

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: June 9, 2015

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE June 10, 2015

DATE: May 28, 2015

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Elaine Prause *EP*

THROUGH: *MAE* Jason Eisdorfer and *AA* Aster Adams

SUBJECT: PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC: (Docket No. ADV 31/Advice No. 15-11) Request for PGE to offer Energy Efficiency Classes to Non-PGE Business Customers.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

The Public Utility Commission (Commission) should approve the request by Portland General Electric (PGE or Company) to offer energy efficiency classes to non-PGE business customers with full compensation from Energy Trust of Oregon (Energy Trust).

DISCUSSION:

Introduction

PGE filed Advice No. 15-11 on April 27, 2015, pursuant to ORS 757.205 and 757.210, and OAR 860-022-0025, to revise Schedule 300 related to educational training classes available to PGE business customers, to allow non-PGE business customers to participate in the classes, effective June 10, 2015. Staff reviewed PGE's filing to determine whether it satisfied the criteria of ORS 757.210 and OAR 860-022-0025(2).

Pertinent statutes and rules

Under ORS 757.210, the Commission reviews proposed tariff changes to determine whether the resulting tariff provisions are fair, just and reasonable.

OAR 860-022-0025 requires that utilities proposing a tariff change must submit:

(a) A statement plainly indicating the increase, decrease, or other change thereby made in existing rates, charges, tolls, or rules and regulations;

- (b) A statement setting forth the number of customers affected by the proposed change and the resulting change in annual revenue; and
- (c) A detailed statement setting forth the reasons or grounds relied upon in support of the proposed change.

Background

PGE has been offering educational training classes to their business customers for many years. Largely focused on energy efficiency, these classes also cover renewables, smart grid, controlling energy costs and lighting. These classes are funded through rates for PGE customers. There are occasions where courses are registered through the state of Oregon and Washington for electrical licensees and in those cases, PGE does charge for the course.

On March 19, 2015, PGE and Commission Staff discussed Energy Trust's request that PGE extend availability of their energy efficiency classes to non-PGE business customers. Energy Trust made this request believing that by expanding attendance to other Energy Trust customers outside of PGE's territory, the region would benefit.

PGE and Staff determined that the amount charged to Energy Trust for non-PGE customers should be based on costs for the instructor, facility, food and materials divided by the number of registered attendees. This is the same method used to determine charges for other classes where the states of Oregon and Washington register for electrical licensees. Energy Trust would pay this determined rate for each non-PGE customer that is eligible for Energy Trust programs.

To implement Energy Trust's proposal to expand the classes to non-PGE customers at Energy Trust's expense, the Company proposed an amendment to Schedule 300 to include a rate for PGE training classes offered to non-PGE customers.

PGE notes that there are no PGE customers directly affected by the proposed changes, as the cost responsibility for non-PGE customers attending the training is borne by the Energy Trust.

Staff Analysis

Staff is satisfied the proposed Tariff change meets the requirements of ORS 757.210 and OAR 860-022-0025.

Staff reviewed the proposed Tariff changes and confirmed they are consistent with PGE's proposal to allow non-PGE customers to participate in PGE energy efficiency classes for a fee.

Staff is satisfied that the proposed changes reflect no increase in rates as all incremental costs associated with expanding eligibility of classes will be recovered from Energy Trust, and that no substantive change to services currently provided under the Tariff are proposed.

Finally, Staff agrees with Energy Trust's assessment that offering the classes to non-PGE business customers will benefit the region, and that expanding the classes to include non-PGE business customers is just and reasonable.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

PGE's request to offer energy efficiency classes to non-PGE customers with full compensation by Energy Trust and its proposed modifications to the Company's Tariff be approved for service on and after June 10, 2015.