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June 7, 2004

# VIA FACSIMILE AND UPS OVERNIGHT

Administrative Hearings Division Oregon Public Utility Commission 550 Capitol Street NE, Suite 215 PO Box 2148 Salem, OR 97308-2148

Re: UM 1121

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced docket are the original and five copies of the following documents:

- Applicants' Motion Requesting Certification of Judge Smith's Ruling Denying Motion for Additional Protection
- Declaration of Carrie Wheeler in Support of Applicants' Motion Requesting Certification of Judge Smith's Ruling

Please contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,

arah Wallace

Sarah Wallace

Enclosures

cc: UM 1121 Service List

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# BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

#### **OF OREGON**

#### **UM 1121**

In the Matter of

OREGON ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPANY, LLC, et al.,

Application for Authorization to Acquire Portland General Electric Company APPLICANTS' MOTION
REQUESTING CERTIFICATION
OF JUDGE SMITH'S RULING
DENYING MOTION FOR
ADDITIONAL PROTECTION

#### INTRODUCTION

On May 28, 2004, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") Christina Smith issued a Ruling denying Applicants' motion for additional protection of the following four categories of highly sensitive and proprietary information: (1) The TPG¹ electronic financial model; (2) TPG prospectuses; (3) Information presented to TPG's Investment Review Committee ("IRC") and the underlying due diligence; and (4) A list of TPG's Limited Partners (*i.e.*, TPG's investors or "customer list").

Applicants request that Judge Smith's Ruling be certified to the Commission, because they believe it was wrongly decided and failed to apply the appropriate standard for determining whether additional protection of the above information was justified. Importantly, Applicants remain hopeful that they will be able to reach a compromise regarding disclosure of the documents in the first three categories of information described above under the terms of the Ruling. Specifically, Applicants are working with CUB, ICNU, and the City of Portland to decide on a satisfactory way to produce the TPG electronic financial model, TPG prospectuses, and the information presented to the IRC. However, it is possible that they will not reach a

The term "TPG" refers to TPG Partners III, L.P., TPG Partners IV, L.P., and Tarrant Partners, L.P.

resolution of their dispute regarding that information and so, as a precautionary matter, Applicants seek certification of the ALJ's Ruling in its entirety.

In addition, Applicants do not believe that any compromise is possible with respect to disclosure of the fourth category of information, which consists of a list identifying TPG's Limited Partners. Applicants interpret the Ruling to require the parties to work together to find a way to disclose the identities of any Oregon investors in TPG funds. Other parties may contend, however, that the Ruling requires disclosure of investors outside of Oregon as well. Regardless of which interpretation is correct, Applicants should not be required to disclose the identities of TPG's Limited Partners to anyone other than Commission Staff. As a result, the arguments in this Motion are directed to that issue in particular, although, as noted above, Applicants request certification of the entire Ruling.

In support of their motion, Applicants incorporate by reference the arguments stated in their Motion for Additional Protection filed with the Commission on April 20, 2004 and their Reply and affidavits in support of that motion, filed on May 13, 2004.

#### SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

The Ruling is wrongly decided with respect to each category of information because it failed to apply the appropriate standard for determining whether additional protection is warranted. Under that standard, the Commission must consider whether the risk of harm to TPG from inadvertent public disclosure of its most sensitive and proprietary information outweighs any benefit that might accrue from allowing the parties to review that information. This balancing of interests is the required test for determining whether additional protection is appropriate. See, e.g., Re PacifiCorp, UE 116, Order No. 01-219 (Mar. 9, 2001). With respect to the identities of TPG's Limited Partners, the Ruling also is wrongly decided because those identities are not relevant to the Commission's investigation of the public interest under ORS 757.511 or likely to lead to admissible evidence.

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The TPG Applicants are entitled to the protections afforded by Oregon's discovery rules and should not be forced to reveal their most competitively sensitive information to the 106 Qualified Persons in this docket, many of whom do not have a known track record of maintaining confidentiality. A proper weighing of the risks to Applicants justifies additional protection. Based upon those grounds, Applicants respectfully bring this motion to request certification of Judge Smith's May 28, 2004 Ruling to the Commission.

# NATURE OF INFORMATION AT ISSUE

All categories of information are described in detail in Applicants' Motion for Additional Protection filed on April 20, 2004 and those descriptions will not be fully restated here. Instead this motion will focus on one category of information - the identities of TPG's Limited Partners or "customer list" - which is among TPG's most highly sensitive proprietary information. The customer list is nine pages and identifies the Limited Partners in TPG's private equity funds. Limited Partners are individuals and organizations that have invested in TPG's funds, and they can be accurately characterized as TPG's customers. See Declaration of Carrie Wheeler in Support of Motion for Certification ¶ 2 ("Wheeler Declaration"). The Limited Partners have absolutely no control of this or any other investment made by the TPG funds. Id. ¶ 3. Further, they have no voting rights and no opportunity or right to control any of the companies in which TPG funds invest. Id. They are, in other words, completely passive and rely on TPG to manage their investments. Id. As with the other categories of information at issue in this motion, Applicants already have produced the list of Limited Partners to Staff in the spirit of cooperation and full disclosure without waiving their right to object to its relevance or seek additional protection. The question is whether Applicants should be required to share that information with intervening parties under the Standard Protective Order.

The identities of TPG's Limited Partners constitute some of TPG's most valuable commercial assets, and disclosure of those identities to the public, whether inadvertent or

intentional, would cause TPG substantial competitive harm for two reasons. First, the private equity market is intensely competitive. Wheeler Declaration ¶ 2. If the identities of TPG's Limited Partners are leaked to the public, competing private equity firms might attempt to solicit TPG's investors for their own funds. Second, Limited Partners expect a high degree of privacy regarding their financial affairs and might be hesitant to invest with TPG funds in the future, if TPG is forced to disclose their identities in this docket.<sup>2</sup>

### **QUESTIONS FOR CERTIFICATION**

- **(1)** When making a determination whether additional protection was justified in this case, did the ALJ fail to apply the proper balancing test to determine whether the risk of harm from inadvertent public disclosure outweighed any benefit of access under the Standard Protective Order?
- (2)Are the identities of TPG's Limited Partners, who are passive and have no voting rights or opportunity to influence the TPG Applicants, relevant to the Commission's investigation under ORS 757.511(3) of whether Applicants' proposed acquisition of PGE would serve PGE's customers in the public interest?
- (3)If the Commission finds that the identities of TPG's Limited Partners are relevant. in light of the high degree of risk of inadvertent public disclosure of confidential information in this docket, is additional protection warranted under the Standard Protective Order such that TPG should be allowed to disclose the Limited Partners' identities only to Commission Staff?

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The Limited Partners' expectation of privacy is not unjustified. Indeed, TPG contractually promised that it would not reveal the identity of its investors except as required by law. The confidentiality provision states: "Except as otherwise required by law, the General Partner may not disclose the identities of the Limited Partners, to prospective limited partners in the Partnership or a Subsequent Fund, prospective lenders to, or other creditors of professional consultants upon notification to such Affiliate, officer employee agent or consultant that such disclosure is made in confidence and shall be kept in confidence." See Affidavit of James Barrett in Support of Motion for Additional Protection Under Protective Order ¶ 2. Applicants disclosed OPERS as a TPG investor only after receiving permission.

### **CERTIFICATION STANDARD**

Oregon Administrative Rule ("OAR") 860-014-0035(1)(i) specifically authorizes ALJs to "certify a question to the Commission for consideration and disposition." A ruling of an ALJ may be appealed by certification, upon a finding that the challenged ruling "may result in substantial detriment to the public interest or undue prejudice to any party." OAR 860-014-0091. As discussed below, the Ruling is contrary to law and will cause the TPG Applicants to suffer substantial prejudice. Therefore the ALJ should certify the questions to the Commission.

#### **ARGUMENT**

Applicants incorporate the arguments in their Motion for Additional Protection and Reply brief in support of that motion filed with the Commission, which describe each category of information and why additional protection is warranted. The Ruling denied Applicants' Motion for Additional Protection without weighing the risk of potential harm to TPG from inadvertent public disclosure as required by the Commission's prior decisions. *Re PacifiCorp*, UE 116, Order No. 01-219 (Mar. 9, 2001). The entire ruling should be certified to the Commission on that ground. This motion reiterates and expands upon Applicants' previously filed arguments only with respect to the customer list, because Applicants do not believe that, pursuant to the Ruling's directive, they will be able to reach a compromise on disclosure of that information to the parties.

# A. The Identities of TPG's Customers Are Not Relevant to This Proceeding

In this proceeding, the Commission is charged with investigating whether approval of Applicants' proposed acquisition of PGE "will serve the public utility's customers in the public interest." ORS 757.511(3). To that end, the Commission must inquire about those persons who "shall acquire the power to exercise any substantial influence over the policies and actions of [PGE]," including "affiliated interests" as defined by certain subsections of ORS 757.015.

An "affiliated interest" for purposes of ORS 757.511 includes: (1) Every corporation and person owning or holding directly or indirectly five percent or more of the voting securities of such public utility; (2) Every

ORS 757.511(1). Here, only Applicants will exercise substantial influence over PGE or meet the definition of "affiliated interests." By contrast, TPG's customers will have no right or opportunity to exercise any control of PGE, and the Commission has no reason to investigate them. Their identities are, therefore, irrelevant and not likely to lead to admissible evidence with regard to the Commission's investigation of the public interest.

Judge Smith concluded otherwise. She reasoned that "Applicants raised the issue of the identity of its investors in its application" (1) by citing the participation of OPERS, and (2) by including a pie chart indicating "the broad background of investors" as an exhibit. See Ruling at 3 (citing Application at 9-10; Oregon Electric/Exhibit 12). Accordingly, Judge Smith ruled that "to the extent that Applicants have raised the issue of the identity of its investors and whether they are from Oregon, the information is discoverable[.]" Id.

Applicants disagree with Judge Smith's ruling if it implies that, by identifying a single TPG investor or the general background of TPG's customers, Applicants placed the identity of all TPG's customers at issue, particularly those who have no Oregon connection. A proper analysis of the relevance of TPG's customers should occur in the context of an inquiry into the scope of the Commission's task under ORS 757.511 and the limits on discovery imposed by ORCP 36 B. Specifically, the Commission should inquire whether the identities of passive investors who have no right or opportunity to control PGE are relevant to its investigation of persons who "shall acquire the power to exercise any substantial influence over the policies and actions of [PGE]." The proper response to that inquiry is "no."

Imagine, for example, that a publicly traded company such as IBM was one of the Applicants proposing to acquire and exercise substantial influence over PGE. Would

corporation and person in any chain of successive ownership of five percent or more of voting securities of such public utility; and (3) Every corporation five percent or more of whose voting securities are owned by any person or corporation owning five percent or more of the voting securities of such public utility or by any person or corporation in any chain of successive ownership of five percent or more of voting securities of such public utility. ORS 757.015(1), (2), and (3).

ORS 757.511 require the Commission to investigate the identity of the vast number of individual shareholders? Moreover, large institutional investors who own many IBM shares, such as mutual funds, are themselves made up of thousands of individual investors. Would ORS 757.511 require IBM to produce the identity of those investors? ORS 757.511 requires only that the Commission investigate those persons who "shall acquire the power to exercise any substantial influence over the policies and actions of [PGE]," including "affiliated interests" as defined by certain subsections of ORS 757.015. The identities of persons who do not meet those criteria, such as TPG's investors (or, in the above hypothetical, IBM's shareholders), have no possible relevance and would not lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. Indeed, unlike investors in a public company like IBM who can exercise voting rights, TPG's Limited Partners have no voting rights whatsoever. They simply cannot be considered relevant to the scope of the Commission's inquiry under ORS 757.511.

# B. The Risk of Harm to TPG from Inadvertent Disclosure of Its Customers' Identities Outweighs the Benefit of Allowing Parties to Review Them.

Even if the Commission concludes that the identities of TPG's customers are discoverable, it should determine, following application of the appropriate standard, that additional protection beyond that provided under the Standard Protective Order is warranted.

The appropriate standard is an analysis of whether the harm to TPG from inadvertent public disclosure of its customers' identities outweighs the benefit of allowing the other parties to review a customer list, and application of that standard is required by the Commission's recent prior decisions. See, e.g., Re PacifiCorp, UE 116, Order No. 01-219 (Mar. 9, 2001); In re Matter of the Revised Tariff Schedules, UE 111, Order No. 00-305 (Jun. 9, 2000).

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The context of a proper balancing of interests is crucial and the Commission should take into consideration at least the following three factors:

- 1. The current competitive market for private equity, which requires greater attention on the need to provide heightened protection for confidential information in this proceeding;
- 2. The unusually large number of persons who have signed the Standard Protective Order to become Qualified Persons, which substantially increases the risk of inadvertent disclosure of confidential information to the public; and
- 3. Applicants' willingness to answer questions regarding TPG's Limited Partners, apart from their specific identities.

When the foregoing considerations are weighed against the marginal benefit, if any, of allowing access to TPG's customer list, additional protection to prevent the risk of harm is clearly warranted.

#### 1. The current competitive market weighs in favor of granting additional protection to TPG's customer list.

When balancing the competing interests of parties regarding access to highly sensitive information, the Commission recently granted additional protection under the Standard Protective Order in part because highly sensitive information is "made even more so by the current competitive market" in the electric industry. Re PacifiCorp, supra, Order No. 01-219. Just as in the electric industry, the private equity market has become intensely competitive, see Wheeler Declaration ¶ 2, and the same heightened sensitivity to requiring disclosure of confidential information should apply to the balancing of interests in this proceeding.

Notably, the Commission has recognized the sensitivity of customer lists in prior dockets. See In the Matter of the Application of PGE Company for Approval of Customer Choice Plan. UE 102, Order No. 98-294 (Jul. 16, 1998) (stating that concern about the sensitive nature of certain information, including customer identities, "is understandable"). That sensitive

information is "made even more so" in light of the current competitive private equity market, which weighs heavily in favor of granting additional protection.

# 2. The risk of inadvertent disclosure is substantial and weighs in favor of additional protection.

The number of persons in this docket qualified to review information designated as "confidential" under the Standard Protective Order ("Qualified Persons") is unusually large. Currently, there are 45 intervenors and 106 Qualified Persons. In previous merger proceedings the numbers were substantially fewer.<sup>4</sup> Large numbers of Qualified Persons, alone, substantially increase the risk of inadvertent public disclosure and weigh in favor of additional protection.

More disturbingly, the representative of one intervenor, Friends of Clackamas River, stated his intention to broadcast confidential information to the public that other Qualified Persons leak to him. See Affidavit of Sandee Harris in Support of Applicants' Motion for Additional Protection Under Protective Order, Exhibit 1. Applicants became aware of Friends of Clackamas River's intentions purely by chance. There is no practical way to know whether any of the 106 Qualified Persons intend to help Friends of Clackamas River (or others) circumvent the Standard Protective Order and no practical way for the Commission or Applicants to police Qualified Persons in this docket.

Even if all Qualified Persons intend to adhere scrupulously to the Standard Protective Order, anyone who regularly has attended Commission proceedings knows that, occasionally, Qualified Persons reveal confidential information inadvertently when non-Qualified Persons are in the same room. Indeed, the Commission recently has granted motions for additional protection due, in part, to the fact that "[t]he disclosure of sensitive material may be inadvertent

Based on public filings on the Commission's Web site, ScottishPower's 1998 acquisition of PacifiCorp (UM 918) involved 31 intervenors and only 11 Qualified Persons. Yet even in that proceeding the Commission determined that additional protection of confidential information was warranted. See In the Matter of the Application of ScottishPower plc and PacifiCorp, UM 918, Order Nos. 99-106 (Feb. 19, 1999) and 99-293 (Apr. 27, 1999).

and may be undetectable, especially over long periods." UE 111, Order No. 00-305. Parties then are faced with "the difficulty in 'unringing the bell" and risk serious competitive harm. *Re PacifiCorp*, UE 116, Order No. 01-219 (Mar. 9, 2001).

Lastly, some intervenors employ consultants who advise competitors of TPG or may advise them in the future. Even with the best intentions, "[i]t is humanly impossible to control the inadvertent disclosure of some [confidential] information in any prolonged working relationship." *Intel Corp. v. VIA Tech., Inc.*, 198 F.R.D. 525, 530 (N. D. Cal. 2000) (quoting U.S. Steel Corp. v. United States, 730 F.2d 1465, 1467 (Fed. Cir. 1984)). See also Re PacifiCorp, UE 116, Order No. 01-219 (granting additional protection where consultants' understanding of certain strategies "might be used by other persons who retain these same consultants to gain a competitive advantage").

In light of the foregoing, the risk of inadvertent disclosure is far larger than it has ever been in recent comparable proceedings and weighs heavily in favor of additional protection. *See Re PacifiCorp*, UE 116, Order No. 01-219 (Mar. 9, 2001).

# 3. Applicants are willing to answer general questions about TPG's Limited Partners.

Applicants have offered to answer questions about TPG's Limited Partners that do not reveal their identities. Accordingly, the parties to this proceeding already are able to discover a great deal of information about the Limited Partners, and there is no additional benefit to revealing their actual identities when the scope of this proceeding is limited to an investigation of persons who "shall acquire the power to exercise any substantial influence over the policies and actions of [PGE]." ORS 757.511. Again, the Limited Partners have no voting rights and no right or opportunity to influence or control any company in which TPG invests. Wheeler Declaration ¶ 3. Whatever benefit remains in identifying the Limited Partners (and Applicants contend that there is none) must be weighed against both the heightened sensitivity of

1	confidential information in the current competitive environment and the abnormally high risk of			
2	inadvertent disclosure in this particular docket. A proper balancing justifies additional protection			
3	of TPG's customer list.			
4	CONCLUSION			
5	For the foregoing reasons, Applicants request certification of ALJ Smith's ruling denying			
6	Applicant's Motion for Additional Protection Under Protective Order.			
7	Respectfully submitted this 7th day of June, 2004.			
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# BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

#### OF OREGON

#### **UM 1121**

In the Matter of

OREGON ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPANY, LLC, et al.,

Application for Authorization to Acquire Portland General Electric Company DECLARATION OF CARRIE WHEELER IN SUPPORT OF APPLICANTS' MOTION FOR CERTIFICATION OF JUDGE SMITH'S RULING

I, Carrie Wheeler, hereby declare that I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth in this Declaration and am competent to testify to them:

- 1. I am a principal of the Texas Pacific Group ("TPG").
- 2. Limited Partners that invest in TPG funds, including TPG Partners III, L.P., and TPG Partners IV, L.P., are individuals and organizations who can be accurately characterized as TPG's customers. The private equity market is intensely competitive and TPG considers its customer list to be commercially valuable and competitively sensitive information.
- 3. The Limited Partners have absolutely no control over TPG funds' investment in Portland General Electric or in any other investment made by the TPG funds. Further, the Limited Partners have no voting rights and no opportunity or right to control any of the companies in which TPG funds invest. They are, in other words, completely passive and rely on TPG to manage their investments.

Carrie Wheeler

PAGE 1-DECLARATION OF CARRIE WHEELER IN SUPPORT OF APPLICANTS' MOTION FOR CERTIFICATION OF JUDGE SMITH'S RULING

**UM 1121** 

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Motion to Certify\_Wheeler Declaration1

ATER WYNNE LLP 222 SW COLUMBIA, SUITE 1800 PORTLAND, OR 97201-6618 (503) 226-1191

# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE UM 1121

I hereby certify that true and correct copies of APPLICANTS' MOTION REQUESTING CERTIFICATION OF JUDGE SMITH'S RULING DENYING MOTION FOR ADDITIONAL PROTECTION and DECLARATION OF CARRIE WHEELER IN SUPPORT OF APPLICANTS' MOTION REQUESTING CERTIFICATION OF JUDGE SMITH'S RULING were served via U.S. Mail on the following parties on June 7, 2004.

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