

ITEM NO. CA6

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: October 24, 2017

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE October 25, 2017

DATE: October 17, 2017

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Max St. Brown^{MSB}

THROUGH: Jef Jason Eisdorfer and Je John Crider

SUBJECT: PACIFIC POWER: (Docket No. ADV 619/Advice No. 17-003) Revises Optional Schedule 271 – Energy Profiler Online.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Commission approve Pacific Power's (PAC or Company) proposed revisions to Schedule 271 for the purpose of charging customers without interval meters for meter upgrades and for offering those customers a paid cell package option, effective for service rendered on and after October 25, 2017.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Commission should approve PAC's proposed revisions to Schedule 271 for the purpose of charging customers without interval meters for meter upgrades and for offering those customers a paid cell package option.

Applicable Law

PacifiCorp's filing was made in compliance with ORS 757.205, OAR 860-022-0025. The Company must indicate the change in rates and the number of customers affected.

Discussion and Analysis

On August 23, 2017, Pacific Power filed Advice No. 17-003. The purpose of the filing was to "add an accommodation for [customers smaller than 750kW] to choose a meter upgrade with or without a cellular package."¹ This filing both introduces a cellular communication option for customers currently without an interval meter and introduces a meter upgrade fee to those customers, whether they use cellular communication or not.

Staff had questions regarding the 750 kW cutoff and spoke with the Company via telephone on October 3, 2017. After speaking with Staff, the Company agreed to change the language in the tariff to make clear that upgrade fees would be required from all customers that did not already have an interval meter through the regular course of business, and made this update on October 16, 2017 on less than statutory notice. The Company clarified that "in general, meters capable of interval data are installed for new installations with transformers rated at 1,000 kVA or larger, which equates approximately to customers with thresholds of at least 750 kW or greater."² Although the original language reflected the Company's operations, generally, Staff believes that the current language ensures that all customers on Schedule 271 are treated equally in the rare event that a meter upgrade is required for a 750kW or greater customer. Thus, Staff is satisfied that PAC removed the 750 kW cutoff language in its October 17, 2017 update.

Staff asked two requests for information. Staff reviewed the Company's confidential workpapers including a digital spreadsheet detailing the costs related to the cellular communication option. The Company was responsive to Staff's email requesting clarification on the historical treatment of customers smaller than 750 kW. The filing increases the participation charges for customers without an interval meter, but as the tariff is optional, it is unknown how many customers will pay the increased charges. Notably, the currently approved tariff states, "variances to these charges may be negotiated between the Company and the customer."³

Conclusion

Staff supports this filing because it brings the charges in an optional tariff closer to their true costs, and therefore does a better job than the existing tariff of holding all other customers harmless. Staff further supports the Company's request for less than statutory notice.

¹ PAC Advice No. 17-003 at 1.

² See PAC's response to Staff IR 1.

³ PAC First Revision of Sheet No. 271-1.

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Staff recommends approval of PAC's proposed revisions for the purpose of aligning the charges in an optional tariff with costs.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve, on less than statutory notice, Pacific Power's proposed revisions to Schedule 271 for the purpose of charging customers without interval meters for meter upgrades and for offering those customers a paid cell package option, effective October 25, 2017.

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