#### BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW MEXICO'S ABANDONMENT OF SAN JUAN GENERATING STATION UNITS 1 AND 4

Case No. 19-00018-UT

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW MEXICO

Applicant

Prepared Rebuttal Testimony of David B. Posner

**On Behalf of Sierra Club** 

**NOVEMBER 15, 2019** 

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## 1 I. Introduction

2	Q.	Please state your name and business address.
3	A.	My name is David B. Posner. I am an independent consultant. My business
4		address is 1801 Wedemeyer Street Unit 322, San Francisco, CA 94129.
5	Q.	On whose behalf are you testifying?
6	A.	I am testifying on behalf of Sierra Club.
7	Q.	Please summarize your educational background and recent work experience.
8	A.	I was graduated from Cornell University in 1989 with a Bachelor of Arts degree
9		in history. In 1997, I received a Doctor of Philosophy degree in history from Yale
10		University. In 2003, I received a Master of Business Administration degree in
11		finance from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.
12		Since 2006 I have worked on energy finance matters for the federal government
13		as well as for various non-profit organizations and for-profit companies.
14		A copy of my current resume is included as Exhibit DBP-1.
15	Q.	Have you previously testified before this Commission?
16	A.	No.
17	Q.	What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?
18	A.	I have been asked to evaluate whether continued operation of San Juan
19		Generating Station (SJGS) is a feasible scenario, as Public Regulation
20		Commission Staff witness Mr. Dhiraj "Raj" Solomon has testified, given that 26
21		U.S.C. § 45Q (hereafter 45Q) provides tax credits for up to 12 years for each
22		metric ton (or tonne) of carbon dioxide captured and sequestered by certain
23		projects, including retrofits of coal generating facilities with SJGS's
24		characteristics.

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- 1 Q. Please summarize your findings.
- 2 A. My main findings are as follows:

3	1.	Continuing to operate SJGS after retrofitting for Carbon Capture and
4		Sequestration (CCS or CCUS) is not a feasible financial or economic
5		scenario for either PNM or Enchant Energy (Enchant), the firm that is
6		proposing to operate SJGS "in conjunction with" the City of Farmington,
7		and upon whose materials Mr. Solomon relies for his opinion that CCS is
8		a feasible option that PNM should have evaluated.
9	2.	Reports and statements issued by Enchant rely on a number of
10		unrealistically optimistic or incorrect assumptions about how 45Q tax
11		credits could contribute to the financing of the SJGS CCS retrofit,
12		including these key contentions in the publicly available "Carbon Capture
13		Retrofit of San Juan Generating Station" presentation made by Enchant
14		Energy to the United States Energy Association on June 27, 2019:
15		a. That "tax equity financing <b>normally</b> requires an 8-10% after tax IRR
16		[internal rate of return]" (emphasis added); and
17		b. That, as a consequence, "the project will generate more than enough
18		tax credits to support a tax equity financing that covers 100% of the
19		capital costs" of the retrofit.
20		As I will show in this testimony, these Enchant claims are highly suspect,
21		as they lack evidentiary support and reflect critical misunderstandings of
22		tax equity financing.
23	3.	In addition, Enchant fails to address as serious challenges to the project's
24		viability the concerns of tax equity investors about the riskiness of
25		new/unproven technologies or the requirement that the project begin
26		construction before January 1, 2024 in order to be eligible for 45Q tax
27		credits.

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1	4.	In sum, the suggestion that 45Q tax credits could be monetized to provide
2		the upfront capital for the City of Farmington/Enchant project is highly
3		suspect. Potential tax equity investors would have strong grounds to
4		demand a higher discount above the 8-10% range that Enchant deems
5		normal. Nor would it be reasonable to expect tax equity investors to
6		provide all the capital for the project. For the remainder of the capital,
7		Enchant would need to find additional investors, who, given the nature of
8		tax equity financing, would be junior to tax equity and require even higher
9		returns. This would further raise capital costs.
10	5.	Assuming that PNM will have no, or only limited ability, to monetize 45Q
11		tax credits itself when the retrofit is proposed to enter into service, PNM
12		would require tax equity investments at a similar scale as Enchant. PNM
13		would face most of the same obstacles that Enchant would face in
14		financing a carbon capture project at SJGS (though PNM would benefit
15		from its investment-grade credit rating).
16	6.	Finally, it is worth noting that tax equity supply is limited and tends to
17		seek the safest investment available. Since tax equity partners are exposed
18		to risk of mismanagement by their operating partner (and expect to be
19		indemnified in the event of contract breaches), they prefer to work with
20		creditworthy partners. <sup>1</sup> Enchant concedes it does not have an investment-
21		grade credit rating. <sup>2</sup> PNM currently holds the lowest investment grade
22		credit rating, BBB-/Baa3. <sup>3</sup> With wind and solar deals still offering tax
23		credits for projects that will enter service until the statutory deadline for
24		45Q projects to begin construction, solar deals offering tax credits after

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Stoel Rives LLP, "Project Finance for Wind Power Projects," available at <u>https://www.stoel.com/legal-</u> insights/special-reports/the-law-of-wind/project-finance-for-wind-power-projects. <sup>2</sup> Enchant Energy, "Carbon Capture Retrofit of San Juan Generating Station" at 11, presentation to the

United States Energy Association on June 27, 2019, Exhibit DBP-2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> "Moody's announces completion of a periodic review of ratings of PNM Resources, Inc.," November 6, 2019, available at https://www.moodys.com/research/Moodys-announces-completion-of-a-periodic-reviewof-ratings-of--

PR 410884?WT.mc id=AM%7eWWFob29fRmluYW5jZV9TQl9SYXRpbmcgTmV3c19BbGxfRW5n%7 e20191106 PR 410884&yptr=yahoo.

1		that deadline, and both wind and solar projects offering significant
2		accelerated depreciation benefits before and after that deadline, it is likely
3		that tax equity investors will completely shun highly risky CCS projects
4		and choose to limit investments to mature and reliable renewable projects.
5	Q.	What materials did you review and what analyses did you prepare as part of
6		the preparation of your testimony?
7	A.	I have reviewed the Prepared Direct Testimony of Staff Witness Solomon and the
8		documents he has included as his exhibits. I also have reviewed the "Carbon
9		Capture Retrofit of San Juan Generating Station" presentation made by Enchant
10		Energy to the United States Energy Association on June 27, 2019. In addition, my
11		employment over the past three years has been focused on investigating the use of
12		federal tax credits to incentivize energy projects.
13	II.	Background

14 **Q.** What is tax equity financing?

A. The 45Q federal tax credits, like the well-known solar Investment Tax Credit
(ITC) and wind Production Tax Credit (PTC), is not "refundable." That means
that it must be used to offset the taxpayer's other income tax liabilities and cannot
be paid out as a cash credit to the taxpayer. Thus, a taxpayer can only obtain the
economic benefits of the credit if that taxpayer has federal income tax liabilities to
offset the credit against.

Briefly put, tax equity financing is a transaction in which one party assigns future tax benefits expected to be generated by an eligible physical investment to another party that is in a better position to efficiently monetize the tax benefits, because the latter entity has greater tax capacity (i.e., taxable income) or will have that tax capacity sooner than the assigning party; the assigning party receives funds in exchange for the future tax benefits, in effect selling them in exchange for capital that can be used to build the asset. In addition to monetizing tax credits, tax equity

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- investment can monetize the benefits of accelerated depreciation when the
   primary project developer is unable to use those benefits.
   Tax equity arrangements are typically highly complex and are defined by detailed
   partnerships or other contractual agreements.
   Q. Why would Enchant need to partner with tax equity investors?
- A. Enchant appears to be a small company that does not have material profits that
  would generate income tax liabilities. There is no scenario, not even the wildly
  optimistic scenarios offered by Enchant, in which the operation of SJGS as a CCS
  facility would generate enough taxable profits to use up the 45Q tax credits. The
  City of Farmington is tax-exempt.
- 11 Q. What about PNM?
- 12 A. PNM is in a net operating loss situation for its income taxes due to large amounts 13 of depreciation and other tax deductions and credits it has taken in the past. As of 14 December 31, 2018, PNM Resources, Inc. – the holding company that comprises 15 the Public Service Company of New Mexico as well as the much smaller Texas-16 New Mexico Power Company – had \$474.6 million of federal net operating loss carryforwards and \$76.5 million of federal tax credit carryforwards.<sup>4</sup> These 17 18 carryforwards, to the extent they remained if and when a retrofitted SJGS was in a 19 position to claim 45Q tax credits, would prevent the company from efficiently 20 monetizing those credits, which would then need to be carried forward 21 themselves. In other words, under PNM's current tax situation, it could not itself 22 receive any benefits from claiming the 45Q credits in the foreseeable future.
- 23

#### Q. What is the 45Q tax credit?

A. As revised in 2018, the 45Q tax credit increases previously available tax credits
 for CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration from \$10 to \$35/tonne for CO<sub>2</sub> captured for use as a tertiary
 injectant (a term used for enhanced oil recovery (EOR)) with secure geological

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> PNM Resources, Inc., "10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018," B-124.

1	storage. It also raises tax credits from \$20 to \$50/tonne of $CO_2$ captured for secure
2	storage without use as a tertiary injectant. The credits ramp up from current levels
3	to their full amounts in 2026. Beginning in 2027, they are subject to inflation
4	adjustment. The revised tax credits also remove a 75-million tonne cap on credit
5	availability. Credits can now be claimed for 12 years from the start of operations,
6	provided an otherwise eligible CCS project is placed in service on or after
7	February 9, 2018, and begins construction before January 1, 2024. Projects placed
8	in service before February 9, 2018 will continue to receive the older credit levels
9	and remain subject to the cap. Power plants that emit more than 500,000 tonnes of
10	$CO_2$ annually must capture a minimum of 500,000 tonnes annually to qualify for
11	the tax credit. For context, 500,000 annual tonnes of $CO_2$ is roughly equivalent to
12	the emissions of a 75 MW coal-fired power plant operating at a 75 percent
13	capacity factor. This minimum capture restriction for large power plants is
14	unchanged from the previous legislation. Smaller power plants with lower
15	emissions can now get credits for capturing and storing as few as 25,000 tonnes
16	per year through means such as chemical conversion but not if the $CO_2$ is destined
17	for use as a tertiary injectant. Direct capture at facilities other than power plants is
18	also eligible for credits at capture levels of at least as 100,000 tonnes per year.
19	Significantly, the revised credits are now available to the owner of a capture
20	facility even if that entity is not the one that performs the capture; previously, the
21	credits could only be used by the entity that captured the carbon.

# Q. Have any carbon capture and sequestration projects taken advantage of the 45Q tax credits?

A. In a bulletin issued in May 2018, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) indicated the
most recent annual reports then available showed that 45Q credits had been
claimed for 59,767,924 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> since the inception of the credits as enacted
by § 115 of the Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Internal Revenue Bulletin No. 2018–20 (May 14, 2018), 584.

1	Q.	How are Enchant and the City of Farmington proposing to use the 45Q tax
2		credits and tax equity financing for the proposed retrofit of the San Juan
3		Generating Station?
4	A.	Enchant, which claims it was approached by the City of Farmington in January
5		2019 to develop a plan to preserve SJGS, is proposing to sell 45Q tax credits to
6		tax equity investors to raise in excess of 100% of the \$1.273 billion capital costs
7		estimated by its technical consultants for its proposed CCS retrofit of SJGS. <sup>6</sup>
8	III.	It is false to claim that tax equity investors "normally" require an
9		8-10% after-tax IRR. Tax equity investors assess the risk of a
10		project and then determine a discount rate that is commensurate
11		with this risk.
12	Q.	How is an IRR, or internal rate of return, related to a discount rate?
13	A.	An IRR is an annualized return on investment that is equal to a discount rate of all
14		cash flows that yields a Net Present Value (NPV) of zero. It is effectively a break-
15		even discount rate. Tax equity investors typically speak of their required discount
16		rate as an after-tax yield.
17	Q.	Do tax investors "normally" require an 8-10% after-tax IRR?
18	A.	When a tax equity investor invests in a project, it offers up-front cash for the
19		project in exchange for access to the future tax credits. Because there is risk that
20		the credits may not materialize and because investors require a return on their
21		investment that will be recovered over time, tax equity providers "discount" the
22		nominal value of projected tax credits. If a project's future tax credit cash flows
23		are seen to be riskier – say, because of an unproven technology, an unclear

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Enchant Energy, "Carbon Capture Retrofit of San Juan Generating Station" at 9. The "Enchant Energy San Juan Generating Station – Units 1 & 4 CO<sub>2</sub> Capture Pre-Feasibility Study" prepared by Sargent & Lundy for Enchant Energy puts the capital cost for the project at \$1.295 billion (see page 38). The \$1.273 billion capital cost from the Enchant presentation to the United States Energy Association is on a slide titled "Implication of Sargent & Lundy Study on feasibility.".

1		regulatory regime, or operational assumptions that are aggressive – investors will
2		apply a higher discount rate. A longer recovery period may also invite a higher
3		rate. When a tax equity investor increases the discount rate on the projected
4		stream of tax credits, this lowers the value of the tax credits to the project
5		developer. There is no "normal" range.
6		For a simple example, consider a project developer that expects \$1 million in tax
7		credits one year from now and reaches an agreement with a tax equity investor
8		employing a 10% discount rate to sell those credits for cash today. The tax equity
9		investor would make an investment of \$909,091 today. If the project developer
10		also expects \$1 million in credits two years from now and the tax equity investor
11		is willing to purchase those as well at a 10% discount, another \$826,446 would
12		flow from the tax equity investor to the project developer today. And so on, with
13		credits in the more distant future worth correspondingly less today.
13 14	Q.	credits in the more distant future worth correspondingly less today. Where do you think Enchant came up with its 8-10% figure?
	<b>Q.</b> A.	
14		Where do you think Enchant came up with its 8-10% figure?
14 15		Where do you think Enchant came up with its 8-10% figure? In 2018, contractually agreed tax equity yields for wind PTC deals are estimated
14 15 16		Where do you think Enchant came up with its 8-10% figure? In 2018, contractually agreed tax equity yields for wind PTC deals are estimated to have ranged between 6.75 and 8.5%. <sup>7</sup> But there are many good reasons to
14 15 16 17		Where do you think Enchant came up with its 8-10% figure? In 2018, contractually agreed tax equity yields for wind PTC deals are estimated to have ranged between 6.75 and 8.5%. <sup>7</sup> But there are many good reasons to conclude that investors in 45Q tax credit deals would require much higher
14 15 16 17 18	A.	Where do you think Enchant came up with its 8-10% figure? In 2018, contractually agreed tax equity yields for wind PTC deals are estimated to have ranged between 6.75 and 8.5%. <sup>7</sup> But there are many good reasons to conclude that investors in 45Q tax credit deals would require much higher discount rates.
14 15 16 17 18 19	A.	<ul> <li>Where do you think Enchant came up with its 8-10% figure?</li> <li>In 2018, contractually agreed tax equity yields for wind PTC deals are estimated to have ranged between 6.75 and 8.5%.<sup>7</sup> But there are many good reasons to conclude that investors in 45Q tax credit deals would require much higher discount rates.</li> <li>Could you please explore reasons why 45Q tax equity investors would</li> </ul>
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	А. <b>Q.</b>	<ul> <li>Where do you think Enchant came up with its 8-10% figure?</li> <li>In 2018, contractually agreed tax equity yields for wind PTC deals are estimated to have ranged between 6.75 and 8.5%.<sup>7</sup> But there are many good reasons to conclude that investors in 45Q tax credit deals would require much higher discount rates.</li> <li>Could you please explore reasons why 45Q tax equity investors would require higher discount rates than wind PTC tax equity investors?</li> </ul>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Mayer Brown, "Tax equity structuring: new trends, challenges, and advice," (October 23, 2018), 10, available at <u>https://www.taxequitytimes.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2018/10/2018-10-23-Tax-Equity-Structuring-Webinar-at-Wells-Fargo-revised-10-24-18.-Final.pdf</u>.

1		entering service since 2005. <sup>8</sup> This is in marked contrast to the nascent state of
2		the 45Q tax credit market. (Note, that before revision in 2018, the 45Q credits
3		did not lend themselves to tax equity financing, because the entity claiming
4		the credits had to be the same one that actually captured the carbon.)
5	2.	Wind turbine technology is proven, unlike the carbon capture technology
6		proposed for SJGS. The immaturity of CCS technology is well documented in
7		the testimony of David Schlissel.
8	3.	Wind projects are diversified. The U.S. wind tax equity market raised between
9		6 and $7$ billion in new funding in $2018$ – and similar amounts annually from
10		$2013-2017^9$ – with the risk diversified across numerous projects in \$50-\$100
11		million chunks, <sup>10</sup> each of these encompassing dozens of turbines. There is also
12		a diversity of turbine manufacturers. The tax equity contribution proposed by
13		Enchant Energy for the SJGS project – \$1.558 billion using an 8% discount
14		rate – is well over an order of magnitude greater than what is typical in a wind
15		deal. Enchant Energy itself concedes that a tax equity deal in excess of \$1
16		billion has "never been done." <sup>11</sup>
17	4.	Wind deals include significant accelerated depreciation benefits, unlike CCS
18		retrofits. <sup>12</sup> Accelerated depreciation tax benefits are less risky than output-
19		dependent tax credits like the PTC or 45Q, because they can be claimed even
20		if the project faced operational hurdles. Unlike the highly accelerated 5-year

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, "2018 Wind Technologies Market Report," (August 2019), 3; see <u>https://emp.lbl.gov/sites/default/files/wtmr\_final\_for\_posting\_8-9-19.pdf</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Ibid., viii.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Range developed based on estimated tax equity share of wind projects and 2018 average project size of \$165 million; see Paul Schwabe, David Feldman, Jason Fields, and Edward Settle, "Wind Energy Finance in the United States: Current Practice and Opportunities," *National Renewable Energy Laboratory Technical Report* NREL/TP-6A20-68227 (August 2017), 1; available at https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy17osti/68227.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Enchant Energy, "Carbon Capture Retrofit of San Juan Generating Station" at 11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Accelerated depreciation offers another form of tax benefit which can be harnessed through tax equity financing. Under accelerated depreciation, a developer can deduct "losses" from net income in early years, effectively pushing back (in time) the tax burden. That tax deferral offers the opportunity to invest (and earn a return on) monies that would have otherwise been paid in taxes.

1		depreciation schedule allowed by the IRS for wind – equal to around 16
2		percent of project capital costs at a 21 percent federal corporate tax rate - CCS
3		retrofits for coal will qualify only for a 20-year depreciation period, providing
4		little benefit for investors. As such, nearly all the tax benefits in a CCS deal
5		would come from the risky, output-dependent 45Q credits.
6		5. The regulatory regime for wind tax credits is well defined, unlike the
7		regulations for tax credits for carbon capture. As of this writing, the IRS has
8		accepted comments but not yet published guidance for the Section 45Q
9		credits. Under 26 U.S.C. § 45Q, credits are subject to recapture (i.e.,
10		disallowance, with a consequent restoration of the tax liability initially offset
11		with the credit) if credited carbon is no longer securely stored, but details of
12		how this provision will be enforced are still unclear.
13		6. The PTC is a ten-year credit, while the economics of 45Q must be assessed
14		over 12 years. <sup>13</sup>
15	Q.	What discount rate are investors likely to apply for opportunities like the
16		retrofit of SJGS?
17	A.	There is no reliable way of predicting how much investors will want to discount
18		these credits if and until a market begins to function. For its part, the Clean Air
19		Task Force, a supporter of CCS, applied a 15% discount rate to the sale of 45Q
20		credits in a recent study. <sup>14</sup> Enchant calculates the projected value of SJGS's $45Q$
21		credits with a discount rate as high as $12\%$ , <sup>15</sup> a value that, perhaps not
22		coincidentally, would just about cover initial capital costs when annual capture of
23		6 million tonnes of $CO_2$ is assumed. But there is no reason to assume that
24		investors would choose to accept the 6 million tonne figure for any single year, let
25		alone twelve consecutive years. Last but not least, the contention that a 12%

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> For wind PTC duration, see 26 U.S.C. §45(a)(2)(A)(ii). For 45Q duration, see 26 U.S.C. §45Q (a)(4)(A).
 <sup>14</sup> Clean Air Task Force, "Carbon Capture & Storage in The United States Power Sector: The Impact of 45Q Federal Tax Credits," (February 2019), 28.
 <sup>15</sup> Enchant, "Carbon Capture Retrofit of San Juan Generating Station" at 9.

1		discount rate would suffice to provide the SJGS CCS project with all its upfront
2		capital actually suggests that a 12% discount rate is too low, precisely because tax
3		equity investors do not typically provide all required capital even when
4		purchasing up to 99% of a project's tax benefits. <sup>16</sup>
5 6	IV.	A tax equity financing that covers 100% of the capital costs of the retrofit is implausible.
7	Q.	Does Enchant propose to finance 100% of the capital costs of the carbon
8	_	capture system at San Juan through tax equity financing?
9	A.	Yes, in the June 27, 2019 presentation to the United States Energy Association,
10		Enchant wrote "As tax equity financing normally requires an 8-10% after tax
11		IRR, the project will generate more than enough tax credits to support a tax equity
12		financing that covers 100% of the capital costs" of the retrofit. <sup>17</sup>
13	Q.	Why is it unlikely that tax equity financing could provide all the capital for
13 14	Q.	Why is it unlikely that tax equity financing could provide all the capital for the retrofit?
	Q. A.	
14	-	the retrofit?
14 15	-	the retrofit? Tax equity does not provide all the capital for wind or solar projects, with the
14 15 16	-	the retrofit? Tax equity does not provide all the capital for wind or solar projects, with the share for wind recently ranging from 55 to 70 percent and even less for solar. <sup>18</sup>
14 15 16 17	-	the retrofit? Tax equity does not provide all the capital for wind or solar projects, with the share for wind recently ranging from 55 to 70 percent and even less for solar. <sup>18</sup> Tax equity investors do not seek high risk. On the contrary, they are senior
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<ol> <li>14</li> <li>15</li> <li>16</li> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> </ol>	-	the retrofit? Tax equity does not provide all the capital for wind or solar projects, with the share for wind recently ranging from 55 to 70 percent and even less for solar. <sup>18</sup> Tax equity investors do not seek high risk. On the contrary, they are senior investors, usually even refusing to sit behind (junior to) debt. They expect their investments to be buffered against losses by subordinate equity, usually provided by the same project sponsor whose lack of taxable income prevents it from monetizing tax credits without the participation of tax equity partners. A large
<ol> <li>14</li> <li>15</li> <li>16</li> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> </ol>	-	the retrofit? Tax equity does not provide all the capital for wind or solar projects, with the share for wind recently ranging from 55 to 70 percent and even less for solar. <sup>18</sup> Tax equity investors do not seek high risk. On the contrary, they are senior investors, usually even refusing to sit behind (junior to) debt. They expect their investments to be buffered against losses by subordinate equity, usually provided by the same project sponsor whose lack of taxable income prevents it from monetizing tax credits without the participation of tax equity partners. A large part of their tax benefit is in the form of accelerated depreciation, which is less

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> By IRS regulation, the tax equity investor in a partnership cannot take all 100% of the tax benefits.
<sup>17</sup> Enchant, "Carbon Capture Retrofit of San Juan Generating Station" at 9.
<sup>18</sup> Norton Rose Fulbright, "Cost of capital: 2019 Outlook," (June 19, 2019).

1		benefits do not materialize at the forecasted speed. <sup>19</sup> There is a high likelihood
2		that a wind project that produces below expectations will still produce some
3		output. In contrast, a CCS retrofit like the one envisioned for the SJGS – a system
4		comprising two 460 megawatt-equivalent (MWe) capture facilities (known as
5		"trains") using still immature technology rather than a portfolio of many 2
6		megawatt (MW) turbines of proven design – is far more susceptible to a complete
7		loss of credit-producing output. This would leave the cash sweeps backed only by
8		the output of a carbon emitting plant whose electricity might not be eligible for
9		sale (because of future carbon policy or because of the terms of a Power Purchase
10		Agreement for coal with CCS). Such a situation would leave no cash for sweeps.
11		Even a partial reduction in capture percentage, as opposed to total CCS failure,
12		could still raise the emissions profile of the plant's electric output in ways that
13		could have major, non-linear impacts on cash available for sweeps, for instance
14		by triggering exclusion from California markets.
15		At a 15% discount rate and again accepting for the sake of argument that 6
16		million tonnes of $CO_2$ per year is achievable, the value of the San Juan Section
17		45Q credit stream is estimated to be \$1.076 billion, covering only 85 percent of
18		the (very aggressively estimated) capital costs. <sup>20</sup> This would mean that the project
19		would need to raise around \$197 million in additional financing for the project.
20	Q.	If a carbon capture system could not capture 6 million tonnes of CO2 each
21		year, what affect would that have on tax equity financing?
22	A.	In separate testimony, David Schlissel states that it is unrealistic to expect that 6
23		million tonnes of $CO_2$ could be captured every year for 12 years at San Juan. If

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Jim Berger and Amanda Rosenberg, "Buying a Wind Farm," *Norton Rose Fulbright Project Finance Newswire* (August 2019), 38. These sweeps are sometimes limited to 50 or 75 percent of the cash due to the non-tax equity investor; see Jim Berger and Amanda Rosenberg, "Tax equity primer for back-levered lenders," (February 20, 2018), available at <u>https://www.projectfinance.law/publications/2018/february/tax-equity-primer-for-back-levered-lenders</u>.
<sup>20</sup> Sierra Club calculation based on a stream that closely matches the Enchant Energy value for a 12%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Sierra Club calculation based on a stream that closely matches the Enchant Energy value for a 12% discount rate.

1		less than 6 million tonnes of $CO_2$ were captured each year, fewer 45Q tax credits
2		would be available and Enchant might be contractually required to sweep cash
3		from, say, power sales to its tax equity investors to deliver them their expected
4		yield within a prescribed time frame. To the extent that tax equity investors were
5		doubtful of the facility's ability to reliably capture 6 million tonnes per year, they
6		would apply a high discount rate to value the credits before making their
7		investment decision and might not invest at all.
8	Q.	If a carbon capture system were to cost more than the \$1.273 billion estimate
9		from Sargent and Lundy, what would that mean for financing of the project?
10	А.	Tax equity investors do not typically assume construction risk. <sup>21</sup> Enchant would
11		be expected to use construction debt and its own equity to finance during the
12		project the construction period. The tax equity investment would, thus, be
13		contingent on successful completion of construction. In the event of construction
14		cost overruns in excess of any liquated damages from the construction contractor,
15		Enchant would have to secure additional financing or risk defaulting on the
16		project to its construction finance lender, all before tax equity capital had been
17		committed. PNM would face similar obstacles to relying on tax equity to
18		monetize the 45Q tax credits, as Mr. Solomon apparently assumes it could, even if
19		PNM did not have the same need for tax equity partners to contribute equity to
20		finance a CCS retrofit.
21	V.	Tax equity investor concerns about the riskiness of new/unproven
22		technologies or the requirement that the project begin
23		construction before January 1, 2024 in order to be eligible for 45Q
24		tax credits could completely prevent Enchant (or PNM) from

25 **finding tax equity investors for the SJGS project.** 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Stoel Rives, "Project finance."

1	Q.	By what date must a carbon capture project begin construction in order to
2		qualify for the 45Q tax credit?
3	A.	According to the statute, to be eligible to claim the credit project must begin
4		construction by January 1, 2024. <sup>22</sup> Just what steps would need to be taken to
5		demonstrate the commencement of construction to the IRS is unclear, as the IRS
6		has not issued relevant guidance.
7	Q.	If the carbon capture system at San Juan did not begin construction by
8		January 1, 2024, would the project be eligible for 45Q tax credits?
9	A.	No.
10	Q.	Does Enchant assume that 100% of the capital costs of the carbon capture
11	-	project can be financed through 45Q tax credits?
12	A.	Yes.
13	Q.	So, if the carbon capture project at San Juan were not eligible for the 45Q
14		tax credits, would any company attempting to retrofit SJGS with CCS have
15		to raise \$1.27 billion in financing from other sources?
16	A.	Yes.
17	Q.	How do tax equity investors deal with the risk that projects will not meet
18		eligibility deadlines or other regulatory requirements?
19	A.	Wind tax equity investors expect to be indemnified if projects is found to have
20		failed to satisfy IRS eligibility requirements (e.g., deadlines for commencing
21		operations) or if credits are retroactively disallowed (which is arguably more
22		likely for CCS than for wind, as carbon dioxide must be stored over years). <sup>23</sup>
23	Q.	What are the IRS "safe harbor" provisions for the wind PTC?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> 28 U.S.C. § 45Q(d)(1).
<sup>23</sup> Berger and Rosenberg, "Tax equity primer."

1	A.	The IRS has published guidance for investors which allows a project to claim the
2		PTC at the statutorily provided level even if a project commences operation after
3		the passing of the in-service eligibility date for the PTC at the statutorily provided
4		level, if the taxpayer can demonstrate that the project began construction within
5		the required timeframe. <sup>24</sup> The beginning of construction can be demonstrated
6		though a "physical work test" or, as is more common, through paying or incurring
7		more than 5% of the project cost. The taxpayer must then demonstrate continuous
8		efforts, a required which is deemed satisfied by the IRS if the project enters
9		service within 4 calendar years of the calendar year in which construction began.
10	Q.	Do similar provisions apply to 45Q credits?
11	A.	The IRS has not published guidance for the 45Q credits.
12	Q.	How do tax equity investors address technology risk?
12 13	<b>Q.</b> A.	How do tax equity investors address technology risk? Tax equity is a "supplier's market," and tax equity investors can be highly
	-	
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13 14 15 16 17 18	-	Tax equity is a "supplier's market," and tax equity investors can be highly selective in choosing investment targets. Commenting on the viability of the Section 45Q opportunity in late 2018, leading tax equity counsel Keith Martin of law firm Norton Rose Fulbright wrote that "new technologies are nearly impossible to finance. The market is only interested in proven technologies." <sup>25</sup> This is my opinion as well. If Mr. Martin's experienced opinion is correct, tax
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> IRS Notice 2019-43, available at <u>https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/n-19-43.pdf</u>.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Keith Martin, "Tax equity and sequestration credits," (updated December 17, 2018), available at <a href="https://www.projectfinance.law/publications/2018/april/tax-equity-and-carbon-sequestration-credits">https://www.projectfinance.law/publications/2018/april/tax-equity-and-carbon-sequestration-credits</a>.
 <sup>26</sup> Projects commencing construction by the end of 2019 and entering service within four years will receive

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Projects commencing construction by the end of 2019 and entering service within four years will receive 40 percent of the full PTC credit. Projects entering service after the end of the 2023 will not receive any credits.

- 1 Solar deals will also continue to offer significant accelerated depreciation benefits
- 2 as well as an ongoing ITC after 2023.<sup>27</sup>

### **3 Q. Does this complete your testimony?**

4 A. Yes.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Commercial projects entering service on or after January 1, 2022 will continue to receive a 10 percent ITC.

#### **BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION**

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#### IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE **COMPANY OF NEW MEXICO'S ABANDONMENT OF SAN JUAN GENERATING STATION UNITS 1 AND 4**

Case No. 19-00018-UT

#### VERIFICATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF Sun Francisco

David Posner, first being sworn on his oath, states:

I am the witness identified in the preceding rebuttal testimony. I have read the rebuttal testimony and am familiar with the contents. Based upon my personal knowledge, the facts stated in the rebuttal testimony are true. In addition, in my judgment and based upon my professional experience, the opinions and conclusions stated in the rebuttal testimony are true, valid, and accurate.

David Posner

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me on this 13 day of November, 2019 by David Posner.

Notary Public

My commission expires: 03/15/2023



#### JURAT FORM

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA Jan FRANCISCO COUNTY OF

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on this <u>13</u> day of <u>November</u>, 20 19 by David Braden Posner.

proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) who appeared

before me.

NOTARY PUBLIC SIGNATURE



. (NOTARY SEAL)

#### **OPTIONAL INFORMATION**

THIS OPTIONAL INFORMATION SECTION IS NOT REQUIRED BY LAW BUT MAY BE BENEFICIAL TO PERSONS RELYING ON THIS NOTARIZED DOCUMENT.

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DATE OF DOCUMENT

When executing a jurat, a notary shall administer an oath of affirmation to the affiant and shall determine, from satisfactory evidence, that the affiant is the person executing the document. The affiant shall sign the document in the presence of the notary.

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#### BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

#### IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW MEXICO'S ABANDONMENT OF SAN JUAN GENERATING STATION UNITS 1 AND 4

) ) ) Case No. 19-00018-UT )

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I CERTIFY that on this date I caused to be sent to the parties and individuals listed

below, via email only, a true and correct copy of the Prepared Rebuttal Testimony of David B.

Posner on Behalf of Sierra Club.

Stacey Goodwin Rvan Jerman Richard Alvidrez Dan Akenhead Mark Fenton Carey Salaz Steven Schwebke Heather Allen Mariel Nanasi David Van Winkle Aaron El Sabrout Joan Drake Lisa Tormoen Hickey Jason Marks Matthew Gerhart Katherine Lagen Ramona Blaber Camilla Feibelman Michel Goggin Nann M. Winter Keith Herrmann Dahl Harris Peter Auh Jody García Andrew Harriger Donald E. Gruenemeyer Joseph A. Herz Steven S. Michel **April Elliott** Pat O'Connell Douglas J. Howe Bruce C. Throne **Rob** Witwer Jeffrey Albright Amanda Edwards Michael I. Garcia Greg Sonnenfeld Charles F. Noble Stephanie Dzur Vicky Ortiz

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#### DATED November 15, 2019

Jason Marks Jason Marks Law, LLC 1011 Third St NW Albuquerque, NM 87102 lawoffice@jasonmarks.com

# David B. Posner, PhD, MBA

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Finance professional specializing in the deployment of clean energy technologies Former senior policy advisor at the U.S. Department of Energy Wharton MBA | Yale PhD | Fulbright Scholar

## **EMPLOYMENT**

### **Energy Finance Consulting**

Consultant

- Advising on financial mechanisms to facilitate clean energy deployments, including securitization, market-indexed solar • assets for regulated utilities, and tax equity partnership structures.
- Clients: Rocky Mountain Institute; Sierra Club; IHS Markit.

#### **Climate Policy Initiative**

Consultant, Energy Finance Program

- U.S. Utility Capital Recycling Program: developed capital recycling strategies that employ ratepayer-backed securitizations to retire uneconomic fossil generation and encourage utility reinvestment in wind and solar as well as demand-side assets, all at a net savings for ratepayers; co-author of Harnessing Financial Tools to Transform the Electric Sector.
- Clean Energy Investment Trust (CEIT): contributed to the design of a structured financing approach for renewable • energy projects that increases the share of investment-grade debt (or debt equivalents) in the capital stack through the use of a portfolio of risk mitigation tools; co-author of Structuring the Clean Energy Investment Trust.
- Flexibility: evaluated policy, technology, and market options that can satisfy the need for flexibility in high-penetration • renewable energy power systems; co-author of *Flexibility: the path to low-carbon, low-cost electricity grids*.
- Energy Markets: co-author of comments by CPI and Energy Innovation on the Department of Energy's Grid Resilience Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

### Alliance to Save Energy

Program Manager, Financial & Economic Policy

- Project leader for CarbonCount<sup>™</sup>, a quantitative CO2 impact scoring system for "green" bonds; winner of a Finance for Resilience (FiRe) prize at the 2015 BNEF Future of Energy Summit.
- Collaborated with utilities, green banks, underwriters, and investors to validate sustainability claims.

### **Energy Finance Consulting**

Consultant

Arlington, VA July 2013 - January 2015

January 2010 - June 2013

Washington, DC

February 2015 - April 2016

Washington, DC

- Advised on the role of efficiency in the Clean Power Plan, time-variant electricity pricing, and "green" bonds.
- Clients included Rocky Mountain Institute, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Alliance to Save Energy.

### U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

Lead Energy Technology Program Specialist, GS-14

- Team Leader for Business Operations of the State Energy Program; oversaw data collection and impact assessment for \$3.1 billion in Recovery Act (ARRA) investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects across the U.S.
- Recipient of the Department's Special Service Award in recognition of superior performance of duties. February 2009 – January 2010

Senior Analyst, contractor employed through Sentech Inc.

Member of the start-up team that launched the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG), which directed \$3.2 billion in funding to over 2,300 awardees, including states, counties, and municipalities.

San Francisco, CA

October 2018 - present

Washington, DC

## David B. Posner, PhD, MBA

#### Securing America's Future Energy (SAFE)

Consultant

• Principal researcher and author of *A National Strategy for Energy Security* (2008), a report issued by the Energy Security Leadership Council, an advocacy project co-chaired by Frederick W. Smith, Chairman, President, and CEO, FedEx Corp., and General P.X. Kelley, USMC (Ret.), 28<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps.

#### Vice President, Policy & Business Outreach

- Principal researcher and author of Recommendations to the Nation on Reducing U.S. Oil Dependence (2006).
- Designed and vetted scenarios for *Oil ShockWave*, a multimedia crisis simulation in which participants acting as cabinet officials confronted threats to the global oil supply and proposed policy responses.

#### Policy Studies Inc.

Senior Strategy Analyst

• Prepared financial proposals and operating budgets for competitively awarded government outsourcing opportunities in the healthcare and welfare sectors.

#### JPMorgan Chase/Chase Manhattan Automotive Finance Corporation

Assistant Vice President

• Planned and executed market segmentation studies to improve the profitability and risk profile of an indirect loan business with 13,000 dealers and over \$27 billion in annual originations.

#### **General Motors Corporation**

Consultant, GM/Adam Opel World War II Project

• Investigated GM's managerial control of its German subsidiary, Opel, during the Nazi period; advised GM General Counsel and other executives as they developed a reparations program for wartime slave workers.

### EDUCATION

#### The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

Master of Business Administration, Finance, with honors

• Director's List; course concentration in fixed income, speculative markets, and financial engineering.

### Yale University

Postdoctoral Research Assistant, International Security Studies Program Doctor of Philosophy, History

### Fulbright-Hays Scholar

Germany-U.S. Exchange Program

### **Cornell University**

Bachelor of Arts, History, magna cum laude, and German Area Studies

• Phi Beta Kappa; recipient of the Duniway Prize as the most outstanding undergraduate in the Department of History.

### REFERENCES

- Uday Varadarajan, Principal, Rocky Mountain Institute, San Francisco, CA (Tel.: 512-466-3149; Email: <u>uvaradarajan@rmi.org</u>).
- **Peter Augustini**, Vice President, IHS Markit, Cambridge, MA (Tel.: 617-866-5124 Email: <u>Peter.Augustini@ihsmarkit.com</u>).

June 2006 – January 2008

October 2004 - April 2006

January 2008 - January 2009

Denver, CO

Garden City, NY

Philadelphia, PA

New Haven, CT December 1998 – August 2001

October 2003 - September 2004

New Haven, CT September 2000 – May 2001 September 1990 – May 1997

September 2001 - May 2003

Saarbrücken, Germany August 1989 – July 1990

Ithaca, NY August 1985 – May 1989

# Carbon Capture Retrofit of San Juan Generating Station

Presentation to

# **United States Energy Association**

by



June 27, 2019

Exhibit DBP-2, Page 2 of 14

# What is San Juan Generating Station ("SJGS")?

- 847 MW Coal-fired Electricity Generation Station in Northwest New Mexico originally built in the 1970s, expanded in the 1980s
- High BTU Coal is supplied by the adjacent San Juan Westmorland-owned mine
- Operated by PNM on behalf of PNM (66%), TEP(20%), Farmington (5%), Los Alamos (4%), & UAMPS (4%)
- Plant size decreased from 1,895 MW in 2017 from shut down of Units 2 & 3 in conjunction with installatior of Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction (SNCR) equipment and settlement with EPA
- Low cost generator with low Nox/Sox/Mercury emissions
  - But very significant Co2 emissions
- Located at the center of the Southwestern transmission grid, with connections to New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California, Utah, and Colorado





# Who is Enchant Energy ?

- Enchant Energy was founded in 2019 by two veteran energy investors, Larry Heller and Jason Selch, for the purpose of enabling continued operation of SJGS and retrofitting it with CCUS
- Approached by the City of Farmington in January 2019 to formulate a strategy to save SJGS and associated San Juan mine from closure.
  - Proposed conversion to low-cost, clean coal plant through retrofit with proven carbon capture technology
  - Will acquire 95% interest in SJGS at 6/2022 from exiting owners
  - City of Farmington to retain 5% interest in SJGS and benefit from the cost savings from an improved coal contract
- Enchant Energy is working with leading engineering, consulting firms, and law firms such as:
  - Sargent & Lundy
  - Navigant Consulting
  - Thompson Hine LLP
  - Sidley Austin LLP
  - EJM Consulting
  - Tenaska Power Services Co.
  - WISER Institute at Illinois Institute of Technology
- Enchant Energy has applied for DOE grant to fund a FEED study and associated studies

# SJGS will become a low cost electricity supplier in the Southwest Market with new coal contract



## McElmo Dome CO2 Field, Cortes do DBP-2, Page 6 of 14



Transmission of electricity under PPA to customers Excess traded at Palo Verde Hub

## Cortez Pipeline and McElmo Creek Pipeline

The Cortez Pipeline and the McElmo Creek Pipeline serve the McElmo Dome and Doe Canyon CO<sub>2</sub> source fields in southwestern Colorado. Kinder Morgan operates the approximately 500 mile Cortez Pipeline which carries CO<sub>2</sub> from the McElmo Dome and Doe Canyon to the Denver City, Texas, hub. The Cortez pipeline system is capable of transporting 1.5 billion cubic feet of CO<sub>2</sub> per day. The McElmo Creek Pipeline is an approximately 40-mile pipeline that supplies the McElmo Creek unit in Utah and is operated by Resolute.



# Results of Sargent & Lundy Scoping Study

- S&L scoping study estimates that cost of capture at SJGS will range from \$39.40 to \$43.66 per tonne
- Carbon capture will decrease Co2 emission intensity from 2,201 lbs/MWh to 249 lbs/MWh
- Co2 captured will be 6 million tonnes per year which will provide 312 mmscfd of pipeline quality Co2
- Annual O&M costs including the allocated cost of 29% plant derating are estimated at \$16.99 -\$17.30 per tonne

Description	Units	85% Capacity Factor	100% Capacity Factor	
Total Project Cost	\$	1,272,780,000	1,272,780,000	
CCF		0.1243	0.1243	
Annualized Capital Cost	\$/yr	158,210,000	158,210,000	
Annual O&M Cost	\$/yr	103,770,000	119,930,000	
Total Annual Cost	\$/yr	261,980,000	278,140,000	
Annual CO <sub>2</sub> Captured	tonnes	6,000,000	7,060,000	
Cost of Capture	\$/tonne <sup>1</sup>	43.66	39.40	

#### Table ES-1: Cost of CO2 Capture

Note 1. Cost of capture reported as dollars per metric ton (equivalent to 2,240 lbs).

#### Table 3-4: CO2 Rates for San Juan Generating Station

SJGS CO <sub>2</sub> Rates		Unit 1	Unit 4	<b>Total Plant</b>
Baseline Plant CO2 Emissions Rate1	(lb/MWhgow)	2,165	2,236	2,201
Post-Project CO2 Emission Rate	(lb/MWhgnee)	243	254	249
Max Full Load Post-Project CO2 Production Rate	(lb/hr)	703,724	1,071,852	1,775,576
Post-Project CO <sub>2</sub> Production Rate <sup>2</sup>	(nmscfd)	124	189	312
Post-Project CO2 Production Rate-	(nmscfy)	45,200	68,845	114,045

Note 1. Data from EPA's Air Market Program Database (AMPD) - Annual average for 2014-2018 – Total plant is estimated based on the average of Units 1 and 4.

Note 2. Values calculated assuming an annual average facility capacity factor of \$5%.

# Implication of Sargent & Lundy Study on feasibility

- The total amount of 45Q credits generated from capturing 6 million tonnes a year of Co2 over 12 years, \$2.554 billion, will cover the estimated capital cost of \$1.273 billion by 2 times.
- As tax equity financing normally requires an 8-10% after tax IRR, the project will generate more than enough tax credits to support a tax equity financing that covers 100% of the capital costs
- The sale of Co2 to the EOR market covers the annual operating costs, including the costs of the derating

Projected Stream of 45Q Tax Credits at 6 million tones a year			
Discount Rate	Value		
0.0%	\$2,554.05		
8.0%	\$1,558.25		
9.0%	\$1,475.43		
10.0%	\$1,399.03		
11.0%	\$1,328.45		
12.0%	\$1,263.15		

Exhibit DBP-2, Page 9 of 14

S &L study demonstrates that when Carbon Capture is installed at a site with advantages, like SJGS, this technology provides a way to reduce Co2 emissions by a substantial amount without burdening the consumer with higher costs of electricity

# Advantages of SJGS site

- Advantages incorporated into study:
  - Site benefits from the environmental upgrade and closure of Units 2 & 3 completed in 2017
    - No need for additional emissions controls for Nox, Sox, Mercury, and particulate
    - Capital cost is reduced by the utilization of the excess infrastructure that remains from the prior downsizing
  - Site benefits from proximity to Cortez Co2 pipeline
    - Construction cost for connector pipeline will be low as distance is only 20 miles
    - Sale of Co2 to EOR industry facilitates financing using 45Q tax credits
    - Proceeds from sale of Co2 covers the operating costs of the CCUS, including lost revenues from power sales
  - Annual operating costs benefit from the low cost of electricity which is used for auxiliary power and to value lost generation revenue from derating

- Factors not included in S & L scoping study but which will be investigated in FEED study starting in Q3 2019
  - S & L scoping study does not benefit from competitive bidding among the several EPC companies that have developed proven Amine-based Carbon Capture Technology
  - S&L uses conservative 29% derating while other investigators have assumed 22% derating
  - S&L study includes 20% contingency and \$100 million owner's costs

# Challenges for SJGS site with CCUS

- New Mexico Bill 489 passed in March 2019 requires compliance with 1100 lb.Co2/MWh emissions limit by 1/2023
  - If retrofit is financed in mid-2020, expected on-line date is 6/2023
  - Plant could experience 6-12 month shut-down before restart with CCUS
- Successful CCUS requires successful transition to Merchant model
  - Southwest Power Pool has no ISO
  - Incumbent Utilities (APS, PNM, TEP, SRP) control transmission
  - California, Nevada, Colorado are good target markets that will need low-emission fossil fueled electricity in 2022+
    - SJGS emissions at 200-300 are well below 1100 current California Emissions Performance Standards and 850 proposed new limit
  - Dispatch cost of plant is lowest cost non-renewable with low-emissions
- Environmental community is highly invested in shutting down SJGS
- Project Financing will be a challenge
  - Tax Equity financing over \$1 billion has never been done
  - 45Q tax credits are new and Treasury has not written the regulations
  - Project sponsor does not have an investment grade rating
  - While long-term contracts from investment grade oil and gas producers are likely, the power market has not provided PPA's for non-renewable power.
    - Will power buyers make an exception for low-emissions fossil power ?

# How does Carbon Capture retrofit benefit the local community?

- Enables plant to avoid shut-down due to Bill 489
  - Saves 478 direct jobs and 1,000 indirect jobs in rural area, significant in maintaining a stable regional economy
  - Maintains tax revenues that supports local schools
  - Avoids disruption of Navajo community which could be harmed by lay-offs of hundreds of Navajo employed in high-paying private sector jobs
- Allows power to be marketed as "Eco-friendly, low-emissions" power that may enable the power to be sold into markets such as California, Nevada, and Colorado
- One billion dollar plus construction project will provide short term stimulus to local economy
- Successful development of Carbon Capture can spur local industries based on exploitation of captured Co2
  - Co2 can be utilized in existing greenhouse agriculture
  - Availability of Co2 raw material can attract other industries
  - SJGS can become model facility for CCUS attracting research and jobs

### Exhibit DBP-2, Page 13 of 14 How does Carbon Capture retrofit at SJGS benefit the Environment?

- Post-retrofit, SJGS will become the lowest Co2 emissions fossilfueled power plant in Western US
  - The growth of renewables is increasing demand for this type of power
  - Continued operation of this low-cost power facility will temper the cost impact to the consumer of the transition to highrenewables electricity supply market
- Retrofit will make substantial climate impact by reducing Co2 emissions by 6 million tonnes per year
- Region will continue to benefit from the existing environmental upgrades for Sox, Nox, and Mercury installed in 2017
- Demonstration of Carbon Capture at this scale will spur adoption of the technology at other US sites and the export of carbon capture technology to developing markets where coal-fired generation is still growing

# For Further Information, Contact:

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