

ISSUE 3: AVIAN ADJUSTMENT

Q. Please describe the avian curtailment expense.

A. In UE 296, ICNU raised an issue with an adjustment to the GRID power cost model that accounted for reduced output at two wind sites, Glenrock and Seven Mile Hill.²¹ The Commission rejected ICNU's argument in that docket; however in UE 307 new evidence showed that the Company constructed the two wind sites in an avian-sensitive area while ignoring the advice of federal agencies and putting the Company at risk of violating federal law.²² In UE 307, Staff recommended the Commission reject the model change, resulting in a downward adjustment of approximately \$64,000 (Oregon-allocated) to the Company's proposed NPC associated with the loss of energy from avian protection curtailments.²³ The Commission adopted Staff's adjustment based on Staff's presentation of evidence that PacifiCorp knew or should have known at the time of siting that there were relevant U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) guidelines for siting wind in avian-sensitive areas that could impact the output of these facilities.²⁴ Staff's adjustment sought to hold ratepayers harmless from PacifiCorp's decision to site the wind projects in avian-sensitive areas without accounting for the costs of compliance with federal guidance.

²¹ UE 296 - ICNU/100, Mullins/4.

²² Staff's UE 307 Opening Testimony. Staff/200, Kaufman/18.

²³ Order 16-418 at 2.

²⁴ Order 16-482 at 19-20.

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