

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: October 20, 2020**

REGULAR **CONSENT** **EFFECTIVE DATE** _____ **N/A**

DATE: October 12, 2020

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Caroline Moore

THROUGH: Bryan Conway and JP Batmale **SIGNED**

SUBJECT: OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION STAFF:
(Docket No. UM 2000)
Report on UM 2001 distribution system interconnection data.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Information only – no recommendation.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

This report closes the loop on the UM 2001 interim data transparency efforts.

Applicable Rule or Law

Commission Order No. 19-217 adopted requirements for Idaho Power Company (IPC), PacifiCorp (PAC), and Portland General Electric (PGE) to post specific, interconnection-related distribution system data to each Company's Open Access Same-time Information Site (OASIS).

Commission Order No.19-272 addressed additional issues regarding the handling and publication of sensitive distribution system interconnection data.

Analysis

Background

On June 18, 2019, the Commission adopted requirements for utilities to post interconnection data to OASIS. The requirements included:

- Queue and studies: IPC and PGE were required to post historical interconnection studies going back to 2017 and post future interconnection studies as they are performed. PGE was also directed to post its small generator interconnection queue.
- System data: Posting the following distribution system information by September 1, 2019:
 - Substations
 - Name
 - County
 - Substation Voltage
 - Number of transformers
 - Transformer voltages
 - Communications - SCADA Y/N
 - For each feeder:
 - Identifier (name)
 - Peak load
 - Line capacity at the point where it leaves the substation
 - DER connected capacity
 - DER capacity in queue
 - Daytime minimum load, or other data to estimate additional DER capacity
- Milestones: Developing a process for posting interconnection milestone dates i.e., transparency about the pace of generators moving through the interconnection process.

The Commission established a workgroup to implement these requirements during a six-month time frame, culminating with a report provided to the Commission January 2020.

The Commission also directed Staff and stakeholders to further discuss data security issues raised by the utilities related to the publication of communications data (SCADA Y/N) and feeder peak load, and report back at the August 13, 2019, Public Meeting.

At the August 13, 2020, Public Meeting, Staff confirmed that the data security issues were satisfactorily resolved, but Staff committed to sharing any further issues that arise in the January 2020 report.

It has come to Staff's attention that the January 2020 closing report has not yet been filed. This Staff memo is intended to provide that report and confirm that the Commission's UM 2001 interim interconnection data transparency requirements have been met.

Compliance with Data Transparency Requirements

Staff review confirms that the utilities have implemented the requirements for posting the queue and historic studies. The utilities have also published the required system data, including minimum daytime load values. The utilities continue to update their data and improve methodologies; however, parties would likely benefit from a formal stakeholder process to continuously refine and update the information. Additional discussion about the usefulness of this data can be found in Staff's Community Solar Program interim status update on interconnection solutions from the July 28, 2020, Public Meeting.¹

In regard to sensitive system data, Staff is unaware of any specific issues or findings that emerged since August 2019, but notes that the utilities have redacted peak load and minimum daytime load on the following number of feeders:

- IPC: 3 redacted out of 61 feeders (5 percent)
- PAC: 58 redacted out of 504 feeders (11.5 percent)
- PGE: 92 redacted out of 627 feeders (15 percent)

Staff finds that the interconnection milestone data can, for the most part, be found in individual interconnection studies and the public interconnection queue. This information could be consolidated in the future for ease of access, similar to the quarterly FERC Order 845 data tables that can be found on each utilities' OASIS.

Staff will consider these findings while working with the utilities and stakeholders to continue to improve interconnection data transparency in UM 2111 and UM 2005.

Conclusion

Staff appreciates the utilities' and stakeholders' work to meet the initial data transparency requirements developed under UM 2001. Staff is not aware of any specific additional issues related to sensitive data, but understands that the interconnection data transparency effort as a whole is just beginning, and parties will continue to work together to refine the usefulness of available interconnection information in UM 2111 and UM 2005.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Informational filing – no recommendation.

¹ See Docket No. UM 1930. <https://edocs.puc.state.or.us/efdocs/HAU/um1930hau144450.pdf>