

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON**

**UE-171**

In the Matter of the Request of	)	
	)	
PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT	)	WATERWATCH OF OREGON AND
(PACIFICORP)	)	OREGON NATURAL RESOURCES
	)	COUNCIL JOINT MOTION
	)	REQUESTING THAT ALL UE-170
Klamath Basin Irrigation	)	OPEN HOUSES INCLUDE UE-171
Rates	)	PARTIES AND ISSUES, OR, IN THE
	)	ALTERNATIVE, THAT SEPARATE
	)	UE-171 OPEN HOUSES BE SCHEDULED
	)	FOR PORTLAND, BEND AND
	)	MEDFORD
_____	)	

**BACKGROUND**

On February 18, 2005, the Oregon Public Utility Commission (“PUC”) created a new docket, UE-171, specifically to address those PacifiCorp rate setting issues pertaining to Klamath Basin irrigation rates. These issues have been removed from consideration in the UE-170 docket. During the first week of February, four “open houses” were established for docket UE-170. Open houses were scheduled to occur February 28<sup>th</sup> in Bend, March 9<sup>th</sup> in Portland, March 15<sup>th</sup> in Klamath Falls, and March 16<sup>th</sup> in Medford. Currently, only the Klamath Falls open house is scheduled to address both the UE-170 and UE-171 dockets. *See* UE-170, Revised Joint Ruling and Prehearing Conference Noticed (issued February 24<sup>th</sup>) at 3. By the time the order was issued creating UE-171, WaterWatch and ONRC had already notified members and other interested persons of the open houses in Bend, Portland and Medford and the opportunity to attend these other open houses and present public comments on the Klamath Basin pricing issues.

**UE-171 OPEN HOUSES ARE NEEDED IN  
COMMUNITIES OUTSIDE OF KLAMATH FALLS**

UE-171 was carved out of the larger UE-170 docket specifically to address Klamath Basin irrigation pricing issues. At issue are highly subsidized and discriminatory power rates currently enjoyed by Klamath Basin irrigators that lead to uneconomic and excessive use of power and water in the Klamath Basin. The Klamath Basin is a national treasure. WaterWatch and ONRC members, PacifiCorp ratepayers and others *throughout the state of Oregon* care deeply about both conserving the area's natural resources as well as electrical pricing issues that impact rates throughout the state. Limiting the UE-171 open house venue to Klamath Falls will unfairly exclude many of these people from attending and submitting public comments at an open house.

While it is too late to modify the February 28 Bend open house, WaterWatch and ONRC request that in addition to the Klamath Falls open house, the Portland and Medford open houses (March 9<sup>th</sup> and March 16<sup>th</sup> respectively), be broadened to include UE-171 parties and issues. This would include allowing parties to staff a table (or shared table) and to produce poster boards regarding UE-171 issues, in compliance with established procedures. Public comments addressing the pricing issues now the subject of UE-171 should be accepted at the currently scheduled UE-170 open houses.

In the alternative, WaterWatch and ONRC request that new UE-171 open house dates be selected for Bend, Medford and Portland. This is less desirable because it is a less efficient way to ensure fair public comment opportunities. WaterWatch and ONRC, and presumably other parties that sought intervention in UE-170, have already dedicated resources to publicizing the existing UE-170 open house locations and times.

WaterWatch notified members and others about the four open houses by sending two

“Riveraction” email alerts to a WaterWatch listserve, sending information to other listserves, discussing the open houses with other conservation and fishing organizations, and by posting information on the WaterWatch web site. ONRC notified members and others by contacting and informing individuals and staff of allied groups throughout Oregon, and by sending additional ONRC staff to Bend to post flyers regarding the Bend Open House. In an effort to prevent likely confusion after the February 18<sup>th</sup> decision creating the new docket, ONRC sent out an “Action Alert” email to an ONRC list, asking members to attend the UE 170 hearings already scheduled, but submit comments regarding the Klamath power subsidy. This information was also posted the ONRC web site. Given this, WaterWatch and ONRC would prefer that the existing UE-170 open houses simply be designated as joint UE-170/UE-171 open houses.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Klamath Basin is a national treasure that will be impacted, for better or for worse, by the outcome of UE-171. PacifiCorp ratepayers and others throughout the state of Oregon should be given the same opportunity to voice their concerns about the UE-171 Klamath Basin irrigation pricing issues as is offered for the UE-170 docket. WaterWatch and ONRC believe that fairness requires that all of the scheduled open houses (excepting Bend due to time constraints) be designated as joint UE-170/UE-171 open houses, or in the alternative that new, separate UE-171 open houses be scheduled for Bend, Portland, and Medford.

Respectfully submitted this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2005,

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have this day served WaterWatch of Oregon and Oregon Natural Resources Council's Joint Motion Requesting that All UE-170 Open Houses Include UE-171 Parties and Issues, or, in the Alternative, that Separate UE-171 Open Houses be Scheduled for Portland, Bend and Medford by email and postage prepaid mail upon each person on the UE-170 and UE-171 service lists, as listed and at the address indicated on the attached page, and upon the Oregon Public Utility Commission (email to Carol.Hulse@state.or.us) (original and five copies mailed pursuant to 860-013-0060).

Dated: February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005

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