



Hood River County Board of Commissioners

Jeff Hecksel, County Administrator

COMMISSIONERS

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March 1, 2022

Public Utility Commission

E-mail: puc.publiccomments@puc.oregon.gov

RE Comments on Docket #2207-PacificCorp Wildfire Protection Plan

To Whom it may Concern:

The Hood River County Board of Commissioners discussed PacifiCorp's plan at their 2/22/22 Board meeting and offer the following comments.

In general, the Commission felt the plan was well thought out and comprehensive. In particular, the Commission appreciated the commitment to making improvements in vegetation management and system hardening to increase fire resilience. The plan laid out a reasonable time frame for these improvements and identified the costs associated with getting the work done. The management structure defined within the plan showed the commitment to making sure specific people are responsible for implementing the plan.

The Board specifically commented on the current level of work being done by PacifiCorp in the area relating to system hardening and vegetation management. This was greatly appreciated.

It would be helpful to provide clarification as to how PacifiCorp plans on completing the work, and, in responding to the need for system inspection following a PSPS. Will the people doing this work be existing crews, contract crews, new crews, or a combination? Will these people be brought in from other areas and if so what areas? Are there contingency plans in place in the case of multiple PSPS events in the state or region?

An area the Board felt could use some improvement related to communications with the public and local agency specific communications. It would be helpful to identify how communications will be provided and who will be responsible for the

communications during a PSPS event, particularly to local emergency responders and agencies. Also, it would be helpful to have a clear understanding on how communications will flow preceding a PSPS event.

Finally, the most significant item for the Commission was the lack of a clear commitment by PacifiCorp to support local communities during a PSPS event. The proposed plan only listed items that may be provided. It would be helpful to know what support will be provided by PacifiCorp, so the local response does not duplicate efforts. Specifically, details about how PacifiCorp would support critical facilities are essential to judge the adequacy of the plan. Needs will vary community to community, and Hood River County would be happy to coordinate with Pacific Corp so that the region can be supported if such an event were to occur.

The Commissioners appreciate the opportunity to comment, and greatly appreciate the substantial effort defined within the plan, and current work being done on the ground to mitigate fire risk.

Sincerely,

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Michael J. Oates, Chair

Cc: Hood River County Commissioners