



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Public Utility Commission

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September 7, 2021



BY EMAIL

Portland General Electric Company

pge.opuc.filings@pgn.com

RE: Advice No. 21-19

At the public meeting on September 7, 2021, the Commission adopted Staff's recommendation in this matter docketed as ADV 1299. The Staff Report and a receipted copy of the sheets in your advice filing are attached.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nolan Moser".

Nolan Moser

Chief Administrative Law Judge

Public Utility Commission of Oregon

(503) 378-3098

**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.

SCHEDULE 7 (Continued)

ENERGY PRICE PLANS: TOU PORTFOLIO OPTION (Continued)

Special Conditions Pertaining to Whole Premises and Electric Vehicle Time of Use Options

1. Service may be terminated at the next regularly scheduled meter reading provided the Company has received two weeks' notice prior to the meter read date. Absent the two-week notice, the termination will occur with the next subsequent meter reading date.
2. Participation requires a one-year commitment by the Customer. Generally, if a Customer requests removal from the TOU Option, the Customer will be required to wait 12 months before re-enrolling. However, a Customer may request to reinstate service within 90 days of termination, in which case the Portfolio Enrollment Charge will be waived.
3. The Customer must take service at 120/240 volts or greater.
4. The Customer must provide the Company access to the meter monthly.
5. After a Customer's initial 12 months of service on the TOU Option, the Company will calculate what the Customer would have paid under the default plan and compare billings. If the Customer's Energy Charge billings (including all applicable supplemental adjustments) under the TOU Option exceeded the default plan Energy Charge (including all applicable supplemental adjustments) by more than 10%, the Company will issue the Customer a refund for the amount more than 10% either as a bill credit or refund check. No refund will be issued for Customers not meeting the 12-month requirement.
6. The Company may recover lost revenue from the TOU Option through Schedule 105.
7. Billing will begin for any Customer no later than the next regularly scheduled meter reading date following the initialization meter reading made on a regularly scheduled meter reading date, assuming no meter exchange is required to enable the TOU rate. (T)
8. The Company may choose to offer promotional incentives, including but not limited to rebates or coupons.

GREEN FUTURESM RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO OPTIONS

Customers can add any of the following Green FutureSM Renewable Portfolio options to any service described in this schedule: renewable fixed option, renewable usage option, renewable solar option, and renewable habitat option adder (Habitat Support).

The Customer will be charged for the Green FutureSM Renewable Portfolio option in addition to all other charges under this schedule for the term of enrollment in the Green FutureSM Renewable Portfolio option.

SCHEDULE 7 (Continued)

GREEN FUTURESM RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO OPTIONS (Continued)

Energy or Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), as defined in Rule B of this tariff, supporting the Green FutureSM will be acquired by the Company such that by March 31 of the succeeding year, the Company will have received sufficient RECs or renewable energy to meet the purchases by Customers. For the renewable fixed and renewable usage options, the Company is not required to own renewables or to acquire Energy from renewable resources simultaneously with Customer usage.

For purposes of these options, renewable resources include wind generation, solar, biomass, low impact hydro (as certified by the Low Impact Hydro Institute) and geothermal energy sources used to produce electric power. All RECs will be Green-e certified by the Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS) beginning January 1, 2009.

RENEWABLE FIXED OPTION

The Company will purchase 200 kWh of RECs and/or renewable energy per block enrolled in the renewable fixed option. All RECs purchased under this option will come from new renewable resources.

The Company will also place \$1.50 of the amount received from Customers enrolled in the renewable fixed option in a new renewable resources development and demonstration fund (Renewable Development Fund or "RDF").

Amounts in the RDF will be disbursed by the Company to public renewable resource demonstration projects or projects that commit to supply Energy according to a contractually established timetable. The Company will report to the Commission annually by March 15th, pursuant to Order No. 16-156, on collections and disbursements for the preceding calendar year. The annual report will include a list of projects that received or were allocated RDF funding. (T)

Amounts placed in the RDF prior to July 6, 2016 will accrue interest at the Commission-authorized cost of capital until disbursed. Amounts placed in the fund on and after July 6, 2016 will accrue interest at the Commission-authorized rate for deferred accounts in amortization until disbursed. Amounts within the fund will be disbursed on a first-in-first-out basis. Once funds have been committed to projects, following the required OPUC review, they will be deemed disbursed. Funds deemed disbursed and still held by the Company, will accrue interest at the Commission-authorized rate for deferred accounts in amortization. (T)

Monthly Rate

Renewable Fixed Option	\$2.50	per month per block
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SCHEDULE 7 (Concluded)

GREEN FUTURESM RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO OPTIONS (Continued)

SPECIAL CONDITIONS RELATED TO GREEN FUTURESM RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO OPTIONS

1. Service will become effective with the next regularly scheduled meter reading date provided the Customer has selected the option at least five days prior to their next scheduled meter read date. Absent the five-day notice, the change will become effective on the subsequent meter read date. Service may be terminated at the next regularly scheduled meter reading provided the Company has received two weeks' notice prior to the meter read date. Absent the two-week notice, the termination will occur with the subsequent meter reading date.
2. The Company, in its discretion, may accept participation from accounts that have a time payment agreement in effect, or have received two or more final disconnect notices. However, the Company will not accept participation from accounts that have been involuntarily disconnected in the last 12 months. (C)
3. 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. (N)
4. The Company will use reasonable efforts to acquire renewable energy but does not guarantee the availability of renewable energy sources to serve Green FutureSM Renewable Portfolio Options. The Company makes no representations as to the impact on the development of renewable resources or habitat restoration projects of Customer's participation. (T)
5. Enrollment into renewable solar option: Customer agrees to participate for no fewer than 12 months. (T)

ADJUSTMENTS

Service under this schedule is subject to adjustments approved by the Commission. Adjustments include those summarized in Schedule 100.