

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: January 26, 2016

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE January 1, 2016

DATE: January 11, 2016

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Judy Johnson 

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer  and Marc Hellman 

SUBJECT: PACIFIC POWER: (Docket Nos. UE 302/UM 1483(5)) Requests approval to continue amortization of the deferral balance in the Oregon Solar Incentive Program using the same amortization rate approved for 2015.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend that Pacific Power's (Pacific or Company) application be approved to continue current rates for calendar 2016.

ISSUE:

Pacific requests approval to amortize the deferral balance relating to Dockets UE 302 and UM 1483(5) associated with the Company's costs for the Oregon Solar Incentive Program (OSIP) using the same amortization rate approved for 2015.

APPLICABLE RULES AND LAWS:

Pacific makes this filing pursuant to ORS 757.205, ORS 757.210, OAR 860-022-0025 and OAR 860-022-0030, for approval to amortize the deferral balance relating to Dockets UE 302 and UM 1483(5).

ANALYSIS:

During the OSIP program year, the Company deferred approximately \$4.3 million, excluding interest, for the twelve months ended September 30, 2015. The deferral includes implementation costs for program development and administration, incentive payments, and meter costs. The total deferral balance also reflects offsetting credits for customer charges and an avoided energy value. In addition, a residual credit balance

of approximately \$162,000 relating to 2014 program costs has been included in the balance that the Company is seeking to amortize in this filing.

The total amount of OSIP-related expense requested to be amortized in 2016 is approximately the same as the \$4.3 million in OSIP-related expense approved for amortization in Advice No, 14-012. Therefore, the current rates in Schedule 204, which were set to collect approximately \$4.3 million annually beginning January 1, 2015, are appropriate to collect the new amortization amount for 2016. The Company proposes to leave the current Schedule 204 rates in effect for 2016 and proposes no change to the tariff at this time.

Pursuant to ORS 757.259(5), this amortization is not subject to an earnings review as it is subject to an automatic adjustment clause under ORS 757.210(1). See also OAR 860-084-0060 and ORS 469A.120.

The requested deferral amortization is less than three percent of Pacific's earnings, as required by ORS 757.259(6).

Staff Recommendation

The Company's application meets the requirements of ORS 757.205 and OAR 860-022-0025, Staff recommends Pacific's application be approved.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Pacific Power's application be approved to continue current rates for calendar 2016.