

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: October 1, 2015

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE October 5, 2015

DATE: September 29, 2015

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Brittany Andrus 

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer  and Aster Adams 

SUBJECT: PACIFIC POWER: (ADV 105/Advice No. 15-012) Revises Schedule 91, Low Income Bill Payment Assistance Fund, to Extend Temporary Increase.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Commission authorize Pacific Power's (PacifiCorp or Company) Schedule 91 tariff revisions, as described in Advice 15-012, effective October 5, 2015. Staff also recommends that the Commission grant PacifiCorp's request for waiver of the statutory notice period.

Issue

Should PacifiCorp be allowed to extend the Company's collection of its share of the \$5 million annual temporary increase for low-income bill assistance for an additional 24 months? Staff recommends that this filing be approved.

Applicable Rules, Orders and Statutes:

Section 1(7)(b) of Senate Bill (SB) 461 (Chapter 837, Oregon Laws 2007) requires electric companies in Oregon to establish a rate to collect approximately \$15 million dollars per year, starting in 2008 for low-income bill assistance. SB 863 (Chapter 566, Oregon Laws 2011), Section (3)(1) required the Commission to direct electric companies to collect and disburse an *additional* combined total of \$5 million per 12-month period from residential customers for a maximum of two periods, based on a determination by Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) that certain criteria had been met. The Commission approved these temporary adjustments for two consecutive 12-month periods ending October 4, 2013. House Bill (HB) 2004 (Chapter 254, Oregon Laws 2013), Section (3)(1) extended the temporary collection of the

combined total \$5 million for an additional 24 months. HB 2004 also eliminated the special economic conditions as the determinate for the collection or disbursement of these additional funds. The Commission approved the temporary adjustments for two consecutive 12-month periods ending October 4, 2015.¹

Subsequently, the legislature passed HB 3257 in the regular 2015 Oregon Legislative Session, extending the sunset date of the supplemental low income assistance to January 2, 2018.

Discussion

PacifiCorp filed Advice No. 15-012 on September 21, 2015 with an effective date of October 7, 2015 and a request for waiver of the statutory notice period. The filing implements the 24-month extension of the temporary increase required by HB 3257 as discussed above. The Company filed a supplemental advice on September 29, 2015 changing the requested effective date to October 5, 2015, and an updated waiver request.

The rate for the additional funds was calculated jointly with Portland General Electric Company (PGE). The current rate of \$0.34 per month will stay the same based on 2016 projected residential customer counts for PacifiCorp and PGE. PacifiCorp will continue to collect approximately \$2 million of the \$5 million per year from residential customers through October 4, 2017. This amount, when combined with the regular Schedule 91 rate of \$0.50 per month, extends the total collection of \$0.84 per residential customer per month. PacifiCorp's forecast of residential customers for 2016 estimates that approximately 485,000 will continue to pay this temporary increase.

Staff has reviewed the Company's filing and is supportive of this modification.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

PacifiCorp's revised Schedule 91, filed as Advice No. 15-012, go into effect October 5, 2015, and the statutory notice waiver be granted.

¹ See Advice Filings 11-013, 12-013 and 13-015.