ENHANCED
19 OPERATIONAL DECISIONS AND IMPROVED RELIABILITY DUE TO
20 ADVANCED DATA ANALYTICS.

21 Α. Oncor engineers have used AMS meter consumption data to develop a real-22 time load estimate for every one of Oncor's approximate 965,000 This load estimate enables control center 23 distribution transformers. 24 operators to access estimated loading levels on every sub-portion of a 25 distribution feeder across Oncor's entire grid. By having access to and 26 considering loading levels, even in areas where no SCADA devices are 27 available, operators make better switching decisions, which avoids possible 28 equipment failures or limits facility outages to the smallest possible scope. 29 Similarly, these data insights also enable Oncor engineers to estimate fault

locations, thereby shortening driving and troubleshooting times during
 service restoration.

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### B. Better Investment Decisions To Avoid Outages

Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW ONCOR IS MAKING BETTER INVESTMENT
DECISIONS TO AVOID OUTAGES BY USING ADVANCED DATA
ANALYTICS.

A. Oncor is using Advanced Data Analytics techniques—specifically machinelearning algorithms, along with historical data, current data, and signatures
of data anomalies—to predict future equipment failures. Analytic models
have predicted, with a relatively high degree of accuracy, imminent
equipment failure, and these models are used to initiate work orders for
equipment repair or replacement, prior to the failure of the equipment.

13 Q. HOW MANY TRANSFORMERS HAS ONCOR'S ADVANCED DATA14 ANALYTICS IDENTIFIED AS NEEDING REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT?

A. Since December 31, 2016, Oncor has either repaired or replaced over 3,800
distribution transformers prior to failure and an outage identified through
Advanced Data Analytics.

VERIFY THAT 18 HOW DOES ONCOR TRANSFORMERS AND Q. 19 UNDERGROUND CABLES ACTUALLY NEED REPAIR OR 20 **REPLACEMENT?** 

The machine-learning models use consumption and voltage data from 21 Α. meters and look for data "signatures" reflecting problematic scenarios. 22 23 Transformers and cables with a high probability of failure (*i.e.*, those 24 facilities with a positive data signature) are identified by such a model. In 25 the initial stages of verification of the models, equipment was physically 26 inspected to verify each model's accuracy. After thoroughly verifying the 27 accuracy of the models, physical equipment is occasionally checked before 28 repair or replacement to ensure that each model remains accurate. These 29 inspections have confirmed the continued validity of the model.

Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN THE GENERAL BENEFITS OF ONCOR'S
 EQUIPMENT FAILURE PREDICTION ANALYSES.

3 Α. These analyses allow Oncor to repair or replace equipment prior to failure, which allows the repair or replacement to be performed as a scheduled, 4 non-emergency work order, occurring in safe weather conditions. 5 6 Scheduled work orders are typically less disruptive to customer service due 7 to their isolation from other outage events and can be done in a more cost-8 effective manner. For example, the repair or replacement activity can be 9 completed during normal work hours in conjunction with other work scheduled in the area. 10

11

C. Enhanced Restoration and Management

12 Q. HOW DOES ONCOR CURRENTLY ESTIMATE RESTORATION TIME?

A. Oncor currently uses historical restoration times to determine a statistical approximation of how long restoration may take. These values are established for each type of outage in a particular geographic area.
Because of the wide variety of factors that influence restoration times, there are limits to the accuracy of this approach. Oncor, however, is improving on these limits by manually updating restoration time based on field personnel input and through the use of Advanced Data Analytics.

20Q.PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW ADVANCED DATA ANALYTICS WILL ALTER21THE WAY THAT ONCOR ESTIMATES RESTORATION TIME.

A. As a result of Advanced Data Analytics, Oncor has developed the Advanced
Estimated Restoration Time ("ART") model, which is a new, predictive
approach that is forward looking and calculates restoration times based on
real-life factors, such as outage types, driving distance, resource
availability, and dispatch priority. This new algorithm will reduce the number
of manual restoration time updates and improve the overall accuracy of
restoration time estimates.

29 Q. HOW LONG HAS ONCOR BEEN TESTING THE ART MODEL?

PUC Docket No.

A. Oncor has actively tested the ART model's accuracy and configuration
 parameters since June 2020. The testing includes, but is not limited to, a
 comparison of the actual restoration time to the estimated restoration time
 calculated by the algorithm.

5 Q. HOW DOES THE PERFORMANCE OF ONCOR'S ART MODEL6 COMPARE TO ITS CURRENT MODEL?

A. Currently, the performance of the models is equivalent. However, Oncor's current model based on historical restoration times is operating at its peak effectiveness, with no opportunity for further improvement. On the other hand, Oncor continues to refine the configuration of the ART model and expects to see improved Estimated Time of Restoration ("ETOR") accuracy versus calculations based on historical restoration times.

13 Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW ONCOR DETERMINED THAT THE ART MODEL
14 IS EXPECTED TO BE MORE ACCURATE THAN THE CURRENT MODEL.

- A. The current model only uses historical data when calculating an ETOR. In
  addition to historical data, the ART model also includes real-world and
  forward looking data points, such as driving distance, event type, and
  resource availability. The inclusion of these additional data points is
  expected to result in more accurate restoration time calculations.
- 20 Q. WHEN DOES ONCOR ANTICIPATE THAT THE ART MODEL WILL BE 21 USED TO ADVISE CUSTOMERS?

A. Oncor intends to pilot the use of the ART model to a subset of customers in
2022 for a period of three to six months. The length of this pilot period is
driven by the ability to test the pilot against a variety of system conditions
and events. After reviewing the pilot period results, full implementation of
the ART model may be completed by the end of 2022.

D. Enhanced Storm Damage Prediction
 Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN ONCOR'S "SPECIFIC STORM DAMAGE
 PREDICTION MODEL."

A. The "Specific Storm Damage Prediction" model predicts how many
customers are expected to be affected based on the weather forecast. The
model also predicts the scale of key damage types, such as broken poles
and cross arms, wire down, and vegetation issues. The Specific Storm
Damage Prediction model's algorithm is based on historical repair data that
Oncor collected during past storms.

7 Q. HOW ACCURATE IS THE SPECIFIC STORM DAMAGE PREDICTION8 MODEL?

9 Α. The accuracy and "granularity" of the Specific Storm Damage Prediction 10 model is still limited. Therefore, Oncor categorized the output in ranges 11 expressing the overall magnitude for each type of damage. Furthermore, 12 this algorithm is subject to the accuracy of the weather forecast. As a result, 13 the model has been most beneficial to use immediately after a storm has 14 impacted Oncor's facilities and before on-the-ground resources assess the 15 storm's impact. While outages are reported immediately by Oncor's advanced metering system, specific damage scopes are not available until 16 17 Oncor's damage assessors conduct assessments. The Specific Storm 18 Damage Prediction model's algorithm overcomes this limitation and allows 19 Oncor to make more informed resource decisions at the beginning of storm 20 restoration, which shortens the overall duration of the restoration.

21

E. Targeted Vegetation Management

22 Q. HOW DOES ONCOR CURRENTLY ASSESS VEGETATION23 MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS?

A. Oncor performs Vegetation Management when deemed necessary from
 visual inspections as a result of equipment failure or outage causation, and
 from customer initiated inquiries. Company witness Mr. Keith Hull
 discusses Oncor's Vegetation Management program.

Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW ADVANCED DATA ANALYTICS IS
 TRANSFORMING ONCOR'S VEGETATION MANAGEMENT
 ASSESSMENT.

PUC Docket No.

A. Although Oncor's Vegetation Management algorithms are still in their
 infancy, Oncor believes that these algorithms will ultimately lead to cost
 reduction and provide several benefits, such as alleviating the need to
 conduct certain on-the-ground assessments, allowing for more targeted
 management practices, and helping identify critical priority zones due to the
 proximity of vegetation to equipment.

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENTS AND
ADVANCED DATA ANALYTICS ALLOW ONCOR TO MORE
9 EFFECTIVELY CONDUCT VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.

10 Α. Oncor views Vegetation Management as an area that presents a prime 11 opportunity to achieve benefits through the application of Advanced Data 12 Analytics (as do many utilities). Recent technology advancements and the 13 availability of new data sources, such as high-resolution satellite imagery, 14 infrared color spectrum analysis, light detection and ranging or "LiDAR," and 15 computer image recognition, will allow Oncor to assess, prioritize, sort, and 16 filter Vegetation Management activities by proximity to conductors, height, 17 canopy size, and vegetation species.

18 Q. HOW DO CUSTOMERS BENEFIT FROM ONCOR'S TARGETED19 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVANCED DATA ANALYTICS?

20 Α. Improvements to the Vegetation Management process allow Oncor to be 21 more precise (such as targeted trimming or more specific intervals for 22 clearing) as a result of output from Advanced Data Analytics and will be well 23 received by Oncor customers compared to traditional Vegetation 24 Management methods. This increased precision of Vegetation Management benefits customers because they will have less Vegetation 25 26 Management-related outages.

27

F. Technology and Customer Engagement Advancements

28 Q. HOW ARE TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENTS AND ADVANCED DATA
29 ANALYTICS IMPACTING ONCOR EMPLOYEES WHO ASSIST
30 CUSTOMERS?

PUC Docket No.

 A. Advanced Data Analytics is providing more timely, accurate, and convenient information to those Oncor employees who interact with customers than has historically been possible. Advanced analytic algorithms provide valuable insights through the combination of data from disparate sources and disconnected systems, leading to a more positive customer service experience.

Customer-centric data, such as outage history, new service status,
history of Oncor interactions, high bill analysis and temperature sensitivity,
consumption trends, Electric Reliability Council of Texas ("ERCOT") market
data, and energy efficiency data are examples of pertinent data available to
customer-assisting Oncor employees.

12 Q. HOW DO ONCOR EMPLOYEES WHO ARE WORKING TO ASSIST13 CUSTOMERS BENEFIT FROM ADVANCED DATA ANALYTICS?

- A. Timely, accurate, and actionable data is invaluable to Oncor employees
  who assist customers. Advanced Data Analytics achieves this through the
  combination of disparate data sets, large volumes of data, predictive
  algorithms, and advanced technologies to sort, filter, and refine data
  presented to Oncor employees who assist customers.
- 19 Q. PLEASE GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF ADVANCED DATA ANALYTICS
  20 POSITIVELY IMPACTING CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT AND
  21 SATISFACTION.
- 22 Α. Advanced Data Analytics has enabled Oncor to produce data sets and 23 applications leading to reduced call times at its Customer Contact Center. 24 One such analytics application (Customer 360) has resulted in an 25 approximate forty second decrease in call-handling time for outage events 26 as a result of the combination of disparate data sets (e.g., ERCOT market 27 transactions, known outage events, and real-time AMS data from the 28 customer's meter), providing Oncor's customer service representative a 29 clear understanding of the customer's outage and positively impacting 30 customer satisfaction.

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE STEPS ONCOR IS TAKING TO ENSURE THAT
 THE BENEFITS OF ADVANCED DATA ANALYTICS ARE REALIZED BY
 CUSTOMERS.

Advanced Data Analytics solutions are built in an iterative and reusable 4 Α. manner with customer value in mind. Oncor is producing advanced 5 analytics tools (*e.g.*, reports, dashboards, and portals) used by employees 6 to assist customers through various support channels (e.g., customer 7 8 service representatives, interactive voice response, web portals, and mobile 9 applications). Oncor is also providing a subset of Advanced Data Analytics output for the customer's use in a self-service manner, which is achieved 10 by making data available via customer portals and publicly available mobile 11 12 applications.

14 Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY IN THIS15 PROCEEDING.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

A. Through Advanced Data Analytics, Oncor is using new and existing data
sources, along with innovative tools and technologies, to improve
operational efficiencies, grid reliability, and the customer experience.

19 Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?

VI.

20 A. Yes.

13

PUC Docket No.

#### AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF TEXAS § § COUNTY OF DALLAS §

**BEFORE ME**, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Hagen Haentsch, who, having been placed under oath by me, did depose as follows:

My name is Hagen Haentsch. I am of legal age and a resident of the State of Texas. The foregoing direct testimony is offered by me are true and correct, and the opinions stated therein are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, accurate, true and correct.

Hagen Haentsch

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME by the said Hagen Haentsch this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day of April , 2022.



Motary Public, State of Texas

PUC Docket No.

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Haentsch - Direct Oncor Electric Delivery 2022 Rate Case

## 2022 RATE CASE ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY LLC WORKPAPERS FOR THE DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HAGEN HAENTSCH

#### WP/Haentsch-Direct Page 1 of 1

In accordance with RFP General Instruction No. 12(c), below is a list of the files that are being provided electronically:

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Testimony Workpapers/Haentsch

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HH Oncor Board Analytics Overview.pdf

# **Converting Data Into Business Value @ Oncor**

Adding the "Smart" to the Smart Grid

## Hagen Haentsch

Director, Distribution Operations Center West (WDOC) hagen.haentsch@oncor.com

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WE DELIVER.

# How ONCOR Puts the "Smart" into the "Smart"Grid



# **Actionable Decision Support & Automation**





Source: Gartner

# **Enhanced Operational Decisions to Improve Reliability**

## **Distribution State Estimator / Load Forecasting**

 Neural-network based real-time and predictive load flow simulation and fault location estimates are critical for switching decision during service restoration and for the avoidance of critical over load conditions.

**Reliability Improvement**: 3 – 5 minutes / yr

• Distribution "connectivity errors" compromise operational decision quality and cause "mis-routed" customer notifications.

**Customer satisfaction** for Oncor Alert users is 97%, the highest of any type of transaction for Oncor.







# **Better Investment Decision to Avoid Outages**

## **Equipment Failure Prediction:**

- Using advanced meter data, in 2019, almost 2,000 power quality issues were detected before causing an outage. This avoided over 1,500 unplanned truck rolls per year.
- Using advanced regression algorithms and machine learning supported failure models, in 2019 the maintenance strategy team proactively identified 250 overloaded transformers and 349 transformers that had damaged coils (5,000 avoided outages).
- Using advanced statistical regression modeling, the maintenance strategy team has been able to accurately predict the failure probability of specific underground cable segments. This resulted in a 40% cable-related SAIDI improvement at unchanged CapEx funding levels.

### Key Benefits:

- · Safety
- Avoided customer outages (SAIDI)
- · Increased capital efficiency







5

# **Targeted Vegetation Management at Scale**

#### **Massive Geospatial** Data

- · Satellite, and aerial imagery
- Weather
- Soil moisture
- Foliage



- **Combined with Oncor Data**
- Asset inventory · Condition and location
- · Historical outage data



- · Depict current state of vegetation across all of Oncor's territory (137k miles) including tree heights and growth
- Identify critical priority zones due to proximity of vegetation to equipment
- Assess, prioritize, sort and filter by asset class, districts equipment types etc



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# **Enhanced Storm/Outage Management & Communication**

### **Example 1: Advanced Estimated Restoration Time**

Forward looking estimate taking real conditions into account: resource availability, work scope, driving distance etc.

### Accuracy improved to > 84%





### **Example 2: Specific Storm Damage Prediction**

seventy	4
District1	MTN
CH Pange	50+
Pole Range	10-16
>-Arm Range	4-8
< EMR Pange	12+
Max GUST	39
Max, Gust Previous Hour:	16
Max H Max	84
Seventy Colors	ОН

### **Prediction Output:**

# of downed poles# of broken cross-arms# of downed wire# of x-former replacements

# **Technology & Customer Engagement Advances**

Over the past 18 months, T&D Operations and Technology-Measurement-Customer Engagement have partnered to expand advanced analytics into technology and customer facing processes.

# **Customer 360 View**

Enables any employee directly assisting customers, (i.e., contact center, customer relations, local service advisors, etc.) to have a comprehensive view of a customer's experience with Oncor:

- Outage history
- New service status
- History of interactions with Oncor
- High bill analysis and temperature sensitivity
- Prediction of engagement and satisfaction



Reduced call times, reduced truck rolls or follow-up interactions, increased customer and employee satisfaction, enables new customer Apps and Information Portals



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# How is Oncor Building its Capacity to Be "SMART"

- Close collaboration between distinct areas of expertise: IT, engineering, operations, customer operations
- Prioritize for use case synergies, compounding benefits, and building of internal capability/expertise
- Promote agile culture (iterative solutioning) and accountability by aligning use case ownership with ownership of business objectives
- Measured injection of external talent to supplement internal expertise (data science, math/statistics, data management)
- Balancing platform investments with benefits generated to minimize technology uncertainty and risk of stranded investments



### INDEX TO THE DIRECT TESTIMONY OF ELLEN E. BUCK, WITNESS FOR ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY LLC

Ι.	POSITION AND QUALIFICATIONS			2	
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	Exhibit EEB-1		Services Provided by Oncor's Business and Operations Services Organization		

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Buck - Direct Oncor Electric Delivery 2022 Rate Case

1		DIRECT TESTIMONY OF ELLEN E. BUCK
2		I. POSITION AND QUALIFICATIONS
3	Q.	PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, BUSINESS ADDRESS, AND CURRENT
4		EMPLOYMENT POSITION.
5	A.	My name is Ellen E. Buck. I am employed by Oncor Electric Delivery
6		Company LLC ("Oncor" or "Company"). I hold the position of Vice President
7		of Business and Operations Services. My business address is 1616
8		Woodall Rodgers Freeway, Dallas, Texas, 75202.
9	Q.	PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND
10		PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.
11	Α.	I hold a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering from Georgia Institute
12		of Technology and a Master of Business Administration from Southern
13		Methodist University. I am a registered Professional Engineer in Texas. I
14		have over 15 years of experience in the design, construction, operations,
15		and maintenance of transmission and distribution ("T&D") facilities. I have
16		overseen engineering, design, right-of-way acquisition, and field operations
17		for Oncor's transmission line, switching station, and substation
18		infrastructure. In 2014, I assumed responsibility for the Business and
19		Operations Services organization. I was elevated to my current position as
20		Vice President in 2017.
21	Q.	HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
22		PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS ("COMMISSION")?
23	Α.	Yes. I presented pre-filed and live testimony in Docket No. 40953 and pre-
24		filed testimony in Docket Nos. 48231, 48400, 49427, 50734, and 51996.
25		II. PURPOSE OF DIRECT TESTIMONY
26	Q.	WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?
27	Α.	The purpose of my direct testimony is to: (1) provide an overview of Oncor's
28		Business and Operations Services organization, which I lead; (2) describe
29		Oncor's T&D supply chain strategies, including support for the Company's
30		investments in strategic sourcing and procurement, inventory management,

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1		working reserves, and facilities; and (3) discuss Oncor's strategic response
2		to the historic challenge of the coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19")
3		pandemic, including support for the associated costs included in the
4		requested recovery of the COVID-19 regulatory asset, and how the
5		Company successfully continued day-to-day operations and service to
6		customers during the pandemic.
7	Q.	WAS YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY PREPARED BY YOU OR UNDER
8		YOUR DIRECT SUPERVISION?
9	Α.	Yes. My direct testimony and exhibit were prepared by me or under my
10		direction, supervision, or control and are true and correct. I will address
11		each topic in the same order reflected in the above listing.
12		III. OVERVIEW OF BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS SERVICES
13		ORGANIŻATION
14	Q.	PLEASE PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF ONCOR'S BUSINESS AND
15		OPERATIONS SERVICES ORGANIZATION.
16	Α.	As I mentioned above, I lead the Company's Business and Operations
17		Services organization. This organization includes the following groups:
18		Assets Planning; T&D Supply Chain; Engineering Standards &
19		Maintenance Strategy; the Center for Excellence & Innovation; and
20		Transmission Services. I provide a more detailed description of the services
21		that these groups provide and a listing of each group's manager in my
22		Exhibit EEB-1 attached to this testimony. Although my direct testimony
23		focuses on the T&D Supply Chain group and its functions, please see the
24		direct testimonies of Company witnesses Messrs. Wesley R. Speed and
25		Keith Hull for additional discussion of these groups and the T&D functions
26		that they support.
27		IV. <u>T&amp;D SUPPLY CHAIN</u>
27 28	Q.	PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE T&D SUPPLY CHAIN

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1 Α. Oncor's T&D Supply Chain group is responsible for providing strategic 2 sourcing, procurement, warehousing, and logistics resources to deliver 3 products and services as efficiently as possible to Oncor business units. 4 This group has also recently formed a supply chain strategy and technology 5 team that focuses on new processes and technological solutions to improve 6 Oncor's supply chain systems as a whole. As I address in further detail 7 below, the T&D Supply Chain group is also responsible for facilities and real 8 estate management.

9 Q. HOW DOES ONCOR IMPLEMENT ITS T&D SUPPLY CHAIN 10 STRATEGIES?

11 Because the strategic sourcing, procurement, and management of the Α. materials and resources that support Oncor's T&D facilities and functions 12 are so critical to the reliable, and ultimately cost-effective, provision of 13 14 electric utility service to the public, the Company utilizes highly trained and 15 experienced personnel. These professionals are organized within the 16 Strategic Sourcing and Procurement department of the T&D Supply Chain 17 group to efficiently implement the Company's supply chain strategies. 18 Below I further describe this team's functions and Oncor's investments in 19 working reserves, inventory, and facilities.

20

#### A. Strategic Sourcing and Procurement

Q. EXPLAIN ONCOR'S STRATEGIC SOURCING AND PROCUREMENT
DEPARTMENT ("SOURCING"), ITS RESPONSIBILITIES, AND KEY
OBJECTIVE.

A. The Sourcing team is part of Oncor's T&D Supply Chain group and is made
up of professionals dedicated to and specialized in: (1) strategically
identifying material and services suppliers; (2) negotiating favorable pricing,
terms, and conditions; (3) executing contracts and purchase orders; (4)
developing relationships with suppliers; and (5) setting and monitoring
performance expectations. The Sourcing's team's objective is to ensure the
availability of the materials and services necessary to construct and reliably

operate Oncor's T&D infrastructure while effectively managing procurement
 costs.

3 Q. HOW DOES ONCOR'S SOURCING TEAM CONTRIBUTE TO RELIABLE,
4 COST-EFFECTIVE SERVICE TO ONCOR CUSTOMERS?

A. The Sourcing team uses a multi-layered approach that includes four key
components. First, Sourcing develops long-term, strategic relationships
with suppliers, often using master services agreements ("MSAs"). Longterm relationships provide benefits such as economies of scale that drive
efficiency, standardization, and cost certainty.

10 Second, the Sourcing team employs a supplier relationship model 11 that fosters relationships at all levels in the supplier's organization, holds 12 regular strategic discussions to discuss industry trends, forecasts, and 13 performance, and continually evaluates supplier performance through a 14 variety of metrics including, but not limited to, delivery, quality, pricing, 15 innovation, service performance, and safety. Through the Sourcing team, 16 Oncor also benchmarks supplier performance against other industry 17 suppliers.

18 Third, the Sourcing team segments and diversifies the Company's 19 supply base by focusing on the distinct categories of T&D Construction, 20 Vegetation Management, Facilities, Professional Services, Transformers, 21 Structures, and Fleet. There is a defined sourcing strategy for each category 22 that includes arranging for support from primary and secondary suppliers. 23 In other words, Oncor strives to have more than one supplier for any 24 material or service provided in a given category. By engaging this deep 25 bench of suppliers who are prepared to meet the Company's needs, Oncor 26 has been able to mitigate risks within the labor and commodity markets - a 27 strategy that has been particularly critical during the COVID-19 pandemic 28 where there has been a prolonged tightening of global supply chains and a 29 limited availability of materials.

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Fourth, Oncor insists on strong contractual terms that include protections and benefits such as defined terms, indemnification, warranties, delay credits, market-competitive pricing that is often adjustable based on market fluctuations or an industry index, most-favored-pricing language, and key performance indicators.

6 Through all of these practices, Oncor is able to secure the services 7 and materials necessary to execute on the Company's plans, and respond 8 to emergency and storm events, all while ensuring that service is both 9 reliable and cost-effective to customers.

10 Q. WHAT IS A MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT OR "MSA" AND WHY11 DOES ONCOR USE THEM?

12 Α. MSAs typically govern certain significant aspects of ongoing relationships 13 In Oncor's case, it has MSAs with service between counterparties. 14 providers that govern the types of services and materials available, 15 warranties, indemnities, and annual spending requirements. These 16 agreements define the terms and boundaries of the relationship between 17 Oncor and the supplier. Individual task requests are issued for a defined 18 scope of work under the terms of the MSA. Through this process, MSAs 19 provide predictability, efficiencies, and cost savings in Oncor's procurement 20 of services and materials.

21 In negotiating MSAs, the Sourcing team seeks to maximize value 22 and satisfy Oncor's near-term needs, while simultaneously minimizing 23 Oncor's long-term commitments and maintaining operational flexibility to 24 engage in and grow additional advantageous and strategic relationships. 25 For example, in recent negotiations for an MSA with one of Oncor's 26 construction service providers, Oncor was able to secure a comprehensive 27 total service offering that included competitive pricing and extended use of 28 the contractor's capabilities, as well as other favorable contractual terms. 29 The Company secured these benefits while simultaneously reducing the 30 prior minimum annual contract volume by more than 25%.

### 1 Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW ONCOR WORKS TO OBTAIN BEST PRICING.

2 Α. Oncor generally leverages its economies of scale and long-standing 3 relationships with suppliers and works hard to obtain the most value for the 4 materials and services that it procures. As an example, Oncor has 5 negotiated "most-favored pricing" terms in various materials and services 6 agreements. In one services agreement example with hourly rates, the 7 supplier is required to ensure that its pricing for Oncor is lower than for all 8 the supplier's other customers that use a similar volume of hours each year. 9 Oncor has also used this approach with materials contracts, securing "most-10 favored customer" language in certain contracts that prevents the supplier 11 from charging Oncor more for products than it charges any other third party 12 receiving similar products. Finally, Oncor utilizes a benchmarking-of-costs 13 clause that allows the Company, at any time, to compare pricing from other 14 suppliers and provides mechanisms for the supplier to address pricing 15 where Oncor discovers variances. If those variances remain unresolved, 16 the Company has grounds for contract modification or termination. 17 Together, these provisions provide Oncor the optionality it needs to help 18 ensure that it pays competitive prices.

# 19 Q. HOW DOES ONCOR'S SOURCING TEAM MANAGE THE LEAD TIME OF20 ITS MATERIALS?

21 Α. Oncor has successfully implemented several initiatives to minimize the 22 effects of supply chain disruptions to its construction schedules. Examples 23 of those initiatives include: (1) the execution of MSAs with key suppliers 24 that have maximum guaranteed lead time and liquidated damages 25 safeguards to protect against delays; (2) the provision of enhanced 26 medium- and long-term forecasts (up to five years out) to suppliers so they 27 understand and can plan for Oncor's materials needs; (3) the execution of 28 bulk purchase orders to get ahead of demand in several T&D areas; (4) 29 evaluating and tracking material and product alternatives to address 30 shortages; (5) working closely with strategic suppliers to enforce contractual

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1 protections and elevate risks as they arise in an expedited manner: (6) 2 secondary supplier diversification efforts; (7) implementation of improved, 3 forward-looking multi-year strategies to secure availability; and (8) the 4 execution of consignment agreements with distributors in which the supplier 5 must maintain an adequate amount of inventory of consigned products at 6 local warehouses to meet Oncor's ongoing needs, including (without 7 limitation) peak needs that may vary from Oncor's historical or forecasted 8 demand for certain items like fuses, connectors, crossarms, line hardware, 9 cable accessories, or wood poles.

10 Q. WHAT IS ONCOR'S SUPPLIER DIVERSITY PROGRAM AND HOW DOES
11 IT CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMPANY'S SOURCING STRATEGY?

12 Α. Oncor's Supplier Diversity program seeks to identify, develop, and grow 13 relationships with diverse businesses that supply services and materials to 14 the Company. Oncor actively participates in various local community 15 chambers of commerce, councils, and networks across its service area. 16 This allows the Company to engage in an ongoing effort to identify, support, 17 and grow Oncor's base of diverse suppliers. Through this program, Oncor 18 currently contracts with over 150 diverse suppliers, including minority, 19 veteran, and women-owned businesses. By ensuring that we have an 20 inclusive supplier base, in combination with our secondary supply strategy, 21 Oncor is able to execute a successful supply chain strategy. For example, during the pandemic, Oncor was able to secure pandemic-related supplies 22 23 from our diverse suppliers while many other companies suffered from a lack 24 of inventory. In short, not only does this Supplier Diversity program 25 strengthen Oncor's resiliency in operating the largest T&D system in the 26 state, but it also supports the local economies and the communities in which 27 we operate and serve.

28

B. Inventory Management

29 Q. HOW DOES ONCOR ENSURE THAT IT IS MAINTAINING A30 REASONABLE LEVEL OF INVENTORY?

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 A. Oncor uses strategic, operational, and tactical tools to ensure that it is maintaining a reasonable inventory level. Additionally, an annual Sarbanes
 Oxley review process identifies any inactive, excess, or obsolete inventory.
 Also, as I mentioned above, Oncor utilizes its supplier relationship
 management and stakeholder collaboration efforts to provide additional
 insight into our overall inventory management strategy.

7 Q. WHAT ARE SOME SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF HOW ONCOR MANAGES8 ITS INVENTORY LEVELS?

9 Α As in other contexts that I mentioned above. Oncor utilizes MSAs and other 10 supplier contracts to ensure optimal results to the Company and, in turn, 11 our customers. For example, the Company has negotiated consignment 12 agreements and vendor-owned inventory agreements with several 13 suppliers to reduce our inventory while also ensuring that we have material 14 readily available. In addition, Oncor shares forecasts with its suppliers in 15 order to reserve capacity and secure delivery. Several of our agreements 16 also contain lead-time provisions that contractually obligate suppliers to 17 deliver on time. The Company also utilizes an additional layer of delivery 18 protection by assessing delay credits for late deliveries.

From a process standpoint, Oncor continuously identifies items that either could be removed from inventory or for which inventory levels could be reduced, thereby allowing our distribution centers to focus on only carrying items that are critical to construction. These efforts allow the Company to better manage its inventory while increasing material availability to better support T&D operations.

25

#### C. Working Reserves

26Q.PLEASEPROVIDEANOVERVIEWOFYOURTESTIMONYON27WORKING RESERVES.

A. In this section of my testimony, I first discuss Oncor's investments in
working reserves of distribution transformers, regulators, and capacitors. I
describe the details regarding Oncor's utilization of these assets, the

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operational reasons why Oncor must periodically replace them and, for
those reasons, why it is critical for the Company to maintain a working
reserve in order to provide adequate and uninterrupted service to its
customers. I also explain that the associated investment is used and useful
and ensures the reliability and overall service quality of Oncor's distribution
system.

Please see the direct testimony of Company witness Mr. Speed for
details regarding Oncor's investments in mobile substation equipment,
capital spare substation transformers, and investments in land for
substations pending construction. Please see the direct testimony of
Company witness Mr. Daniel E. Hall for Oncor's investments in meters and
meter-related hardware.

Q. DOES ONCOR INCLUDE AS PART OF ITS NET DISTRIBUTION
INVESTED CAPITAL CERTAIN COSTS SPENT ON ACQUIRING
DISTRIBUTION ASSETS THAT ARE NOT YET ENERGIZED, BUT HELD
IN RESERVE? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

17 Yes. As I detail further below, from a customer service and reliability Α. 18 perspective, Oncor must purchase in advance certain long-lead-time 19 distribution assets (such as transformers, including regulators or regulating 20 transformers, and capacitors), some of which must be held in reserve. For 21 example, the lead times for distribution transformers vary from six to 28 22 weeks from the time that Oncor orders a transformer until the transformer 23 is received from the manufacturer. The lead time in any particular case will 24 be dependent upon manufacturing capacity and availability of raw materials 25 and specific components required to build the transformer at the specified 26 voltage, rating, and configuration requested.

Having transformers available for installation is imperative to Oncor's ability to provide reliable service with minimal interruption to electric customers. Given the cost and the lead time for this type of distribution asset, as well as the large variability in types of transformers on Oncor's

system, it is not feasible from either an operational perspective or a
reliability perspective for Oncor to wait to purchase the asset until Oncor
has an immediate need to install and energize it; doing so would
significantly prolong new customer installations and impair Oncor's ability
to respond to unexpected emergency needs as they arise, including
catastrophic storm-related events.

7 8 Q. CAN YOU PROVIDE A REAL-WORD EXAMPLE OF ONCOR'S WORKING RESERVES BEING UTILIZED TO MEET CUSTOMER NEEDS?

9 Yes. During Winter Storm Uri, Oncor replaced approximately 2,300 Α. 10 distribution transformers, which amounted to approximately 20% of the total amount of distribution transformers that the Company installed for all of 11 12 2020. The Company was able to meet customer needs during this critical 13 time because these assets were held in working reserve. This illustrates 14 the importance of Oncor maintaining a working reserve supply of distribution 15 transformers. These units are critical during times when our service area experiences a high level of storm activity and at times when the need for 16 17 replacements on the system is high. As I explain further below, all of these 18 assets, whether energized or held in working reserve, were in service during 19 the test year from an operational perspective and are used and useful in 20 connection with Oncor's service to the public.

21 Q. IN ADDITION TO DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS, ARE THERE 22 OTHER TYPES OF DISTRIBUTION ASSETS WITH LONG LEAD TIMES? 23 Yes, the average lead time for capacitors exceeds the lead time for some Α. 24 transformers. The lead time for capacitors is 17 weeks. As with 25 transformers, for these types of long-lead-time assets, Oncor cannot wait to 26 purchase the assets until there is an immediate need to install and energize 27 them. Instead, it is essential that Oncor maintain a working reserve quantity 28 to meet unexpected failures or emergency needs.

- Q. HOW DOES ONCOR'S PRACTICE OF MAINTAINING A WORKING
   RESERVE OF DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS AND CAPACITORS
   IMPACT CUSTOMER RELIABILITY?
- A. By maintaining an adequate working reserve of this equipment, Oncor is
  able to serve new customers in a timely fashion and quickly address
  equipment failures sustained during storms, extreme weather, or any other
  failure situations, thereby reducing delays in the fulfillment of new service
  requests and minimizing the duration of customer outages.

9 Q. HOW DOES ONCOR'S PRACTICE OF MAINTAINING A WORKING
10 RESERVE OF DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS AND CAPACITORS
11 IMPACT ONCOR'S ABILITY TO SERVE NEW CUSTOMERS?

12 As Company witness Mr. James A. Greer discusses in his direct testimony, Α. 13 Oncor has experienced and continues to experience significant load and 14 customer growth at an unprecedented pace within its service area. By 15 purchasing certain quantities of these distribution assets in advance and 16 holding them in working reserve, Oncor is able to ensure that an adequate 17 supply is readily available to satisfy new customer growth as it arises, rather than being forced to wait weeks or months to receive the assets from the 18 19 manufacturer while a customer goes without service.

20 Q. HOW DOES ONCOR DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE QUANTITIES OF
21 DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS THAT IT NEEDS TO MAINTAIN IN
22 WORKING RESERVE?

23 Based on the system configuration across the Company's diverse service Α. 24 area, there are 1,363 unique distribution transformer styles on Oncor's 25 distribution system. To minimize the amount of working reserves needed, 26 however, Oncor currently uses only 399 unique transformer styles 27 specifically designed to serve as compatible working reserves to back-stand 28 all 1,363 transformer styles if equipment fails and to serve new customers. 29 In any given year, 40% to 60% of Oncor's total demand for transformers is 30 reactive in nature and varies based on the style of the transformer and

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seasonal adverse weather conditions. To provide for the possibility of a
significant increase in demand due to weather, working reserve target levels
are increased for the summer and winter seasons and reduced during the
spring and fall. In addition to the unpredictable Texas weather, Oncor must
also consider national demand and account for limited additional production
capacity at the four major distribution transformer manufacturers in North
America during periods of response to national weather events.

8 In addition, Oncor has to ensure adequate working reserves are available at all of its 56 field service centers. Field service center stock 9 10 levels are maintained based on open or pending construction projects, 11 historical and seasonal reactive demand, and the number of similar units 12 installed within a given service area. The Company may assign additional 13 units to a particular field service center based on the center's distance from 14 the central warehouse or based on supply replenishment shipping 15 schedules. Working reserve levels at the field service centers are based on 16 one week of historical reactive demand for single-phase transformers, in 17 addition to all transformers required for pending open projects within two 18 weeks of each project's scheduled construction start date. Resupply for the 19 field service centers is provided weekly from the equipment central 20 warehouse. As with the central warehouse reserve levels, the Company 21 seasonally adjusts reserve levels at the field service centers based on the 22 higher probability of significant weather events during the summer and 23 winter seasons.

In addition to maintaining working reserves at field service centers,
 the central warehouse also maintains the primary working reserve for three phase transformers, regulating transformers, and specialized transformers,
 including large distribution auto transformers and distribution network and
 underground vault transformers. These higher value units are centralized
 to reduce overall cost and are only supplied to the field service centers for

scheduled upcoming projects, reactive demand, or to back-stand critical
 customer installations such as hospitals and first responders.

3 HOW DOES ONCOR DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE QUANTITIES OF Q. CAPACITORS THAT IT NEEDS TO MAINTAIN IN WORKING RESERVE? 4 For the majority of Oncor's capacitor needs, Oncor determines its working 5 Α. reserve requirements based on annually planned power factor correction 6 7 and system improvement project requirements. We also determine the 8 Company's capacitor needs based on historically projected quantities for 9 serving new customers and meeting reactive capacitor demand. For all 10 approved, planned projects, the Company orders capacitors for a January 11 1st delivery date to provide adequate time for installation before summer 12 peak demand. For serving new customers and meeting reactive capacitor 13 requirements, we provide monthly forecasts to the manufacturer to reduce 14 lead times, with a target lead time of three to six weeks on orders that would normally require a 17-week lead time. As needed, Oncor replenishes field 15 service centers through a central warehouse to maintain existing capacitor 16 17 requirements in the centers' respective service areas.

18 Q. DOES ONCOR TAKE ANY OTHER STEPS TO MODERATE ITS19 WORKING RESERVE LEVELS?

Yes. The Company minimizes working reserve levels at the central 20 Α. 21 warehouse by leveraging the use of vendor-owned inventory. Oncor utilizes 22 this process to address up to 50% of its annual anticipated system needs 23 during heightened seasonal demand. In addition, Oncor administers an 24 equipment refurbishment and repair program that satisfies over 10% of 25 Oncor's annual system needs. To the extent that Oncor's needs are not 26 covered by vendor-owned inventory or the refurbishment and repair 27 program, the working reserve levels at the central warehouse are designed 28 to provide sufficient weekly replenishment to Oncor's field service centers 29 and provide for heightened seasonal demands during the summer and winter seasons. The Company has established the central warehouse 30

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standard target working reserve to cover one to two weeks' demand for
transformers and three to six weeks for capacitors. We designed these
levels to proactively provide for unplanned manufacturing and shipping
delays. Oncor also increases the transformer buffer by one to two weeks
during the summer and winter seasons. If a heightened demand is not
experienced as expected, the Company utilizes the elevated reserve stock
during the spring and fall seasons.

8 Q. ARE ONCOR'S INVESTMENTS IN DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS
9 AND CAPACITORS HELD IN WORKING RESERVE AT THE END OF THE
10 TEST YEAR REASONABLE AND NECESSARY AND USED AND USEFUL
11 IN THE COMPANY'S PROVISION OF ELECTRIC SERVICE?

A. Yes, for all the reasons discussed above, these assets were essential to
Oncor being able to provide adequate and continuous service to the public.
Therefore, the associated investments are reasonable and necessary and
used and useful.

- 16 Q. ARE ONCOR'S INVESTMENTS IN DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS
  17 AND CAPACITORS HELD IN WORKING RESERVE INCLUDED IN THE
  18 COMPANY'S INVESTMENT IN MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES
  19 INVENTORY?
- A. No. Oncor's investment in distribution transformer and capacitor working
  reserves are classified as Electric Plant in Service. Company witness Mr.
  W. Alan Ledbetter discusses the accounting for this investment in his direct
  testimony.

Q. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR ONCOR TO RECOVER ITS INVESTMENTS
IN TRANSFORMERS, REGULATORS, AND CAPACITORS HELD IN
WORKING RESERVE?

A. From an operational perspective, transformers, regulators, and capacitors
 are essential equipment that must be available on an ongoing basis for
 Oncor to efficiently operate the largest T&D service system in Texas and
 provide adequate and ongoing service to its customers. With recovery of

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these investments in such working reserves, Oncor is able to mitigate
supply chain disruptions, as we have done during the COVID-19 pandemic,
minimize outage duration in responses to severe weather and other systemrelated events, and continue to serve new customers in response to
significant growth.

6

#### D. Facilities

7 Q. WHAT FACILITIES DOES THE T&D SUPPLY CHAIN GROUP MANAGE8 FOR ONCOR?

A. There are over 100 work locations, both leased and owned, for which T&D
Supply Chain is responsible. These facilities serve as primary work
locations to support Oncor resources across its service area. The T&D
Supply Chain group is responsible for maintaining, repairing, and improving
office space, materials and supplies storerooms, and service center
facilities and, on occasion, for managing the construction of such new
facilities.

16 Q. HOW DOES ONCOR IDENTIFY AND PRIORITIZE IMPROVEMENT
17 INITIATIVES FOR ITS OFFICE, STOREROOM, AND SERVICE CENTER
18 FACILITIES?

Oncor considers factors including a facility's proximity to T&D infrastructure, 19 Α. 20 workflow and operational processes, and overall facility efficiency when 21 identifying and prioritizing facility investments. To illustrate, in 2019 Oncor 22 engaged a real estate services firm to create a multi-year strategy to rebuild, 23 refurbish, or refresh buildings and office facilities across our service area to 24 address the significant customer growth that had been experienced and that 25 the Company plans to continue experiencing. This also presented the 26 opportunity for Oncor, where necessary, to modernize facilities and address 27 expiring lease agreements. Many of Oncor's buildings are over 40 years 28 old and no longer support workforce needs from a capacity, functionality, 29 and/or geographic perspective. These efforts have included needed 30 improvements to Oncor's Stanton, Lufkin, Pecos, Sulphur Springs, and
Lancaster locations, as well as updates to our headquarters location in
 Dallas and central office location in Fort Worth. These newly designed
 spaces are more energy-efficient with LED lighting, double-paned windows,
 and high-efficiency HVAC systems

5 Q. DID ONCOR UNDERTAKE ANY ADDITIONAL FACILITIES INITIATIVES
6 SINCE THE TEST YEAR IN ITS LAST BASE-RATE CASE?

A. Yes. As part of the normal course of business, Oncor undertook several
projects related to refreshing and maintaining facilities from January 1,
2017, through December 31, 2021. Examples of these kinds of projects
include replacing service center roofs, paving, HVAC replacements, and
installing new fencing and security systems. In total, Oncor rebuilt or
remodeled 30 of its facilities.

Q. ARE THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH ONCOR'S FACILITIES
REASONABLE AND NECESSARY AND USED AND USEFUL IN THE
COMPANY'S PROVISION OF ELECTRIC SERVICE?

- A. Yes. For the reasons I discussed above, the costs associated with the
  Company's strategy and efforts to rebuild, refurbish, or refresh its facilities
  are reasonable and necessary and used and useful in Oncor's provision of
  electric service.
- 20

#### V. ONCOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

21 Q. PLEASE PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF HOW ONCOR HAS RESPONDED
22 TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

23 Α. Oncor adopted a Pandemic Readiness Plan in 2007 in connection with the 24 H5N1 Avian Flu. The Oncor pandemic response strategy in the plan is 25 based on a two-part goal - minimize virus transmission and sustain 26 essential services. When creating the plan, the Oncor pandemic response 27 team identified nine discrete response groups and worked with subject-28 matter experts and stakeholders in each group to develop response tactics that are to be implemented during an outbreak. The Pandemic Readiness 29 30 Plan describes: (1) the events that will trigger each step in Oncor's

response plan; (2) the types, quantities, and distribution procedure for our
virus/illness prevention materials; (3) the Incident Command Structure
framework that will guide our pandemic response; and (4) the tactics that
each pandemic response group will execute at each step of the plan.

After COVID-19 began spreading in Asia, the Company began 5 6 reviewing and updating its plan in January 2020. Since then, Oncor has 7 continued to implement the Pandemic Readiness Plan at the appropriate 8 step and severity based upon guidance by the Centers for Disease Control 9 and Prevention ("CDC"), the World Health Organization ("WHO"), and local 10 authorities. Oncor has executed this plan without any significant disruptions 11 to our operations or supply chain due to COVID-19 and with a view toward 12 maintaining the health of our workforce and continuing reliable service to 13 customers. In fact, the Company demonstrated increased reliability and 14 safety performance and successfully implemented its capital and operations 15 and maintenance ("O&M") plans in 2020 and 2021 despite the COVID-19 16 Pandemic. Company witness Mr. Greer addresses these results in his 17 direct testimony.

18 Q. WHAT HAS BEEN THE TIMELINE FOR THE PANDEMIC READINESS19 PLAN EXECUTION?

20 Α. Oncor began continually reviewing and updating its Pandemic Readiness 21 Plan in January 2020. On January 30, 2020, Oncor initiated the plan's 22 "Ready/Start Phase." In February 2020, the Company made its first 23 purchase of additional pandemic supplies to supplement the existing 24 inventory of supplies. In early March 2020, Oncor moved to the "Mild: Step 25 One" phase of the plan, and by mid-March 2020, Oncor moved to the final 26 phase of the plan, "Severe: Step Two." Throughout the process, we 27 monitored COVID-19 case numbers reported by CDC and WHO. locations 28 of high-infection rates, and evolving guidelines. We also interfaced with our 29 peer utilities to understand and share best practices on implementation of 30 various aspects of the plan to respond to the pandemic.

After over one year of being in "Severe: Step Two," on May 9, 2021,
 Oncor returned to the "Mild: Step One" phase of the plan based on guidance
 from federal, state, and local entities and input from Company management.
 On July 6, 2021, the majority of personnel who were fully remote began
 transitioning back to the office with revised work practices in place focused
 on limiting exposure and maintaining flexibility to best meet the needs of
 Oncor's customers and employees.

8 9 Q. DID THE COMPANY UNDERTAKE ANY EFFORTS THAT WERE NOT PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE PLAN?

10 Yes. Following CDC guidelines and best practices, Oncor created several Α. 11 new sets of guidelines and processes specific to COVID-19 that were not 12 previously defined in its plan. These guidelines include: (1) Pandemic Field 13 Operations Guidelines; (2) Guidelines for Storm Response during the 14 Pandemic; (3) Pandemic Vehicle Plan; (4) Supplier Pandemic Readiness Surveys; (5) Supplier Absentee Reporting process; and (6) the Oncor 15 Pandemic Screening Team to perform contact tracing. For an extra level of 16 17 protection, Oncor installed bipolar ionization HVAC filters in both the Woodall Rodgers Headquarters Building and the new Fort Worth office. To 18 19 enhance the facility cleaning measures defined in the Pandemic Readiness Plan, Oncor purchased three electrostatic sprayers. As a result of these 20 21 efforts, Oncor incurred incremental costs during 2020 and 2021, some of 22 which are reflected in the Commission-authorized regulatory asset 23 discussed below and in the testimony of Company witness Mr. Ledbetter.

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE ONCOR'S APPROACH TO ACCOUNTING FOR
INCREMENTAL COSTS INCURRED DIRECTLY RELATING TO THE
PANDEMIC.

A. As Mr. Ledbetter further explains in his direct testimony, the ability to
account for the incremental costs Oncor has incurred in response to
COVID-19 as a regulatory asset, and to seek recovery of that asset, arises
from the Commission's March 26, 2020 Order Related to Accrual of

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1 Regulatory Assets issued in Project No. 50664. In that order, the 2 Commission took steps "to provide regulated utility companies some 3 regulatory certainty by authorizing the use of an accounting mechanism and a subsequent process through which regulated utility companies may seek 4 future recovery of expenses resulting from the effects of COVID-19." In 5 response to that order. Oncor created a specific project number for 6 7 accounting purposes and began to track and periodically review 8 incremental charges associated with our response to the COVID-19 9 pandemic. These charges are organized into several overarching 10 categories: Employee Related Expenses: Professional/Consulting 11 Services; Contractor Related Services; Materials/Supplies Purchases; 12 Rental/Lease Expenses; and Temporary Office Furnishings. As further detailed in Mr. Ledbetter's direct testimony, the total amount of this 13 14 regulatory asset for which Oncor is seeking recovery is \$34.6 million.

Q. PLEASE PROVIDE SOME EXAMPLES OF THE INCREMENTAL COSTS
 INCURRED BY ONCOR IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 AND INCLUDED
 IN THIS REGULATORY ASSET.

A. Some examples of incremental costs incurred by the Company include the
following: (1) security/medical services; (2) additional cleaning; (3)
additional information technology support; (4) additional safety and
personal protective equipment or "PPE"; and (5) rental vehicles.

22 The security/medical services expenses relate to costs incurred to 23 provide law enforcement security to facilities to ensure that only employees 24 and required contractors were allowed to enter Oncor facilities and that 25 entry procedures were followed. The Company also incurred costs for 26 contractors to perform temperature screening at Oncor facilities before 27 personnel were allowed to enter facilities. This was done in order to protect 28 the safety of those individuals who needed to be physically present in those 29 facilities. Oncor also incurred additional cleaning expenses that were 30 required to minimize the possibility of contamination. All Oncor facilities

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were cleaned multiple times daily in accordance with our Pandemic 1 2 Readiness Plan protocols. The increased cleaning and sanitizing of Oncor facilities resulted in the need for additional cleaning supplies for sanitizing 3 4 services in addition to travel-size supplies. Oncor purchased masks and hand sanitizer in bulk for personnel having to report to worksites in person. 5 6 We also obtained additional safety supplies for rental vehicles and personal 7 vehicles used for Company use. Like many businesses, the Company also 8 engaged additional information technology expenses to maintain Oncor 9 systems in connection with expanded remote-use activity by employees 10 and contractors. Finally, during implementation of the Severe: Step 2 phase 11 of the plan. Oncor limited the use of vehicles to only one person per vehicle. 12 which led to the additional expense for rental vehicles.

13 Q. HAVE THERE BEEN ANY INCREMENTAL COSTS REMOVED FROM14 THE COVID-19 REGULATORY ASSET?

15 A. Yes. As a part of Oncor's review of costs charged to the regulatory asset, any charges that were originally deemed incremental, but have since been 16 17 incorporated in Oncor's standard operating practice, were removed from the COVID-19 regulatory asset. An example of a cost that was removed is the 18 19 Company's use of remote meeting platforms such as Cisco Webex and 20 Zoom. While Oncor has utilized these platforms in the past on a very limited 21 basis, these platforms were significantly expanded to allow for successful remote work capability of our employees. Oncor has now deemed that 22 23 these platforms will be necessary as part of our ongoing business needs 24 and all charges related to the platforms were removed from the regulatory 25 Oncor also removed all employee overtime charges from the asset. COVID-19 regulatory asset because overtime to cover employees who 26 27 cannot report to duty due to illness, injury, etc., is a normal part of business 28 even outside of pandemic conditions.

Q. WHAT CONTINGENCY PLANS DID ONCOR IMPLEMENT TO ENSURE
 BUSINESS CONTINUITY?

A. To ensure that services and products remained stable during the pandemic,
 Oncor relied on its sourcing strategy as I discussed above, including
 supplier relationship management, to provide situational awareness of our
 supplier base and the health and availability of their workforce.

7 We also kept T&D operations personnel within their normal service 8 areas and did not shift them to other areas as workload changed. Instead, 9 Oncor used its contract workforce to balance workload changes and to improve workforce reserves. Additionally, critical infrastructure personnel 10 11 were segregated from all other areas to maintain protection against the 12 spread of COVID-19. From March 16, 2020, through July 5, 2021, the 13 Transmission Grid Operations group split its control room staff between the 14 main location and the back-up location. This ensured that if an outbreak 15 were to occur at one location, the other location would be available to 16 maintain full responsibility for the Oncor transmission system. Also, the 17 Transmission Grid Operations group restricted all visitors and moved to fully 18 remote training to limit the possibility of exposure and maintain operational 19 readiness. Please see Company witness Mr. Collin M. Martin's direct 20 testimony for additional discussion on these efforts.

# 21 Q. HAS THE EXECUTION OF ONCOR'S PANDEMIC READINESS PLAN22 BEEN SUCCESSFUL?

23 Α. Yes. Oncor has not experienced any significant disruptions to any of its 24 business units as a result of COVID-19. Moreover, the Company 25 experienced a record low number of safety incidents and did not have any 26 negative impacts to its non-storm System Average Interruption Duration 27 Index based on COVID-19. Instead, Oncor had an increase in reliability to 28 customers during 2020 and saw a further increase in reliability during 2021. 29 Company witness Mr. Greer discusses these metrics in detail in his direct 30 testimony and also addresses in detail that Oncor was also able to

successfully implement its capital and O&M plans while providing reliable
 and efficient delivery of electricity to its customers.

3 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE ONCOR'S APPROACH TO THE PANDEMIC AS IT
4 CONTINUES INTO THE FUTURE.

5 A. Oncor will continue to implement its Pandemic Readiness Plan at the levels 6 necessitated by the pandemic conditions at the time. Oncor will also 7 continue to review the Pandemic Readiness Plan based upon guidance 8 from federal (including CDC guidance), state, and local entities, along with 9 industry best practices.

10 Some of Oncor's work practices that were utilized during pandemic 11 conditions to ensure continued success in serving customers have been 12 integrated into our standard work practices and will not be changed as any 13 needed implementation of the Pandemic Readiness Plan continues. As I 14 discussed above, an example of practices now integrated into day-to-day 15 use are the tools or platforms needed to remotely connect our employees 16 and the customers that we serve.

17

#### VI. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Q. WHAT CONCLUSIONS HAVE YOU REACHED CONCERNING ONCOR'S
INVESTMENTS AND PRACTICES WITH RESPECT TO SUPPLY CHAIN,
FACILITIES, AND THE COMPANY'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19?

21 Α. Oncor has strategically sourced and procured necessary equipment and 22 services in a cost-efficient manner and has maintained an appropriate level 23 of transformer, regulator, and capacitor working reserves. For the reasons 24 discussed above, these investments are reasonable and necessary and 25 used and useful in the Company's provision of adequate and continuous 26 service to the public. As discussed above, Oncor has also made prudent 27 business decisions regarding its facilities and the associated investments 28 are reasonable and necessary and used and useful. Additionally, Oncor's 29 timely implementation of its Pandemic Readiness Plan in early 2020, and 30 the continued execution of the plan as deemed necessary, has allowed

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- Oncor to successfully avoid business disruptions based on COVID-19.
   Finally, the incremental costs incurred by the Company in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and included in the associated regulatory asset are reasonable and necessary and should be recovered.
   DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?
- 6 A. Yes.

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#### AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF TEXAS § SCOUNTY OF DALLAS §

> **BEFORE ME,** the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Ellen E. Buck, who, having been placed under oath by me, did depose as follows:

> My name is Ellen E. Buck. I am of legal age and a resident of the State of Texas. The foregoing direct testimony and attached exhibit offered by me is true and correct, and the opinions stated therein are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, accurate, true and correct.

Ellen E Buck





Notary Public, State of Texas

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Buck - Direct Oncor Electric Delivery 2022 Rate Case

Group	Description of Services Provided	Group Manager & Experience
Assets Planning	<ul> <li>Complete studies ensuring compliance with NERC, ERCOT, and Oncor requirements for transmission</li> <li>Participate in ERCOT stakeholder processes involving planned projects for transmission system</li> <li>Evaluate the impact of connecting transmission generators to the Oncor system</li> <li>Produce multi-year substation loading and distribution system loading analysis</li> <li>Eacilitate the interconnection of distribution</li> </ul>	Eithar Nashawati, Director; 21 years of electric utility experience; 15 years of experience with Oncor
	energy resources through interactions with internal and external stakeholders	
T&D Supply Chain	<ul> <li>Manage, maintain, and service facilities across the Oncor system</li> <li>Responsible for material purchases and contract services</li> <li>Responsible for keeping supply of materials</li> </ul>	Kallie Malmgren, Senior Director; 11 years of experience with Oncor
	<ul> <li>Responsible for recepting supply of matchais related to construction, operations, and maintenance and managing warehouses</li> <li>Responsible for equipment management, delivery of units across the Oncor system, repair and refurbishment of used transformers</li> </ul>	

## Services Provided by Oncor's Business and Operations Services Organization

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Group	Description of Services Provided	Group Manager & Experience
Engineering Standards & Maintenance Strategy	<ul> <li>Develop strategies, capabilities and tools to enhance organizational and operational effectiveness</li> <li>Create, modify, and maintain transmission and</li> </ul>	Lance Spross, Director; 36 years of experience with Oncor
	substation engineering materials and construction standards	
	<ul> <li>Develop and support programs and systems necessary to effectively maintain and operate Oncor assets</li> </ul>	
Center for Excellence & Innovation	<ul> <li>Provide long-term vision for Oncor Continuous Improvement program</li> </ul>	Lou Guerrero, Director; 21 years of continuous
	Lead in the tactical execution of Oncor's     Continuous Improvement program	of experience with Oncor
	Analyze data from numerous sources to provide to internal and external stakeholders	
	<ul> <li>Benchmark business processes and performance against external entities</li> </ul>	
Transmission Services	<ul> <li>Interface with generators, utilities, cooperatives and large retail customers seeking interconnections</li> </ul>	Robert Holt, Director; 33 years of experience with Oncor
	Prepare and secure contractual arrangements for interconnections and wholesale transmission service	

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# 2022 RATE CASE ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY LLC WORKPAPERS FOR THE DIRECT TESTIMONY OF ELLEN E. BUCK

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Ms. Buck has no supporting workpapers for her direct testimony.

### INDEX TO THE DIRECT TESTIMONY OF DANIEL E. HALL, WITNESS FOR ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY LLC

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Hall - Direct Oncor Electric Delivery 2022 Rate Case

1		DIRECT TESTIMONY OF DANIEL E. HALL
2		I. POSITION AND QUALIFICATIONS
3	Q.	PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, BUSINESS ADDRESS, AND CURRENT
4		EMPLOYMENT POSITION.
5	Α.	My name is Daniel E. Hall. My business address is 1616 Woodall Rodgers
6		Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75202. I am currently Vice President of
7		Measurement and Billing for Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC ("Oncor"
8		or "Company").
9	Q.	PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND
10		PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.
11	Α.	I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering Technology from
12		Texas A&M University in 2000. In 2000, I began my career at TXU Corp.,
13		a former parent company of Oncor. Since that time, I have held various
14		positions in field engineering, information technology, program
15		management, distribution operations, vegetation management, fleet
16		operations, emergency preparedness, transmission engineering, and right
17		of way and real estate. In 2012, I became Director of Network Services,
18		and in 2013, I became Director of the Distribution Project Management
19		Organization. In 2016, I was appointed Senior Director of Distribution
20		Services. Then in 2018, I became Senior Director of Transmission
21		Engineering & Right of Way and Real Estate. I was elected Vice President
22		of Measurement and Billing in April 2020. In October 2021, I was appointed
23		by Governor Greg Abbott to the State Energy Plan Advisory
24		Committee. The committee (created by Senate Bill 3 during the 87th
25		Legislature regular session) is tasked with preparing a comprehensive state
26		energy plan that includes methods to improve the reliability, affordability,
27		and stability of the state electric grid.
28	Q.	WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN YOUR CURRENT POSITION?
29	Α.	I am responsible for directing the development and implementation of
30		metering practices to accurately measure and report electric energy

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1		delivered through Oncor's transmission and distribution system in
2		accordance with regulatory, industry, market, and the Company's
3		requirements. My overall responsibility includes the development of
4		strategic plans and the execution of those plans associated with the
5		Company's metering assets and resources, as well as overseeing the
6		operational and strategic plans for the Company's revenue management
7		function, which include oversight of billing, payments, and collections.
8	Q.	HAVE YOU EVER SUBMITTED TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PUBLIC
9		UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS ("COMMISSION")?
10	Α.	No.
11		II. PURPOSE OF DIRECT TESTIMONY
12	Q.	WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?
13	Α.	I describe and support the reasonableness and necessity of Oncor's costs
14		related to providing measurement and billing services. More specifically, in
15		my testimony:
16		• I describe the Oncor organization responsible for Oncor's
17		measurement and billing activities;
18		<ul> <li>I describe the measurement services provided by Oncor;</li> </ul>
19		• I explain how Oncor has transformed the measurement and billing
20		services it provides since completion of the deployment of Oncor's
21		advanced metering system ("AMS") in 2012 and how those services
22		benefit Oncor's customers and the Electric Reliability Council of
23		Texas ("ERCOT") market;
24		I describe Oncor's integration of its AMS with other critical Oncor
25		technology systems and the resulting improvements in electric
26		system health, market performance, and customer communications;
27		I describe how AMS contributed to Oncor's performance during and
28		after Winter Storm Uri;
29		<ul> <li>I describe the activities undertaken by Oncor's billing function;</li> </ul>

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- I support the reasonableness and necessity of Oncor's operations
  and maintenance ("O&M") expenses related to measurement and
  billing; and
- I discuss the need for Oncor to maintain an adequate meter reserve
  to ensure customer and market participant needs are met and
  explain how Oncor's working reserve of meters is used and useful in
  providing service.
- 8 Q. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR ONCOR TO RECOVER ITS COSTS9 RELATED TO MEASUREMENT AND BILLING?

10 Having accurate metering and billing is critical to the overall effectiveness Α. 11 of the ERCOT market. Our testimonies in this case demonstrate that 12 Oncor's investments in metering and billing are used and useful in providing 13 service, that our O&M associated with those services are reasonable and 14 necessary, and that the amounts related to measurement and billing that 15 we are requesting for inclusion in our proposed rates are critically important 16 to ensuring that we continue to have the ability to provide those services 17 effectively.

18 Q. WAS YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY PREPARED BY YOU OR UNDER19 YOUR DIRECT SUPERVISION?

- A. Yes. My direct testimony was prepared by me or under my direction,
  supervision, or control and is true and correct. I will address each topic in
  the same order reflected in the above listing.
- 23 24

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#### III. ONCOR'S MEASUREMENT AND BILLING ORGANIZATION

24 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE GROUP WITHIN ONCOR RESPONSIBLE FOR25 MEASUREMENT AND BILLING.

A. The Measurement and Billing organization that I lead is divided into two
 groups: Measurement Services and Revenue Management. Our
 Measurement Services group is responsible for meter readings and all
 activities related to meters, including testing, maintenance, and all
 necessary field activities. The Revenue Management group is responsible

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for Oncor's billing, payments, and collections. I describe the services
 provided by each group in the sections that follow.

3

#### IV. MEASUREMENT SERVICES PROVIDED BY ONCOR

4 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE MEASUREMENT SERVICES PROVIDED BY5 ONCOR.

6 Α. The Measurement Services group is responsible for collecting 7 measurement data for approximately 3.8 million meters that Oncor serves and providing that data to ERCOT and retail electric providers ("REPs") for 8 9 billing and settlement of the ERCOT market. This group conducts the field service activities associated with meter reading, meter testing, meter-10 11 related maintenance, service connections and service disconnections, 12 meter re-reads, and other meter-related activities, including revenue 13 recovery services to prevent unaccounted for energy or loss from theft and 14 This group also provides meter engineering services and diversion. 15 operates a testing and repair facility for metering and distribution controls. 16 That facility also repairs and certifies meter test equipment when necessary.

17 Q. ARE THESE MEASUREMENT SERVICES REASONABLE AND18 NECESSARY FOR UTILITY OPERATIONS?

A. Yes. Oncor provides measurement services pursuant to Public Utility
Regulatory Act § 39.107. These services are both reasonable and
necessary.

Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW ONCOR'S MEASUREMENT SERVICES HAVE
CHANGED SINCE THE COMPLETION OF ONCOR'S AMS
DEPLOYMENT.

A. Oncor's deployment of AMS had both immediate and long-term impacts on
 Oncor's measurement services and the cost of those services. As
 expected, using AMS has enabled Oncor to perform several meter-related
 tasks remotely instead of sending employees to the customer's location.
 For example, Oncor remotely worked an average of 11,000 service orders

each workday in 2021 through AMS instead of sending field personnel to
 the customer's location.

3 After the completion of AMS deployment, our focus shifted from 4 meter deployment to refining and improving the performance of the AMS network, the delivery of information to the ERCOT market, data analytics 5 6 (including theft detection and incipient outage detection), and Oncor's data 7 management practices. In addition, we continued to refine the interaction 8 of Oncor's AMS with Oncor's Outage Management System ("OMS") and 9 focused on the development of the operational processes necessary to use 10 the outage data from the AMS meters as a real-time operational tool.

Having Oncor's AMS integrated with its OMS has benefited Oncor's system service quality and reliability, increased situational awareness when responding to outage conditions, and enhanced operational actions to respond quickly with restoration efforts without requiring a customerinitiated outage report.

16 Oncor also uses AMS data and weather data to monitor and predict 17 asset health. Oncor's Distribution Operators use this data to troubleshoot 18 potential issues before sending Oncor resources to perform repairs. By 19 using AMS data, Distribution Operators can discern when a system 20 component is not performing as originally intended. Detecting these type 21 of performance issues early enables Oncor to replace or repair the 22 equipment before an outage occurs and address the issue in a timely 23 scheduled manner.

Advanced use of AMS data also helps Oncor with its distribution planning and real-time operations via the Distribution Operations Centers. AMS data is utilized to (1) develop a more accurate Distribution Planning Model, which helps ensure that we have adequate capacity to meet the peak demand, and (2) increase the accuracy of our distribution network connectivity model, which shows the meter-to-distribution transformer relationship and provides phasing and topological information. Having a

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more accurate network connectivity model enables Oncor to operate and
 maintain its distribution system more safely and effectively during real-time
 operations.

As a result of AMS, Oncor now has significantly greater ability to
perform important analytics work that enhances situational awareness,
reliability, service quality, and customer service. The testimony of Company
witness Mr. Hagen Haentsch provides more detail about the data analytics
Oncor is able to perform using AMS data.

9 Q. DO ONCOR'S CUSTOMERS BENEFIT FROM THIS TRANSFORMATION
10 OF ONCOR'S MEASUREMENT SERVICES?

11 Yes. Oncor's customers benefit in a number of ways. They benefit from the Α. 12 lower cost of meter reading and meter-related services enabled by AMS. 13 Meter-reading savings achieved through AMS deployment were 14 incorporated into Oncor's rates in Oncor's last base-rate case, Docket No. 46957. Customers also continue to benefit from Oncor being able to 15 16 significantly reduce its charges for services that would have otherwise 17 required sending an employee into the field, such as the service charges 18 for disconnecting and re-connecting service. For example, today, when a 19 customer with a standard meter (AMS meter) requests an out-of-cycle 20 meter read for the purpose of a self-selected switch, the charge to the 21 customer is 15 cents. But if the customer does not have a standard meter, 22 the cost for a field service representative to travel to the customer's location 23 to read the meter is \$19.70.

24 Customers also benefit from Oncor's having an enhanced 25 understanding of its system health and performance. For example, as 1 26 discuss in more detail below, service outages may be avoided when 27 equipment is replaced on a more planned basis as enabled by AMS.

28 Q. DOES AMS AFFECT HOW ONCOR COMMUNICATES WITH29 CUSTOMERS?

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A. Yes. AMS has allowed Oncor to improve the way we communicate with
 customers. As I mentioned above, Oncor is able to restore service in many
 instances without receiving a customer-initiated outage report, which
 alleviates the need for customers to report whether their power is out or has
 been restored. AMS also allows Oncor to provide certain services more
 quickly for customers, such as meter reads.

7 Having AMS also provides the Company with more detailed outage 8 information, which enables us to provide better information to customers 9 related to outages. Through technology deployments of the "My Oncor 10 Alerts" application, Oncor has created a method for allowing customers to 11 designate their communication preferences for receiving the information 12 they want to receive, such as information related to the status of restoration 13 efforts and service requests, which can be delivered proactively through the customer's preferred communication channels of voice, text, or email. 14

We have also created the "MyOncor" customer application, which 15 16 provides a fast and simple way for customers to report outages, downed 17 wires, or streetlight outages. This application also allows Oncor to provide 18 information directly to customers, including an estimate of when the 19 Company expects to restore power during service interruptions. The MyOncor application also allows Oncor to communicate proactively with 20 21 customers when Oncor will be at their location to perform work, such as a 22 meter replacement activity.

23 Q. DOES AMS HELP ONCOR IDENTIFY HOW THE DISTRIBUTION24 SYSTEM IS OPERATING?

A. Yes. As I mentioned above, AMS data includes information about how the
distribution system is operating. In addition to outage data, AMS data
allows us to identify power quality and equipment problems before they
become an outage. For example, we use AMS data to identify transformers
demonstrating incipient failure modes through AMS voltage analysis, which
allows us to proactively replace equipment prior to its causing an unplanned

outage. Since December 31, 2016, over 3,800 transformers showed signs
 of failure, and by using AMS data, Oncor was able to identify and address
 those transformers before they failed.

4 Thus, AMS has allowed us to detect and perform replacements of 5 transformers, conductor, and connectors on a planned schedule before they 6 fail, which reduces unplanned outages for customers and optimizes field 7 resource allocations because the equipment can be replaced during normal 8 business hours even before the customer is affected.

9 Q. HAS AMS IMPACTED ONCOR'S MARKET PERFORMANCE?

Generally, AMS has allowed Oncor to execute market service 10 Α. Yes. 11 requests more quickly, which makes the market perform more efficiently 12 and effectively. As I mentioned above, AMS also allows Oncor to perform 13 certain services for customers more quickly than would have been possible 14 before it was deployed. For example, because of AMS, Oncor can re-15 connect a customer within two hours of receiving a request for reconnection 16 from the customer's REP and within one hour of receiving a request for reconnection from a prepay customer's REP. Oncor can also initiate new 17 18 service at an existing location and execute REP switches generally on the 19 same day the request is received.

20 AMS has also allowed Oncor to transition business customers from 21 older interval data recorder meters to advanced meters, which may allow 22 the customer's usage to be transmitted to ERCOT on a daily basis rather 23 than a monthly basis. By receiving the data daily rather than monthly, 24 ERCOT is able to settle the customer's usage in the *initial* settlement of the 25 wholesale electric energy market with actual data rather than ERCOT-26 estimated profile data, and customers and their REPs are able to have daily 27 access to interval data at Smart Meter Texas.

28 Q. HAS ONCOR IMPLEMENTED ANY OTHER NEW TOOLS THAT HELP29 PROVIDE MEASUREMENT SERVICES?

1 Α. Yes. As described in the testimony of Company witness Ms. Malia A. 2 Hodges, Oncor has implemented a new customer service management 3 functionality through its Customer Care and Billing System ("CC&B"). The 4 Distribution and Measurement Services organizations use the CC&B to 5 create and complete various field activities and customer service orders, 6 such as meter tampering investigations, meter testing, and installation of 7 new service connections, and ensure that the associated billing, if any, is 8 performed. The new customer service management functionality has also 9 been very helpful by providing the capability for a field technician to quickly 10 access historical information related to Oncor's activities at a specific 11 premise.

12 Q. WERE AMS AND CC&B HELPFUL DURING AND AFTER WINTER13 STORM URI?

A. Yes. The AMS network allowed us to quickly determine whether a customer
outage was caused by a load-shed event or was caused by something
unrelated. With this ability, we were able to target field restoration activities
(damage evaluation and repair resources) on those outages that were not
caused by load-shed events.

19 After the event, Oncor was able to use the inherent technology of 20 AMS as well as its tight integration with the CC&B and other systems to 21 appropriately bill customers and provide market settlement data. Oncor 22 utilized technology to identify missing billing reads and 15-minute interval 23 meter data and acquire the actual reads after the event. This allowed Oncor 24 to discontinue sending estimated invoices to REPs for all rate classes 25 during the event, and Oncor was able to cancel-rebill invoices utilizing 26 actual reads for any previously billed estimated invoices during the event.

Also, a large number of non-residential customers are billed by Oncor using monthly non-coincidental peak kilowatt demands ("NCP Demand"). As a result of the winter storm, many of these customers would have set an unprecedented high actual NCP Demand during the storm

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1 period. Oncor was able to utilize the technology integration of its AMS and 2 CC&B systems to eliminate any new peak demands reached during the 3 storm period from the customer's billing of Oncor charges. This resulted in 4 an approximately \$3.3 million aggregate reduction in Oncor charges 5 associated with customer demand billing for the associated storm period. 6 The Commission approved this approach in Docket No. 51812 on March 5. 7 2021 when it approved the requests for good cause exception to the 8 applicable tariff provisions filed by Oncor, AEP Texas Inc., CenterPoint 9 Energy Houston Electric, LLC, and Texas-New Mexico Power Company.

10

#### V. BILLING SERVICES PROVIDED BY ONCOR

11 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE BILLING SERVICES ONCOR PROVIDES.

12 Α. The Revenue Management group within my organization is responsible for 13 ensuring that Oncor accurately and timely bills REPs and that Oncor 14 collects the amounts owed by REPs. This group is also responsible for 15 resolving any issues that arise related to billing. We also must ensure 16 accurate posting of payments that are sent to Oncor, such as payments 17 related to meter tampering and payments for contributions in aid of 18 construction made by customers. This group is also responsible for 19 performing ongoing monitoring and analysis of risks to Oncor's end-to-end 20 meter-to-cash workflow and ensuring timely and accurate reporting, 21 reconciling, and balancing of Oncor's revenue and cash. In addition, this 22 group is responsible for monthly, quarterly, and annual Sarbanes-Oxley 23 financial reporting and controls.

24 Q. ARE THESE ACTIVITIES REASONABLE AND NECESSARY?

A. Yes. For the ERCOT market to function appropriately, all transmission and
 distribution utilities are required to provide accurate and timely billing to
 REPs. Just like any other business, Oncor must also ensure that all bills
 are collected and that all cash received is appropriately booked. To remain
 a strong utility, Oncor must also monitor its revenues and comply with all

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financial reporting required by law. Thus, in my opinion, all of the activities
 I described above are both reasonable and necessary.

3 4

#### VI. REASONABLENESS AND NECESSITY OF O&M EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH MEASUREMENT AND BILLING SERVICES

5 Q. WHAT WERE THE O&M EXPENSES INCURRED BY ONCOR DURING
6 THE TEST YEAR 2021 FOR MEASUREMENT AND BILLING?

7 A. The O&M expenses that Oncor incurred during the test year for8 measurement and billing were \$45.8 million.

9 Q. WERE THOSE O&M EXPENSES REASONABLE AND NECESSARY?

A. Yes. Oncor's measurement and billing O&M expenses are reasonable and
necessary and should be recovered in Oncor's rates. Oncor incurred these
costs to perform the measurement and billing services that are necessary
to ensure that the delivery of electricity is appropriately metered and then
correctly billed to REPs and ultimately customers. As I have described
above, Oncor has taken steps to ensure that it performs those necessary
services efficiently and effectively.

17

#### A. Cost Controls

18 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE COST CONTROLS MEASUREMENT &19 BILLING USES WITH RESPECT TO ITS O&M.

A. The Measurement & Billing group utilizes cost controls that span labor,
hardware, and business process automation. For labor, we monitor our
staffing for heavy volume workload periods that are driven by environmental
factors (*i.e.*, weather and time of year) and utilize third-party contractor labor
to assist with the increased work demand for short periods of time. This
allows us to keep our workforce engaged on the highest priority of work
throughout the year.

We also utilize longer term hardware contract agreements that include non-variable pricing across the term length of the agreement. This keeps pricing stable as market and supply chain conditions change annually.

Another important cost control we implement in Measurement & Billing is our heavy use of automated business processes and advanced analytics to streamline operations and address new tasks that would require additional labor. We have made many advancements in our daily revenue management operations that include automation of tasks that reduce billing, audit, and high/low usage exceptions, as well as automation of the processes utilized to implement rate changes.

#### 8 9

#### VII. WORKING METER RESERVES ARE USED AND USEFUL IN PROVIDING SERVICE

10 Q. WHAT PROCESS DOES ONCOR USE TO DETERMINE HOW MANY11 METERS IT NEEDS TO PURCHASE EACH YEAR?

12 Α. Each year, Oncor conducts a detailed review of the growth experienced 13 within its service territory, the number and type of meters that have failed 14 over the course of the year, and any other unique circumstances that may impact Oncor's meter requirements. As part of Oncor's detailed annual 15 16 review, Oncor determines the number and type of meters it will need to keep on hand in 58 service center storerooms across its large service territory. 17 18 Oncor also determines the number and type of meters needed to keep the 19 approximately 833 measurement and distribution field resources who are 20 responsible for keeping meters properly stocked. These meter needs are 21 monitored throughout the year, and purchases are adjusted as needed. 22 This strategy allows Oncor to promptly respond to customers' service needs 23 and comply with its tariff requirements.

24 Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW GROWTH INFLUENCES ONCOR'S METER25 PURCHASING NEEDS.

A. Oncor continues to experience significant load and premise growth in parts
of its service territory. Between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2021,
Oncor averaged over 72,000 new authorized locations each year. In 2021
alone, Oncor added over 79,000 new authorized locations. As Oncor
continues to serve new premises, it must purchase and install new meters

at those new locations and maintain a reserve of meters should any existing
 meters need to be replaced.

3 Q. WHEN A METER FAILURE OCCURS, HOW DOES ONCOR RESPOND?

- A. Oncor's meters continually perform a self-diagnostic health check. As part
  of this process, each meter is programmed to send event and/or alarm
  notifications to the Company that identify any issue with the meter's ability
  to function properly. When event or alarm notifications indicating a failure
  are received from a meter, Oncor replaces the existing meter as soon as
  practical.
- 10Q.ARE THERE ANY OTHER REASONS THAT ONCOR MAY NEED TO11REPLACE A METER?
- 12 There are other reasons for replacing meters, such as meter Α. Yes. 13 tampering, which is an issue that has been recognized by the Commission 14 and that it has addressed with specific rules. Also, weather-related impacts 15 or vandalism may cause Oncor to replace a meter to ensure continuity and 16 accurate measurement of electric service to the customer. Additionally, 17 meters may be replaced due to equipment either being stolen, damaged, or 18 not fully functioning due to a component or communication failure.

19 Q. DOES ONCOR REPLACE METERS IN A TIMELY MANNER?

- A. Yes, it is Oncor's standard practice to take prompt action on all meter
   replacements. Oncor's customers and market participants expect accurate
   metering for billing. In fact, under Sections 4.7.2 and 4.7.2.2 of Oncor's
   Tariff for Retail Delivery Service, the Company is precluded from performing
   estimated meter reads for more than three consecutive months before
   performing an actual meter read, except in cases where the retail customer
   has failed to provide access to the meter.
- 27 Q. DOES ONCOR PURCHASE METERS IN ADVANCE OF INSTALLATION28 AND ENERGIZATION?
- A. Yes. Oncor maintains a working reserve of meters to ensure customer and
   market participant requirements are met given variable manufacturing lead

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1 times, customer service dates, and replacement needs. Before the COVID-2 19 pandemic, the typical lead time to obtain meters from the manufacturer was approximately 20 weeks. During the COVID-19 pandemic, however, 3 4 the lead time for meters grew to as long as 52 weeks. If specialty meter 5 items are required, the lead time can be even longer. Another factor that 6 impacts meter lead times is manufacturer plant closings for maintenance and holidays at the end of the year. Other factors such as customer 7 8 timelines can also impact the number of meters Oncor maintains in working 9 reserves at a given time. For example, Oncor has high-rise apartment 10 development projects for which the currently expected due dates for service 11 can extend six months to a year beyond the deadline originally anticipated. 12 To avoid the potential delay in being able to initiate service, Oncor orders 13 meters and holds them for the project based on the original anticipated 14 customer service date, without knowing whether (or for how long) the date may be extended due to delays resulting from customer circumstances. 15

16 Q. DOES ONCOR IMMEDIATELY INSTALL METERS WHEN THEY ARE17 RECEIVED FROM THE MANUFACTURER?

18 No. Once meters are received from the manufacturer at the Company's Α. 19 centralized systems operating center, the devices must be added to the 20 Company's meter management system and sample tests conducted before 21 making the units available for installation. The meters are then deployed to 22 the service centers and field resources described above. Each service 23 center has an established target minimum and maximum reserve level 24 necessary to provide timely service to customers based upon historical and 25 projected meter needs. Oncor monitors the target reserve levels throughout 26 the year and adjusts them as needed to ensure that reserves continue to 27 be appropriate.

Q. WERE ONCOR'S METER INVESTMENTS THAT WERE HELD IN
 RESERVE AS OF THE END OF THE TEST YEAR USED AND USEFUL IN
 THE COMPANY'S PROVISION OF ELECTRIC SERVICE?

1 Α. Yes. Given the lead time needed for purchasing meters from the 2 manufacturer and the need to have meters on hand throughout the 3 Company's service territory for the purposes described above, having additional meters in reserve, on a day-to-day basis, is critical to Oncor's 4 provision of electric service. The reliability and overall service quality of 5 Oncor's distribution system would be greatly impaired if Oncor purchased 6 7 only the exact number of meters it expected to need to install and energize 8 at any particular point in time. By purchasing and maintaining adequate 9 working reserves of meters and meter-related hardware to address meter failures, outages, or new customer installations in the near-term, Oncor is 10 11 able to provide adequate and continuous service to the public and, therefore, the associated investment is used and useful. Company witness 12 13 Mr. W. Alan Ledbetter addresses the appropriate accounting for meters and 14 metering equipment.

15

#### VIII. CONCLUSION

16 Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR TESTIMONY.

17 In my testimony, I describe the measurement services provided by the Α. 18 Company and explain how Oncor's deployment of AMS benefitted 19 customers and transformed how Oncor provides measurement and billing 20 services to customers. I also explain how Oncor's AMS is integrated with 21 other critical technology systems and how that integration has improved the 22 health of Oncor's system, Oncor's market performance, and Oncor's 23 communications with customers. I further explain how AMS contributed to 24 Oncor's performance during and after Winter Storm Uri. Through this 25 testimony, I support the reasonableness and necessity of Oncor's O&M 26 expenses related to measurement and billing and the need for Oncor to 27 maintain an adequate meter reserve to ensure customer and market 28 participant needs are met.

- 29 Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?
- 30 A. Yes.

#### <u>AFFIDAVIT</u>

STATE OF TEXAS § SCOUNTY OF DALLAS §

**BEFORE ME,** the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Daniel E. Hall, who, having been placed under oath by me, did depose as follows:

My name is Daniel E. Hall. I am of legal age and a resident of the State of Texas. The foregoing direct testimony offered by me is true and correct, and the opinions stated therein are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, accurate, true and correct.

Daniel E. Hall

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME by the said Daniel E. Hall this  $15^{+h}$  day of Ap(1, 2022).



Notary Public, State of Texas

PUC Docket No.

as.

Hall - Direct Oncor Electric Delivery 2022 Rate Case

# 2022 RATE CASE ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY LLC WORKPAPERS FOR THE DIRECT TESTIMONY OF DANIEL E. HALL

Mr. Hall has no supporting workpapers for his direct testimony.

3

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Ledbetter – Direct Oncor Electric Delivery 2022 Rate Case

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1		DIRECT TESTIMONY OF W. ALAN LEDBETTER
2		I. POSITION AND QUALIFICATIONS
3	Q.	PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, BUSINESS ADDRESS, AND CURRENT
4		EMPLOYMENT POSITION.
5	Α.	My name is W. Alan Ledbetter. My business address is 1616 Woodall
6		Rodgers Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75202. I am Vice President and Controller
7		of Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC ("Oncor" or "the Company").
8	Q.	PLEASE DISCUSS YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND
9		PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.
10	Α.	I hold a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration – Accounting from
11		the University of Texas at Arlington and a Master of Business Administration
12		degree, with a minor in Finance, from Texas A&M University-Commerce.
13		have been employed in a variety of accounting, finance, and regulatory
14		roles in the electric utility industry for 41 years. I began my business career
15		in a general accounting role with Texas Electric Service Company (an
16		Oncor predecessor) and later held positions in the organization's internal
17		auditing and regulatory services departments. Upon restructuring of the
18		former separately operating companies of Texas Utilities Company in 1984,
19		I held a variety of positions in the corporation's business services affiliate,
20		primarily in business planning and analysis, regulatory accounting support,
21		and internal auditing. In 2004, I transferred to Oncor as a senior project
22		manager within the Controller's organization, with primary responsibilities
23		related to regulatory accounting analysis and support. In 2008, I was
24		named Manager, Revenue Forecasting for the Company. In 2013, my
25		responsibilities were expanded, and I was named Director, Planning and
26		Economic Analysis. In February 2019, I was named as Oncor's Assistant
27		Controller and in July 2021 was elected to my current position of Oncor Vice
28		President and Controller, effective September 1, 2021.
29	Q.	PLEASE DESCRIBE THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES IN YOUR
30		CURRENT POSITION.

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1 As the Oncor Vice President and Controller, I serve as the Company's Α. 2 principal accounting officer. In this role, I direct the activities of Oncor's 3 financial reporting, general accounting, property and construction 4 accounting, accounts receivables and payables, revenue accounting, tax 5 accounting, field operations accounting, and accounting systems teams. 6 These organizations are responsible for ensuring that financial information is collected, summarized, and reported in accordance with generally 7 accepted accounting principles in the United States ("US GAAP"). In 8 9 addition. Oncor's accounting organization ensures that the books and 10 records of the Company are maintained in a manner consistent with sound 11 policies, procedures, and practices that support accurate and timely 12 delivery of the Company's regulatory reporting requirements established by 13 the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("Commission") and other regulatory 14 bodies.

15 Q. DO YOU HOLD ANY CERTIFICATIONS?

A. Yes. I am licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in the State of Texas
and hold the Chartered Global Management Accountant designation
through my membership in the American Institute of Certified Public
Accountants.

20Q.HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TESTIMONY BEFORE THE21COMMISSION OR OTHER REGULATORY AUTHORITIES?

22 Α. Yes. I testified before the Commission in Docket No. 35717 and pre-filed 23 direct testimony in Docket Nos. 38929, 46957, 48231, 49402, 50734, and 24 51996. In general, my prior testimony before the Commission has 25 addressed matters concerning interim distribution investment updates, 26 regulatory assets, working capital components, miscellaneous revenues, 27 adjustments to historical billing units, and the sale of electric plant. In 28 addition, I have provided oral testimony on behalf of Oncor relating to the 29 State Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division's determination of the 30 market value of Oncor's taxable tangible personal property in Texas (State

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Office of Administrative Hearings Docket Nos. 304-17-4452.PVS and 304-21-3344.PVS).

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# II. PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW OF DIRECT TESTIMONY

4 Q. PLEASE PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY IN
5 THIS PROCEEDING.

6 Α. In general, my direct testimony addresses three major elements of the 7 Company's rate filing. The first major element involves the financial and 8 accounting information reflected in Oncor's consolidated historical books 9 and records that serve as the foundation upon which the determination of the Company's cost of service must be constructed. Section III. of my direct 10 11 testimony addresses significant financial reporting and accounting practices 12 of the Company to appropriately reflect the Company's results of operations 13 and reporting of financial condition in accordance with US GAAP governing 14 rate-regulated operations and the requirements of the United States Code 15 of Federal Regulations, Title 18, Chapter I – Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy ("FERC"), Subchapter C, Part 101 -16 Uniform System of Accounts Prescribed for Public Utilities and Licensees 17 subject to the Provisions of the Federal Power Act ("USOA"). Throughout 18 my direct testimony. I use the abbreviation "FERC A###" to refer to a 19 20 specific account from the USOA (e.g., FERC A101 represents USOA 21 account number 101 - Electric Plant in Service). Finally, Section III. of my 22 direct testimony provides an overview of how the Company's financial 23 information is functionally assigned and presented in the schedules 24 prescribed by the Commission's Transmission & Distribution (TDU) 25 Investor-Owned Utilities Rate Filing Package for Cost-of-Service 26 Determination – 2020, adopted by the Commission in Project No. 49199 27 ("RFP").

The second major element of the Company's rate filing that I address is Oncor's rate base. Section IV. of my direct testimony serves to consolidate the various components of the adjusted net rate base of

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invested capital that Oncor is requesting in this proceeding. This testimony
addresses the various components of the rate base that I personally
sponsor and summarizes the rate base elements sponsored by other Oncor
witnesses to reflect the combined net total of invested capital. In addition, I
will address known and measurable adjustments to the test-year-ending
balances of the components of net rate base. In the last part of Section IV.,
I summarize the resulting functionalized components of Oncor's rate base.

8 Finally, the third major element of Oncor's rate filing that I address is 9 the requested cost of service. Section V. of my direct testimony addresses 10 the Company's 2021 test-year levels and functionalization of operating 11 expenses, as well as notable known and measurable adjustments reflected 12 in the requested cost of service in this proceeding. Together with the return 13 on invested capital (summarized in Section IV.H. of my testimony), Section 14 V. indicates that Oncor's requested cost of service, as adjusted, totals 15 \$5,824 million for its combined transmission and distribution ("T&D") 16 operations, including the \$13.3 million of affiliate wholesale distribution 17 substation service summarized in column (k) of RFP Schedule I-A-1.

18 Q. WHAT HISTORICAL PERIOD IS ONCOR'S COMBINED COST OF19 SERVICE BASED UPON?

20 Α. The results of operations reflected in Oncor's RFP in this proceeding are 21 derived from the Company's books and records for the 12 calendar month 22 period ended December 31, 2021. The components of rate base, as 23 adjusted, reflect balances of assets and liabilities at the end of the test-year 24 period (*i.e.*, December 31, 2021) or, for certain working capital assets, the 25 average of the month-end balances of the 13-month period ended 26 December 31, 2021. Please note that the terms "2021 test-year" and "12-27 months ended December 31, 2021" are used interchangeably throughout 28 my direct testimony. Likewise, the terms "2021 test-year-end" and 29 "December 31, 2021" carry the same meaning throughout my direct 30 testimony.

1 Q. WHICH RFP SCHEDULES ARE YOU SPONSORING IN THIS 2 PROCEEDING?

A. My Exhibit WAL-1 provides a listing of the RFP schedules that I sponsor or
co-sponsor. The RFP schedules that I sponsor or co-sponsor, my direct
testimony, and the attached exhibits, as well as all associated workpapers,
were prepared by me or under my direction, supervision, or control, and are
true and correct.

8

# III. FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ACCOUNTING PRACTICES

9 Q. PLEASE PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF ONCOR'S FINANCIAL10 REPORTING AND ACCOUNTING PRACTICES.

11 Α. Oncor's financial reporting reflects the consolidated balance sheets of 12 Oncor and its subsidiaries, the related consolidated statements of income. 13 comprehensive income, cash flows, and membership interests, and the 14 related notes to consolidated financial statements (collectively referred to 15 as the "financial statements"). The Company's financial statements are prepared in accordance with US GAAP governing rate-regulated 16 17 operations. In addition, to facilitate accounting of its rate-regulated 18 operation, Oncor also maintains its books and records in accordance with 19 the USOA, as prescribed for major electric utilities by 16 Texas 20 Administrative Code ("TAC") § 25.72. A listing of the USOA Balance Sheet 21 Chart of Accounts, Electric Plant Accounts, and Income Chart of Accounts 22 is provided in my Exhibit WAL-2. Despite a few notable differences that will 23 be addressed later in my direct testimony, US GAAP and the USOA provide 24 a consistent framework for developing accounting policies and practices to 25 gather, summarize, and report financial information to the public through its 26 filings with the United States Securities Exchange Commission ("SEC") and 27 the Commission.

28 Preparation of the financial statements requires management to 29 make estimates and assumptions about future events that affect the 30 reporting of assets and liabilities at the balance sheet dates and the

1 reported amounts of revenue and expense. In the event such estimates or 2 assumptions prove to be different from actual amounts, adjustments are 3 made in subsequent periods to reflect more current information. During the 4 2021 test-year, there were no adjustments made to previous estimates or 5 assumptions that had a material impact on the Company's financial 6 Of course, non-material adjustments are common and statements. 7 recorded as revised information is learned. For example, as addressed 8 later in my direct testimony (see Section IV.E.12.), during our 2021 9 accounting close, we determined that certain intangible assets had not been timely retired. Oncor made correcting entries to adjust the Company's 10 11 financial records to reflect the effects on the financial statements, including 12 recognition of a regulatory liability that arose as a result of the timely 13 retirement oversight.

14 In addition, Oncor has developed an internal control structure to meet 15 internal and external requirements and promote the Company's compliance 16 with US GAAP and applicable laws and regulations. Oncor's standards of 17 internal control and disclosure controls are designed to provide complete. 18 reliable, and timely operational and financial reporting, as well as support 19 accurate and objective development of business records and information to 20 allow the fair presentation, in all material respects, of the Company's 21 financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows, as presented in 22 Oncor's consolidated financial statements and footnotes. Significant 23 portions of my direct testimony regarding Oncor's financial reporting and 24 accounting practices have been derived from Oncor's Form 10-K – Annual 25 Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 26 1934 ("SEC Form 10-K") For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2021, as 27 well as the SEC Form 10-K filings for the fiscal years ended December 31, 28 2020 and December 31, 2019, complete copies of which are available in 29 the Investor Relations section of the www.oncor.com web-site or on the 30 Commission's filing interchange [see Project No. 18688, Item Nos. 302

1 (2019 SEC Form 10-K), 320 (2020 SEC Form 10-K), and 330 (2021 SEC 2 Form 10-K).]

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# A. Consolidated Financial Statements

4 Q. PLEASE PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF ONCOR'S CONSOLIDATED5 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

6 Oncor is a majority-owned subsidiary of Oncor Electric Delivery Holdings Α. Company LLC ("Oncor Holdings"), which is indirectly and wholly owned by 7 Sempra Energy ("Sempra"). Oncor Holdings owns 80.25% of Oncor's 8 outstanding membership interests, and Texas Transmission Investment 9 LLC ("TTI") owns the remaining 19.75%. For external financial reporting, 10 11 Oncor is managed as an integrated business and, consequently, has only one reportable segment. Also for external reporting, Oncor's consolidated 12 13 financial statements include the results of its wholly owned indirect subsidiary Oncor Electric Delivery Company NTU LLC ("Oncor NTU") 14 (formerly known as Sharyland Distribution & Transmission Services, L.L.C. 15 ("SDTS"), an indirect subsidiary of InfraREIT, Inc., which was acquired by 16 17 Oncor in May 2019).

18 As will be discussed further in my direct testimony, because Oncor 19 is subject to rate regulation, its financial statements reflect regulatory assets 20 and liabilities in accordance with accounting standards related to the effect 21 of certain types of regulation. In general, regulatory assets and liabilities 22 represent probable future revenues that will be recovered from or refunded to customers through the rate-making process based on the Public Utility 23 24 Regulatory Act, Title II, Texas Utilities Code (as amended) ("PURA") and/or 25 the Commission's orders, precedents, or substantive rules.

26

# B. Oncor Electric Delivery Company NTU LLC

27 Q. PLEASE PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF ONCOR NTU.

A. As more thoroughly addressed in the direct testimony of Oncor witness Mr.
 Wesley Speed, Oncor NTU became a wholly owned, indirect subsidiary of
 Oncor with the completion of Oncor's acquisition of all of the equity interests

of InfraREIT, Inc. and its subsidiary InfraREIT Partners, LP ("InfraREIT"), 1 2 which was approved by the Commission in Docket No. 48929 ("InfraREIT 3 Acquisition"). The end result of the InfraREIT Acquisition is that Oncor now 4 indirectly owns the electric transmission assets in the north, central, west, 5 and panhandle regions of Texas, comprising about 1,575 miles of transmission lines within the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. 6 7 system ("ERCOT"), that previously were held by SDTS and Sharyland 8 Utilities, L.P. ("SU"), as well as wholesale distribution substation assets.

9 Q. WILL THE CONSOLIDATION, FOR RATEMAKING PURPOSES, OF
10 ONCOR NTU AND ONCOR IN THIS PROCEEDING ELIMINATE THE
11 NEED FOR ONCOR NTU TO EXIST AS A SEPARATE ENTITY?

12 Α. No. The Docket No. 48929 Order (see Finding of Fact No. 58) provides that 13 it is reasonable that Oncor NTU apply to be merged into Oncor once all assets acquired in the InfraREIT Acquisition are fully depreciated. 14 However, from a practical standpoint, such an event is not expected to 15 16 occur for decades. In his direct testimony in Docket No. 48929, Oncor 17 witness Mr. Salvatore P. Montalbano explained that Oncor NTU would need 18 to be maintained at a separate Oncor subsidiary level in order to avoid 19 income tax impacts that would function to increase the combined rate base 20 of Oncor and Oncor NTU. In essence, the corporate structure where Oncor 21 NTU is maintained as a wholly owned, indirect subsidiary of Oncor 22 eliminates the step-up in basis to fair market value that would occur if the 23 transaction had been structured as a straight asset sale and, therefore, 24 exists for the benefit of electricity delivery customers.

25 Q. HOW DID ONCOR ACCOUNT FOR THE EFFECTS OF THE INFRAREIT26 ACQUISITION?

A. Oncor accounted for the InfraREIT Acquisition as a business acquisition
 with identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed recorded at their
 estimated fair values on the May 16, 2019 closing date. For assets and
 liabilities that are included for Commission cost-based regulatory rate-

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setting processes, the Company recorded estimated fair values equal to the
 regulatory book carrying values consistent with US GAAP, the USOA (*e.g.*,
 see Electric Plant Instructions No. 2.A.), and electric utility industry practice.
 We began reporting the results of the operations of Oncor NTU in our
 consolidated financial statements beginning on the transaction closing date.
 Consequently, the 2021 test-year reflects a full twelve months of costs
 related to Oncor NTU operations.

8 Q. DID THE CLOSING OF THE INFRAREIT ACQUISITION RESULT IN THE9 RECOGNITION OF ANY GOODWILL?

10 Α. Yes. Goodwill, as defined in FASB Topic 350, is an asset representing the 11 future economic benefits arising from other assets acquired in a business 12 combination. In essence, goodwill represents the premium or difference 13 between amounts paid to acquire assets and the fair value of the acquired 14 assets. Goodwill of \$676 million arising from the InfraREIT Acquisition is 15 attributable to the net assets acquired that expand Oncor's transmission 16 footprint and furthers the Company's ability to support ERCOT market 17 growth. Consistent with the commitment reflected in the Commission's 18 Order in Docket No. 48929 (see Finding of Fact No. 86), Oncor will not seek 19 recovery of any of the goodwill associated with the InfraREIT Acquisition 20 and has not included this asset in the calculation of rate base in this 21 proceeding. It should also be noted that none of the goodwill provides a tax 22 benefit in the rate-making process.

23 Q. ARE THE TRANSACTION COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INFRAREIT24 ACQUISITION REFLECTED IN THIS RATE PROCEEDING?

A. No. Consistent with the commitments reflected in the Commission's Order
in Docket No. 48929 (*e.g.*, see Finding of Fact Nos. 88-89), the acquisition
costs incurred in the transaction were recorded to operations and
maintenance expense and other deductions (*i.e.*, below the line). Further,
the majority of the transaction costs were recorded in 2019 and would not
be reflected in the 2021 test-year amounts.

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1 Q. APART FROM THE INITIAL BUSINESS RECORDING OF THE 2 INFRAREIT ACQUISITION. ARE THERE OTHER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ACCOUNTING ISSUES RELATED TO ONCOR NTU? 3 4 In connection with closing the InfraREIT Acquisition, Oncor Α. Yes. 5 extinguished all outstanding debt of InfraREIT and its subsidiaries through 6 repaying \$602.5 million principal amount of InfraREIT subsidiary debt and 7 exchanging approximately \$350.8 million principal amount of outstanding 8 InfraREIT subsidiary senior notes for a like principal amount of newly issued 9 Oncor secured senior notes. Oncor received no proceeds from the issuance of the new Oncor notes, and the exchanges were accounted for 10 as debt modifications. Consequently, there is no external capital reflected 11 12 on the books of Oncor NTU. Thus, for accounting purposes, Oncor NTU 13 capitalization reflects a long-term note payable to affiliate (*i.e.*, Oncor) and 14 equity owned by Oncor, which offset in consolidation. Because there is no external outstanding debt at Oncor NTU, this wholly owned subsidiary of 15 16 Oncor has not realized any debt issuance savings following the closing of 17 the InfraREIT Acquisition.

In addition, consistent with the Commission's Order (e.g., see 18 19 Finding of Fact Nos. 55-60 and Ordering Paragraph No. 17) and the 20 agreement of the signatories in the Docket No. 48929 proceeding, Oncor 21 consolidates Oncor NTU into its regulatory reporting filings (e.g., Earnings 22 Monitoring Report). Likewise, beginning with this immediate base-rate case, 23 Oncor NTU will also be consolidated into rate-making proceedings. To 24 facilitate consistency in its regulatory reporting and filings, Oncor has 25 applied its accounting policies and procedures to Oncor NTU. As described 26 above, because Oncor NTU will continue to exist as a separate entity 27 following the implementation of rates from this proceeding, it will be 28 necessary to continue to maintain separate books and records for this 29 subsidiary, including an accounting pro-ration of wholesale-transmission-

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service rate revenues and the recording of affiliate wholesale distribution
 substation service and Operation and Maintenance ("O&M") Services.

3 Q. DID THE ADOPTION OF ONCOR'S ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND
4 PROCEDURES FOR ONCOR NTU IMPACT THE FINANCIAL
5 CONDITION OF THE COMPANY?

6 No. There are no known material variations in the Company's financial Α. 7 position or the results of its operations and its cash flows resulting from the 8 application of Oncor's accounting and financial reporting practices to the 9 recording and management of the assets and operations acquired in the 10 InfraREIT Acquisition. While no exhaustive analysis of the former 11 accounting and reporting policies and procedures of InfraREIT has been conducted, an example of an Oncor practice that has been adopted involves 12 extending Oncor's self-insurance program for major property or liability 13 14 losses not covered by commercial insurance to cover Oncor NTU (as 15 discussed in the direct testimony of Oncor witness Mr. Ashley 16 Thenmadathil). Further, consistent with Finding of Fact No. 93 in the Docket 17 No. 48929 Order, Oncor NTU major capital expenditure projects reflected 18 in FERC A107 (Construction Work in Progress) at the time of the InfraREIT 19 Acquisition were transferred to Oncor for completion and subsequent 20 placement in service. This asset transfer expressly included the Lubbock 21 Power & Light ("LP&L") integration projects that were completed and 22 energized during 2021.

23 Q. PLEASE DISCUSS ANY OTHER FACETS OF THE GOVERNANCE AND24 MANAGEMENT OF ONCOR NTU THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

A. Since 2007, various ring-fencing measures have been taken to enhance
Oncor's credit quality and the separateness between the Oncor RingFenced Entities (including Oncor and Oncor NTU, as well as Oncor's direct
majority owner, Oncor Holdings) and entities with ownership interests in
Oncor or Oncor Holdings. As agreed in the settlement and Commission
Order in Docket No. 48929 (see Finding of Fact No. 80 and Ordering

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Paragraph No. 21), Oncor NTU is governed and managed within the existing ring-fencing structure that governs Oncor.

In addition, coincident with the May 2019 mergers arising from the
InfraREIT Acquisition, Sempra acquired an indirect 50% ownership interest
in Sharyland Holdings, L.P., the parent of Sharyland Utilities, L.L.C.
("Sharyland"). As described in the direct testimony of Oncor witness Mr.
Michael G. Grable, this transaction resulted in Sharyland becoming an
affiliate of Oncor for purposes of the Commission's affiliate rules.

9 Also consistent with the Commission Order in Docket No. 48929 (see 10 Finding of Fact Nos. 66-69 and Ordering Paragraph Nos. 19-20), Oncor 11 provides certain operations services at cost with no markup or profit to both 12 Sharyland and Oncor NTU, the latter of which has no direct employees. As 13 more fully discussed in the direct testimonies of Oncor witnesses Mr. Collin 14 M. Martin and Messrs. Speed and Grable, the provision of these operations 15 services to Oncor NTU provided the Company with the ability to retire or 16 repurpose certain duplicative electric plant in service acquired in the 17 InfraREIT Acquisition (e.g., former SDTS-owned transmission grid control 18 center and related software, hardware, and communication assets).

19 Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY CONCERNING20 ONCOR NTU.

21 As a result of the InfraREIT Acquisition, Oncor NTU became an indirect Α. 22 wholly owned subsidiary of Oncor that is governed and managed within the 23 Company's existing ring fence, providing assurance that the assets 24 acquired in the transaction are operated and maintained in the same 25 manner as Oncor's other T&D assets. The Company consolidates the 26 results of its operations with those of Oncor NTU in the Company's external 27 reporting and, as agreed to and ordered in Docket No. 48929, the 28 Company's rate filing in this proceeding consolidates its operations with 29 those of Oncor NTU for rate-making purposes. Accordingly, Oncor's 30 accounting policies, procedures, and practices have been applied to Oncor

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рі 13. 1 1 NTU to provide consistency in the determination of rate base and cost of 2 service in this consolidated filing. However, to reflect transparency of the 3 net rate base and operations of Oncor NTU, the schedules in this rate filing 4 separately identify costs attributable to this wholly owned subsidiary and the 5 legacy business functions (see No. 5 of the RFP General Instructions).

6 C. US GAAP and Rate Case Regulatory Presentation Differences
 7 Q. PLEASE DISCUSS INSTANCES WHERE THE REQUIREMENTS OF US
 8 GAAP DIFFER FROM THE GUIDANCE REFLECTED IN THE USOA.

9 Α. US GAAP itself recognizes the unique nature of rate-regulated businesses, whereby certain accounting practices that would not be allowed for non-10 11 regulated companies may be acceptable for accounting by utilities like 12 Oncor [e.g., deferral of incremental operating expenses arising from the Company's response to the 2020 outbreak of the novel Coronavirus 13 Disease 2019 ("COVID-19")]. Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 14 15 980, "Regulated Operations," of the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") requires that Oncor reflect the effects of rate regulation on the 16 17 Company's reporting of its results of operations and statements of financial position. 18

19 In general, US GAAP for rate-regulated businesses allow utilities to 20 conform to utility accounting practices and reporting requirements 21 prescribed by the USOA. Nonetheless, as I will describe below, there 22 remain a few noteworthy issues that are presented differently in the 23 Company's rate filing, when compared to its financial statements reflected 24 in external reports (e.g., SEC Form 10-K).

25

1. Federal Income Taxes

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW FEDERAL INCOME TAXES ARE REFLECTED
IN ONCOR'S EXTERNAL FINANCIAL REPORTING AND IN THIS RATE
FILING.

A. For purposes of federal income tax within the United States, Oncor is a
partnership. However, as explained in the direct testimony of Oncor witness

1 Ms. Bonnie L. Clutter, Oncor participates in a Tax Sharing Agreement 2 ("TSA") with Oncor Holdings, Sempra Texas Holdings Corp., and TTI that 3 provides for the calculation of amounts related to income taxes for each of 4 Oncor Holdings and Oncor as if these entities were taxed as corporations 5 and requires payments to Oncor's owners determined on that basis. While 6 partnerships are not subject to income taxes, in consideration of the presentation of our financial statements as an entity subject to cost-based 7 regulatory rate-setting processes with such costs historically including 8 income taxes, Oncor's financial statements present amounts determined 9 under the TSA as "provision in lieu of income taxes" and "liability in lieu of 10 11 deferred income taxes." For rate-making purposes, Oncor reports the 12 amounts, and any adjustments thereto, reflected in the "provision in lieu of income taxes" as income tax expense and the amounts, and any 13 14 adjustments thereto, in the "liability in lieu of deferred income taxes" as accumulated deferred income taxes ("ADIT"). 15

Nonetheless, the determination of federal income taxes proposed in 16 17 the Company's requested cost of service does not reflect the provision in 18 lieu of income taxes recorded during its 2021 test-year. Instead, the 19 regulatory practice of synchronizing the tax-deductible level of interest 20 expense with the test-year-end level of invested capital results in a provision 21 for income tax expense that is more representative of the costs that will be 22 realized when new rates arising from this proceeding become effective. The 23 test-year levels of income tax expense and ADIT, as well as known and 24 measurable adjustments, including interest synchronization, are discussed in Ms. Clutter's direct testimony and are summarized in RFP Schedule II-E-25 26 3, which she sponsors.

27

#### 2. Estimated Net Removal Costs

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW ESTIMATED NET REMOVAL COSTS ARE
REFLECTED IN ONCOR'S EXTERNAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND
IN THIS RATE FILING.

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1 Α. At the 2021 test-year-end, Oncor's consolidated financial statements 2 reflected a regulatory liability of \$1,348 million related to its estimated net 3 removal costs. As discussed in the direct testimony of Oncor witness Mr. 4 Dane A. Watson, the Company collects estimated net asset removal costs 5 through its allowed depreciation rates over the operating lives of the assets. 6 Any net difference between realized removal costs and amounts collected 7 through regulated rates is reflected in the Company's accumulated 8 provision for depreciation of electric utility plant (FERC A108).

9 However, for purposes of reporting to (e.g., annual earnings 10 monitoring) and rate-making proceedings before the Commission, the regulatory liability reflected in external US GAAP reporting is reclassified 11 12 from the regulatory liability to accumulated depreciation. This presentation 13 in Oncor's RFP in this proceeding serves to reduce the Company's net rate 14 base and is consistent with the past treatment of this regulatory liability from 15 Docket Nos. 35717, 38929, and 46957, as well as Oncor's Transmission 16 Cost of Service ("TCOS") and Distribution Cost Recovery Factor ("DCRF") 17 interim update applications. It is also consistent with Oncor's reporting of 18 estimated net removal costs in the Company's FERC Form No. 1 reporting.

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## 3. Leasing Arrangements

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW CERTAIN LEASING ARRANGEMENTS ARE
 REFLECTED IN ONCOR'S EXTERNAL FINANCIAL REPORTING AND IN
 THIS RATE FILING.

In early 2016, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 23 Α. 24 2016-02, which created FASB Topic 842, "Leases" ("Topic 842"). Topic 842 25 amends previous US GAAP and requires balance sheet recognition of 26 substantially all lease assets and liabilities, including operating leases. All 27 of Oncor's existing lease obligations meet the definition of an operating 28 lease. The Company's adoption of Topic 842 at the beginning of 2019 29 affects the Oncor balance sheet, because our contracts for various office 30 space, service centers, fleet vehicles, communication towers, and

equipment storage locations are operating leases. In general, pursuant to 1 2 Topic 842, Oncor's financial statements reflect a "right-of-use" ("ROU") 3 asset related to the operating leases and a liability equal to the net present 4 value of the lease payments. A lease exists when a contract conveys the 5 right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange 6 for consideration. As of the lease commencement date, we recognize a 7 lease liability for our obligation to make lease payments, which we initially 8 measure at present value using our incremental borrowing rate at the date 9 of lease commencement (unless the rate implicit in the lease is readily 10 determinable). We determine our incremental borrowing rate based on the 11 rate of interest that we would have to pay to borrow an amount equal to the 12 lease payments on a collateralized basis over a similar term in a similar 13 economic environment. We also record a ROU asset for our right to use 14 the underlying asset, which is initially equal to the lease liability and adjusted 15 for any lease payments made at or before lease commencement, lease 16 incentives and any initial direct costs. As reflected in the consolidated 17 balance disclosure in Oncor's 2021 Form SEC 10-K, at the end of the 2021 18 test-year, there was \$146 million of operating lease ROU and other assets. 19 Certain of our leases include options to extend the lease terms for up to 20 20 years, while others include options to terminate early. The ROU asset total 21 is based on lease terms that may include such options to extend or 22 terminate the lease when it is reasonably certain that we will exercise that 23 option.

Operating lease liabilities are not classified as debt for US GAAP purposes under Topic 842 and, in general, are not treated as debt for regulatory purposes. Similarly, for rate-making purposes, these ROU assets generally are not reflected in Oncor's adjusted test-year-end levels of electric plant in service or other rate base components. Instead, the cost of service reflects the effects of annual lease expense on the adjusted testyear levels of operating costs.

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Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE ANY EXCEPTIONS TO THE NORMAL
 REGULATORY TREATMENT OF ROU ASSETS.

3 Α. As described in the direct testimony of Oncor witness Mr. Keith Hull, in late 4 2021. Oncor leased multiple mobile generation assets to aid the Company's 5 ability to restore power after a widespread power outage event, as authorized by PURA § 39.918(b)(1). Pursuant to US GAAP, the lease 6 7 associated with these mobile generation assets is classified as an operating lease and follows the Topic 842 accounting treatment described above. 8 9 However, pursuant to the provisions in PURA § 39.918(i), these assets have 10 been reclassified as financial leases in this rate proceeding to reflect the 11 present value of future payments required under the lease in the Company's 12 balance of invested capital (i.e., rate base) and the long-term debt 13 component of Oncor's capitalization and weighted average cost of capital calculation. 14

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## 4. Retirement Benefits

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE US GAAP CHANGES REGARDING DISCLOSURE
OF CERTAIN RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR EXTERNAL FINANCIAL
REPORTING.

19 As reported in Oncor's 2018 SEC Form 10-K, which is available in the Α. 20 "Investor Relations" section of the www.oncor.com web-site or on the 21 - Commission's filing interchange (Project No. 18688, Item No. 275), Oncor 22 adopted the FASB amendment to Topic 715, "Compensation - Retirement 23 Benefits" arising from ASU 2017-07, "Improving the Presentation of Net 24 Periodic Pension Cost and Net Periodic Postretirement Benefit Cost." For 25 US GAAP purposes, Topic 715 requires the non-service cost components 26 of net retirement benefit plan costs to be presented as non-operating in the 27 income statement and prescribes that only the service cost component of 28 net retirement benefit plan cost is eligible for capitalization as part of 29 inventory or property, plant, and equipment. Oncor adopted this 30 amendment to US GAAP at the beginning of 2018 and applied the income

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- statement presentation on a retrospective basis while the capitalization
   eligibility requirement was applied only on a prospective basis.
- Q. PLEASE DISCUSS NET PERIODIC PENSION AND POSTRETIREMENT
  BENEFIT COST COMPONENTS AND WHAT IS MEANT BY THE TERM
  "NON-SERVICE COST."
- 6 Α. As defined in Topic 715, components of net periodic pension and other 7 postretirement costs include: (a) service cost; (b) interest cost; (c) actual return on plan assets; (d) gain or loss; (e) amortization of prior service cost 8 9 or credit; and (f) amortization of the transition obligation or asset. Topic 715 10 defines service cost as the actuarial present value of benefits attributed to 11 services rendered by employees during the period. Because the service 12 cost (*i.e.*, the value of benefits attributed to services rendered by employees 13 during the period) is the only component of pension and other 14 postretirement plan costs that can be capitalized as part of inventory or property, plant and equipment, the application of Topic 715 results in 15 Oncor's recording the non-service cost ("NSC") [i.e., components (b) - (f) 16 17 identified above] of plan costs in a regulatory asset instead.
- Q. HOW DOES APPLICATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO TOPIC 715
  "COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS" AFFECT ONCOR AND RATEMAKING?
- 21 Α. For regulatory purposes, the USOA instructions provide that the labor costs 22 (e.g., pay and expenses) of employees engaged in construction work is 23 "properly includable in the electric plant accounts" (*i.e.*, capitalization, see 24 Electric Plant Instructions No. 3. Components of construction cost). 25 Similarly, the definition of FERC A163 (Stores Expense Undistributed) 26 provides that labor and expenses incurred in the operation of storerooms, 27 including purchasing, storage, handling and distribution of materials and 28 supplies ("M&S"), are appropriately added to the costs of M&S through a 29 suitable loading charge (*i.e.*, capitalization). Such labor costs include both 30 the service cost and NSC components of pension and other postretirement

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plan costs. In general, for rate-making, Oncor continues to separately
expense or capitalize, as appropriate, such NSC costs similarly to the
recognized service costs, with the capitalized costs being depreciated or
amortized ratably over the lives of the related assets. The NSC recognized
in expense for rate-making purposes is reclassified as non-operating other
deductions for external financial reporting.

7 The application of the amendments to Topic 715 complicates both 8 US GAAP and regulatory reporting related to Oncor's pension and other 9 postretirement benefit plan costs, but will not have an effect on the 10 Company's rate-making process, results of operations, financial position, or 11 net change in total cash flows. To be clear, PURA § 36.065 provides 12 practical assurance of cost recovery of both service costs and NSC since 13 the legislation provides both that: (a) pension and other postemployment 14 benefit ("OPEB") costs found reasonable by the Commission be included in 15 the rates of an electric utility; and (b) any difference between amounts 16 approved in an electric utility's last general rate proceeding and the annual 17 amount of such pension and OPEB costs as determined by actuarial or 18 other similar studies shall be recorded in a reserve account (i.e., a 19 regulatory asset). Accordingly, for rate-making purposes, Oncor has not 20 changed how it accounts for pension and OPEB service cost or NSC and 21 continues to either expense costs as O&M or capitalize such amounts, as 22 appropriate, to construction or inventory costs.

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# 5. Unbilled Revenues

24 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE ACCOUNTING PRACTICE RELATING TO THE25 RECOGNITION OF UTILITY REVENUES.

A. Oncor records revenue for delivery services under the accrual method.
 Revenues are recognized when delivery services are provided to customers
 on the basis of periodic cycle readings and include an estimated accrual for
 the delivery fee value of service from the last billed date to the end of the
 accounting period. In general, this estimated accrued revenue is based on

actual consumption for residential and small business customers [*i.e.*,
commercial and industrial ("C&I") premises with demand levels of 10 kW or
below] or based on the most recent billing period for larger C&I customers.
From an accounting perspective, this accrual amount, known as Unbilled
Revenues, represents an estimate of revenues not yet billed for which
significant actual costs have been realized for service that has already been
provided.

8 The fact that Oncor's customers are billed on a periodic cycle basis 9 with billings being prepared throughout the month, the Unbilled Revenue 10 accrual is materially significant. As shown in my illustrative testimony 11 Exhibit WAL-3, based on the planned billing cycle schedule for December 12 2022, the number of unbilled revenue days at year-end 2022 is about 76 13 percent of the number of billed days during the month.

# 14 Q. IN GENERAL, HOW ARE UNBILLED REVENUES REFLECTED IN THE15 RATEMAKING PROCESS?

16 As described in Oncor witness Mr. Thenmadathil's direct testimony, the A. 17 period of time represented by unbilled electric delivery service is a key 18 component of the cash working capital calculation. In general, however, unbilled revenues and the associated unbilled kWh and kW values related 19 20 to the unbilled revenues are largely disregarded in the ratemaking process. 21 For example, see Oncor witness Mr. Darryl E. Nelson's direct testimony 22 relating to the historic 2021 test-year billing units which do not reflect the 23 net unbilled kWh or kW values supporting unbilled revenues recognized 24 during the 2021 test-year. In addition, as I discuss later in my direct 25 testimony, Oncor's rate base in this proceeding excludes the balances of 26 regulatory assets and liabilities related to over-/under-recovery of unbilled 27 revenues that are associated with the reconcilable costs separately 28 recovered through the Company's Transmission Cost Recovery Factor 29 ("TCRF") and Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Factor ("EECRF") tariff 30 processes. Because the revenues are reconcilable, only billed TCRF and

EECRF revenues are reflected in each of the Commission's pre-determined reconciliation periods. Accordingly, for regulatory accounting purposes, the <u>unbilled</u> TCRF and EECRF revenues are reclassified from revenue to a temporary deferred credit account (*i.e.*, a regulatory liability) to not only reflect the regulatory treatment, but also the underlying economics of the recorded amounts.

7 8 Q. IN GENERAL, HOW ARE UNBILLED REVENUES TREATED FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES?

9 The underlying economic impact of unbilled revenue recognition includes Α. 10 the effect of the unbilled revenue on the determination of taxable income. 11 Amounts recorded to unbilled revenues are included in taxable income and. 12 pursuant to the TSA. Oncor pays current tax obligations related to the 13 unbilled revenue amounts, including those associated with the TCRF and EECRF tariffs. Thus, even though unbilled TCRF and EECRF revenues 14 15 are disregarded for ratemaking purposes, the recognition of the unbilled revenues produces a deferred tax asset related to these disregarded 16 17 revenues. Accordingly, it is appropriate to reflect the related deferred tax 18 assets and liabilities related to the deferred unbilled TCRF and EECRF 19 revenue in rate base because they represent actual net payments that affect 20 the total net ADIT liability. In essence, the net ADIT asset and liability 21 represents the payment of the tax obligation on revenues in advance of 22 when the TCRF and EECRF revenue is recognized for book purposes. 23 Because the tax obligation is paid before the revenue is actually realized, 24 Oncor must utilize investor-supplied capital to fund the tax obligation.

25

# 6. Goodwill

26 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW GOODWILL IS REFLECTED IN ONCOR'S
27 EXTERNAL FINANCIAL REPORTING AND IN THIS RATE FILING.

A. In general, as a result of cost-based rate-making practices, the book value
of most of Oncor's assets is a reasonable assessment of the fair value of
the assets.

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1 As reported in its 2021 SEC Form 10-K, Oncor's financial statements 2 reflect a total of \$4,740 million of goodwill at the 2021 test-year-end. This 3 total includes goodwill of \$676 million associated with the 2019 InfraREIT 4 Acquisition discussed earlier in my direct testimony and a net balance of \$4,064 million recognized in a 2007 transaction approved by the 5 Commission in Docket No. 34077. For rate-making purposes, none of 6 7 Oncor's goodwill asset is included in the Company's requested total of net 8 invested capital (*i.e.*, rate base). Similarly, adjustments to the test-year-end 9 balance of equity capital serves to adjust the actual amount of membership interests (i.e., equity capital) reflected in the Company's external financial 10 11 reporting to the values considered for rate-making purposes.

D. Compliance with Rate Filing Package Requirements
 Q. HOW HAS THE COMPANY PREPARED ITS PROPOSED CALCULATION
 OF THE COST OF SERVICE FOR THE CONSOLIDATED ONCOR AND
 ONCOR NTU FUNCTIONS AND THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION
 IN THIS APPLICATION?

17 Α. Oncor has prepared its application in compliance with the RFP instructions 18 adopted by the Commission in Project No. 49199. Information taken from 19 the Company's books and records have been summarized and depicted on the schedules prescribed by the RFP instructions. Such schedules required 20 21 by the RFP are referenced by schedule number, and each reflects the 22 identity of the witness (or witnesses) sponsoring the schedule. As I 23 mentioned above, for purposes of clarity when appropriate, Oncor has 24 added columns to the schedules to separately reflect the costs of the Oncor 25 NTU subsidiary. Also, as appropriate, workpapers used in the preparation 26 of certain schedules have been gathered by witnesses and included in the 27 Company's application.

Q. HOW DO THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THE RFP ADOPTED IN PROJECT NO.
49199 COMPARE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS IN PLACE AT THE TIME
OF ONCOR'S LAST BASE-RATE CASE?

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1 Α. In general, the requirements are guite similar. However, as noted in the 2 Project No. 49199 Order, the adopted revisions include an expansion of 3 Section VI: Other Schedules to include the various Schedule VI-M reports reflecting additional information about plant additions for transmission lines, 4 5 high voltage switching stations, and substations. In addition, the revisions 6 dictate providing additional information relating to costs and loads of direct-7 current interconnections to areas outside of ERCOT, as well as increased 8 disclosure about costs to serve wholesale customers at distribution voltage. 9 Further, schedules requiring information related to certain components of 10 recognized construction costs have also been added to increase transparency of capitalized costs. 11

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THESE COMPONENTS OF CAPITALIZED
CONSTRUCTION COSTS NOW SEPARATELY IDENTIFIED IN THE RFP
SCHEDULES.

A. I sponsor RFP Schedules II-B-15A and II-B-15B, which provide statements
of the methods, procedures, and calculations followed by Oncor in
capitalizing an Allowance for Funds Used During Construction ("AFUDC")
and Other Construction Overhead amounts ("COH"), as well as historical
AFUDC and COH rates.

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1. Allowance for Funds Used During Construction

E. Components of Construction Costs

22 Q. PLEASE DISCUSS WHAT IS MEANT BY AFUDC AND ITS 23 SIGNIFICANCE FOR ONCOR'S CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.

A. The recognition of AFUDC is prescribed in the USOA Electric Plant
 Instruction No. 3 Components of construction costs (see section A.17). The
 Company's policy regarding the use of and general application of AFUDC
 accruals is reflected in <u>Oncor Principles</u>, <u>Policies and Procedures</u> –
 <u>Accounting</u> Title: 50-02 *Allowance for Funds Used During Construction* (*AFUDC*) ("Policy 50-02"), which summarizes Oncor's procedures for
 recognizing AFUDC on expenditures reflected in Oncor's ongoing

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1 construction work in progress ("CWIP") assets. As defined in Policy 50-02, 2 (see my direct testimony Exhibit WAL-6), "AFUDC is a cost accounting 3 procedure whereby amounts based upon interest charges on borrowed 4 funds and a return on equity capital used to finance construction are 5 charged to electric plant." Oncor capitalizes AFUDC on all active work 6 projects involving construction periods lasting greater than thirty days, with 7 such accruals beginning in the subsequent month after construction 8 commencement. Regardless of business function (*i.e.*, TRAN, DIST, MET, and TDCS, which are defined later in my testimony), Oncor's AFUDC 9 accruals are calculated based on the Company's consolidated capital 10 11 structure, which results in each business function having the same AFUDC 12 accrual rate each month. For external reporting purposes, the initial income 13 effect of recognizing the interest portion of capitalized AFUDC is accounted 14 for as a reduction to interest expense, and the equity portion of capitalized 15 AFUDC is accounted for as other income. In accordance with the 16 instructions for RFP Schedule II-B-15A, the Company has provided 17 information concerning the accrual of AFUDC for the five calendar years 18 ending with the 2021 test-year.

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#### 2. Construction Overheads

20 Q. PLEASE DISCUSS WHAT IS MEANT BY CONSTRUCTION OVERHEAD21 AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE FOR ONCOR.

22 To assure that construction work projects bear equitable portions of all Α. 23 indirect construction costs, USOA Electric Plant Instruction No. 4 Overhead 24 Construction Costs provides that all "overhead construction costs, such as 25 engineering, supervision, general office salaries and expense, construction 26 engineering and supervision by others than the accounting utility, law 27 expenses, insurance, injuries and damages, relief and pensions, taxes and 28 interest, shall be charged to particular jobs or units on the basis of the 29 amounts of such overheads reasonably applicable thereto." The 30 Company's policy regarding the capitalization of indirect construction

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1 overhead costs is reflected in Oncor Principles, Policies and Procedures -2 Accounting Title: 50-01 Capitalization of Indirect Construction Overhead 3 (see my direct testimony Exhibit WAL-7). Exhibit WAL-7 provides examples 4 of construction-related costs realized by Oncor that cannot practically be 5 charged directly to specific construction projects and are therefore eligible 6 to be allocated to such projects through construction overhead loading. In 7 accordance with that policy, separate functional indirect COH loading rates 8 are calculated monthly and applied to the Company's construction activities. 9 Schedule II-B-15B includes a complete statement of the methods, 10 procedures, and calculations followed in capitalizing COH, separated into 11 the various business functions. In addition, Schedule II-B-15B reflects 12 Oncor's annual historical COH capitalization rates for the five calendar 13 years ending with the 2021 test-year period. 14 F. Overview of Cost Functionalization

Q. WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHEN YOU USE THE TERMS "FUNCTIONALIZE"
OR "FUNCTIONALIZATION"?

17 As prescribed by General Instruction Nos. 5 and 11 of the RFP, Oncor Α. 18 separates its net invested capital and operating costs into the applicable functions identified in 16 TAC § 25.344, "Cost Separation Proceedings" and 19 described in 16 TAC § 25.341, "Definitions." For a Transmission & 20 21 Distribution Investor-Owned Utility ("TDU") such as Oncor, functionalization 22 serves to separate costs into the following applicable business functions: 23 (a.) Transmission ("TRAN"), (b.) Distribution ("DIST"), (c.) Transmission and 24 Distribution Utility Metering System Services ("MET"), (d.) Transmission 25 and Distribution Utility Billing System Services ("TBILL"), and (e.) 26 Transmission and Distribution Utility Customer Service ("TDCS"). As 27 allowed by General Instruction No. 5 of the RFP, Oncor combines the TBILL 28 and TDCS functions into one category labeled TDCS.

In general, the USOA provides reasonable cost separation between
 the identified business functions, with certain accounts being related to a

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specific function. Notwithstanding, other accounts may reflect costs that
are applicable to more than one business function and must therefore be
separated between the various functions based on either: (1) direct
assignment; (2) account-specific functionalization; or (3) when neither direct
assignment or account-specific functionalization is possible, using default
functionalization factors as addressed in Section II-F of the RFP.

7 8 Q.

WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO FUNCTIONALIZE COSTS BETWEEN TRAN, DIST, MET, AND TDCS?

9 Operating within ERCOT, Oncor provides wholesale transmission services Α. 10 to the Company's own electricity distribution business and to other 11 distribution electric utilities, cooperatives, and municipalities. Oncor's distribution services are provided to retail electric providers ("REPs") that 12 sell electricity to retail customers within Oncor's certificated service area. 13 14 Because the customer bases benefiting from Oncor's wholesale 15 transmission service and retail distribution service differ, reasonable cost 16 separation is necessary to ensure that the parties receiving the benefit of 17 the electric delivery service are the ones paying for the cost of such service.

18 Also, as described in the direct testimony of Oncor witness Mr. 19 Matthew A. Troxle, rate design for certain components of the Company's 20 cost of service, such as measurement of electricity consumption and 21 demand, as well as customer support and billing activities, have been 22 decoupled, at least in part, from variable billing determinants and are 23 instead recovered through a fixed premise customer charge and metering 24 charge. The functionalization of costs into the MET and TDCS functions 25 facilitates the development of reasonable tariff rates to recover these costs 26 from the appropriate customer bases.

Q. DOES ONCOR'S DIRECT ASSIGNMENT OR ALLOCATION OF ITS
 TEST-YEAR COSTS ACHIEVE THE COMMISSION'S OBJECTIVE TO
 PROPERLY FUNCTIONALIZE AMOUNTS TO THE COMPANY'S
 BUSINESS FUNCTIONS?

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1 Α. Yes. As stated above, most of Oncor's costs can be directly assigned to a 2 utility function based on the specific FERC account being functionalized. 3 Pursuant to the three-tier functionalization process reflected in the RFP 4 General Instruction No. 11, for those costs that cannot be directly assigned, 5 Oncor uses an account-specific allocation based on related costs that can 6 be directly assigned or other cost-causation metric. Despite sophistication 7 in Oncor's financial and accounting system, a practical direct assignment or 8 account-specific allocation of costs may not be possible, thereby 9 necessitating the employment of the default factors presented in RFP 10 Schedule II-F to facilitate a reasonable functionalization of the cost.

- IV. <u>DESCRIPTION AND FUNCTIONALIZATION OF NET RATE BASE</u>
   Q. PLEASE PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF ONCOR'S UTILITY RATE BASE
   REFLECTED IN THIS APPLICATION.
- 14 Α. The Commission's Substantive Rules [see 16 TAC § 25.231(c)(2)] provide 15 that the rate base of a utility, "sometimes referred to as invested capital, 16 includes as a major component the original cost of plant, property, and 17 equipment, less accumulated depreciation, used and useful in rendering 18 service to the public." Other significant components of the Company's net 19 rate base include Oncor's regulatory assets and liabilities, plant held for 20 future use, and various working capital components, offset by ADIT. As 21 summarized on RFP Schedule II-B, Oncor's net rate base at the 2021 test-22 year-end, including known and measurable adjustments thereto, totals 23 \$18,816 million. While the reasonableness and necessity of various 24 components of Oncor's rate base is supported in the direct testimonies of 25 other Oncor witnesses and myself, this section of my direct testimony 26 provides the combined net total of invested capital used and useful by the 27 Company as of the end of the test-year period.
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# A. Electric Plant in Service

29 Q. PLEASE PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY
30 REGARDING ELECTRIC PLANT IN SERVICE.

1 Α. As shown in RFP Schedule II-B, Oncor's consolidated total of original cost 2 of electric plant in service – gross totals almost \$31.1 billion at the 2021 3 test-year-end, representing the largest component of Oncor's rate base. 4 Assets reflected in Electric Plant in Service ("EPIS") are stated at original 5 cost and include materials, both direct and indirect labor, applicable COH, and AFUDC. EPIS, net of accumulated depreciation, together with CWIP 6 7 and Electric Plant Held for Future Use ("EPHFU"), make up the Company's 8 gross Property, Plant, and Equipment - net ("PP&E") of almost \$23 billion, 9 as reported in Oncor's 2021 SEC Form 10-K.

10 Oncor does not own Production Plant, but does have EPIS 11 investments recorded in the remaining four of the five major sub-divisions 12 prescribed in the USOA electric plant descriptions. These plant descriptions provide an effective foundation for the functionalization of Oncor's EPIS into 13 14 the major business functions prescribed by the RFP. In this section of my 15 direct testimony, I will address Oncor's (1) Transmission Plant, (2) 16 Distribution Plant, (3) Metering Investment, (4) Communication Equipment, and (5) Other General Plant and Intangible Assets. 17

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#### 1. Transmission Plant

19 Q. PLEASE PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY20 REGARDING TRANSMISSION PLANT.

21 The Company's investment in transmission plant is recorded as EPIS in Α. 22 USOA accounts 350 through 359, as well as account 349, which Oncor 23 uses to record values reflecting non-depreciable transmission-related Land 24 Owned in Fee. As defined in 16 TAC § 25.341(14), transmission assets 25 relate to "system and discretionary services associated with facilities at or 26 above 60 kilovolts necessary to transform and move electricity from the 27 point of interconnection of a generation source or third-party electric grid 28 facilities, to the point of interconnection with distribution, retail customer or 29 other third-party facilities, and related processes necessary to perform such transformation and movement." In general, transmission investment 30

includes the capitalized cost of electric plant assets that physically begin at
 the high-voltage bushing of a generation unit-main transformer and
 terminate at the high-side bushing of a distribution substation power (*i.e.*,
 step-down) transformer. Such transmission investment includes both
 tangible (*e.g.*, towers, poles, overhead conductor) and intangible (*e.g.*, land
 easements and rights-of-way) assets.

7 My direct testimony related to transmission plant addresses the 8 functionalization of the costs reflected in accounts 349-359, as well as other 9 EPIS recorded in other FERC accounts that are appropriately assigned to 10 the TRAN function. In addition, the discussion regarding transmission plant 11 will also summarize Oncor's transmission investment related to direct-12 current interconnection investment, and asset costs recognized as electric 13 plant acquisition adjustments.

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#### a. Functionalization

15 Q. HOW HAS ONCOR FUNCTIONALIZED ITS 2021 TEST-YEAR-END16 BALANCES OF INVESTMENT IN TRANSMISSION PLANT?

17 As summarized in my Exhibit WAL-4, Oncor records transmission plant in Α. 18 FERC A350 through A359, as well account 349 which Oncor has adopted 19 to distinguish between non-depreciable land owned in fee (account 349) 20 and depreciable land rights (FERC A350). Other than certain portions of 21 FERC A353, EPIS recorded in account 349 through FERC A359 has been 22 directly assigned to the TRAN function based on the FERC account 23 number. Certain assets that have been recorded in FERC A353 (Station 24 Equipment) reflect EPIS associated with load serving equipment located 25 within the transmission switching station and, depending on the voltage 26 rating designation reflected in the Company's continuing property records, 27 is either directly assigned to TRAN (if at or greater than 60 kilovolts) or DIST 28 (if less than 60 kilovolts). Documentation related to the direct assignment 29 of these costs to the TRAN or DIST business function, as appropriate, is

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