

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: September 7, 2021**

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE September 8, 2021

DATE: August 30, 2021

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Eric Shierman

THROUGH: Bryan Conway, JP Batmale, and Sarah Hall **SIGNED**

SUBJECT: PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC:
(Docket No. ADV 1299/Advice No. 21-19)
Housekeeping Changes to Schedule 7 Renewable Portfolio Options and
Unenrollment Coordination with Oregon Low Income Home Energy
Assistance Program and Oregon Energy Assistance Program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) approve Portland General Electric's (PGE or the Company) filing, Advice No. 21-19.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Commission should approve housekeeping changes to Schedule 7's Renewable Portfolio Options and a new unenrollment provision for customers that receive assistance from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP).

Applicable Rule

ORS 757.603 requires electric utilities to provide a portfolio of rate options to residential customers. The Commission regulates portfolio options so that the rates reflect the costs and risks of serving each option.

ORS 757.205(1) provides that "[e]very public utility shall file with the Public Utility Commission, within a time to be fixed by the commission, schedules which shall be

open to public inspection, showing all rates, tolls and charges which it has established and which are in force at the time for any service performed by it within the state, or for any service in connection therewith or performed by any public utility controlled or operated by it.”

Analysis

In this memo, Staff will describe the filing’s background and major elements, and give reasons for Staff’s recommendation.

Background

Established through UM 1020, Portfolio Options are voluntary green power programs designed to collect funds that electric companies can issue as grants to eligible renewable energy projects. In this way the voluntary programs contribute directly to the development of new renewable resources that may not have otherwise been built.

Oregon has two programs to provide bill payment assistance to low-income utility customers. LIHEAP is a federally funded program. OEAP is funded by the State of Oregon. Both programs are administered by the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department.

Filing Details

Advice No. 21-19 contains two non-substantive changes to Schedule 7, PGE’s residential tariff. One clarifies the meaning of a sentence on Sheet No. 7-6 by removing a period and adding a comma. The other clarifies the fund referred to on Sheet No. 7-7.

Advice No. 21-19 also makes a substantive change. The Oregon Housing and Community Services Department notified PGE that customers receiving energy assistance through LIHEAP and OEAP cannot be enrolled in a voluntary portfolio options rate. In this filing, PGE adds new language to the list of conditions on Sheet No. 7-9 that allows PGE to unenroll customers receiving this assistance:

The Company will use reasonable efforts to ensure energy assistance dollars from the Oregon Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP) assistance programs are not used to cover Green Future program participation during the time which participants receive these energy assistance funds. As such, PGE will unenroll Customers from the Green FutureSM program if they receive energy assistance funds from LIHEAP and OEAP. If these

energy assistance dollars are no longer applied to the bill, the Customer may re-enroll in the program subject to the above requirements.¹

Reasons for Staff Recommendation

Staff finds PGE's changes to Schedule 7 reasonable. The non-substantive changes make these tariff sheets more clear. The new condition for participation requiring portfolio option unenrollment when a customer receives LIHEAP and OEAP assistance puts PGE in compliance with these programs' rules.

Staff spoke with the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department. The Oregon Housing and Community Services Department confirmed that it has asked PGE to make these changes.

Conclusion

In Advice No. 21-19, PGE makes changes to Schedule 7 that Staff finds reasonable. The non-substantive changes improve the clarity of the tariff. The substantive change puts PGE in compliance with federal and state energy assistance rules.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve PGE's filing, Advice No. 21-19, which makes housekeeping changes to Schedule 7 Renewable Portfolio Options and unenrolls customers from this voluntary rate when receiving assistance from LIHEAP and OEAP.

CA11 ADV 1299

¹ See Docket No. ADV 1299, PGE, Advice No. 21-19, August 6, 2021, p 5.