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Salem Area Chamber of Commerce
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503-581-1466; Fax 503-581-0972
salemchamber.org

May 14, 2010

DEQ Director Dick Pederson
OPUC Chairman Ray Baum
OPUC Commissioner Susan Ackerman
OPUC Commissioner John Savage

Dear Director and Commissioners,

Having reviewed the proposal, the Salem Chamber believes PGE's plan to close the Boardman Plant in 2020 to represent a balanced approach that fairly takes into consideration economic concerns such as customer rate impacts, environmental concerns and the needs of Oregon communities like Salem.

The Salem Chamber represents over 1,000 area businesses that rely on the services of PGE. Like many other Oregon communities, our members have been hit particularly hard by the recent economic recession. Successful and profitable businesses benefit not only the immediate area, but all of Oregon. There is a direct correlation between the health of government and non-profits to the profitability of business. Profits turn into more tax revenue for government, more charitable donations, and most importantly, more jobs. This is why reasonably-priced electricity is important for our business members.

PGE's plan provides the most cost-effective solution for replacing the Boardman Plant, especially when compared to the 2014 alternative proposed by some that would cost customers an additional \$600 million over the next decade – during the very time the state is trying to regain its economic footing. PGE's plan also allows for an orderly and cost-effective transition away from coal – and it achieves all of this without causing rapid rate spikes, economic stress on the region, and the potential loss of businesses and jobs to our region that would likely result from an earlier shutdown.

The chamber is very supportive of practical efforts to clean up Oregon's environment. The controls PGE is proposing on Boardman will result in dramatic environmental improvements and will close the plant 20 years earlier than planned. Best of all, it does this without putting an unfair economic burden on our business members and Salem residents.

We also respectfully ask you to consider the views of the Salem-area organizations who have signed the attached letter.

On behalf of the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce and over 1,000 business members, I urge the Oregon Public Utility Commission and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality provide the necessary rule changes and acknowledgements required for PGE to legally pursue its 2020 plan for the Boardman Plant set forth in its revised Integrated Resource Plan (LC 48) and petition to amend the Regional Haze Rule.

Sincerely,



Mike McLaran
Chief Executive Officer
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce

May 13, 2010

DEQ Director Dick Pederson
OPUC Chairman Ray Baum
OPUC Commissioner Susan Ackerman
OPUC Commissioner John Savage

Dear Director and Commissioners,

The Woodburn Chamber of Commerce and the Silverton Chamber of Commerce serves as the voice of business in the Woodburn, Silverton, and surrounding area. Ours is a unique area, made up of many agricultural businesses, the Woodburn Company Stores, the Oregon Gardens, downtowns in the process of revitalization, and a diverse array of other businesses. Both Chambers work to support business retention, expansion, and recruitment; encourage economic development and promote tourism to attract visitors to our region.

We are very concerned that our efforts will be hampered if Portland General Electric is forced to shutdown its Boardman Generating Plant prior to its proposed 2020 closure (as outlined in PGE's amended IRP/LC 48 filing before the commission). The impacts on Woodburn, Silverton and area residents and businesses from the resulting price increases would be harmful. Many of our business members (especially in the agricultural sector), operate on incredibly thin margins, and 10 years of increased prices resulting from shutting down Boardman too soon would have a negative effect, resulting in many businesses closing or leaving Oregon, job losses, and economic hardships for our region.

We strongly believe that PGE's 2020 Plan represents the best path forward, providing the right balance of environmental and economic concerns. PGE itself notes that this plan will be difficult to achieve. The support of the Oregon Public Utility Commission for this strategy will send a positive signal and serve as key to obtaining the regulatory and/or legislative fixes necessary to make it happen.

On behalf of the Woodburn chamber, Silverton chamber and our business members, we urge the Oregon Public Utility Commission and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality provide the necessary rule changes and acknowledgements required for PGE to legally pursue its 2020 plan for the Boardman Plant set forth in its revised Integrated Resource Plan (LC 48) and petition to amend the Regional Haze Rule.

Sincerely,

Ken Hector
President, Woodburn Chamber Board of Directors

Trina Riemersma
President, Silverton Chamber Board of Directors

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day caused the attached comments of the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce regarding OPUC Docket No. LC 48 -- Portland General Electric's Integrated Resource Plan to be served by electronic mail to those parties whose email addresses appear on the attached service list, and by First Class US Mail, postage prepaid and properly addressed, to those parties on the attached service list who have not waived paper service from OPUC Docket No. LC 48.

Dated at Salem, Oregon, this 14 day of May, 2010.



Mike McLaran
Chief Executive Officer
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce

**SERVICE LIST
OPUC DOCKET # LC 48**

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