

September 9, 2016

# **VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Public Utility Commission of Oregon 201 High Street SE, Suite 100 Salem, Oregon 97301

Attn: Filing Center

RE: Docket UM \_\_\_\_

PacifiCorp's Application for Authorization of Deferred Accounting for a Balancing Account Related to the Purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates.

PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power (Company) submits for filing its Application for Authorization of Deferred Accounting for a Balancing Account Related to the Purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates.

It is respectfully requested that all formal data requests to the Company regarding this filing be addressed to the following:

By e-mail (preferred): <u>datarequest@pacificorp.com</u>

By regular mail: Data Request Response Center

**PacifiCorp** 

825 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 2000

Portland, OR 97232

Please direct any informal inquiries to Natasha Siores at (503) 813-6583.

Sincerely,

R. Bryce Dalley

Vice President, Regulation

Enclosures

cc: Service List UE 263

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that I served a true and correct copy of PacifiCorp's Application for Authorization of Deferred Accounting for a Balancing Account Related to the Purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates on the parties listed below via electronic mail in compliance with OAR 860-001-0180.

#### UE 263

OPUC Dockets Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon 610 SW Broadway, Suite 400 Portland, OR 97205 dockets@oregoncub.org

Michael Goetz Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon 610 SW Broadway, Suite 400 Portland, OR 97205 michael@oregoncub.org

Michael T. Weirich Department of Justice Business Activities Section 1162 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301-4096 Michael.weirch@state.or.us

Etta Lockey Pacific Power 825 NE Multnomah St., Ste. 1800 Portland, OR 97232 etta.lockey@pacificorp.com

Marianne Gardner Oregon Public Utility Commission PO Box 1088 Salem, OR 97308-1088 Marianne.gardner@state.or.us

Douglas C. Tingey Portland General Electric 121 SW Salmon 1WTC13 Portland, OR 97204 Doug.tingey@pgn.com

Kurt J. Boehm Jody Kyler Cohn Boehm Kurtz & Lowry 36 E. Seventh Street, Suite 1510 Cincinnati, OH 45202 kboehm@bkllawfirm.com jkyler@bkllawfirm.com Robert Jenks Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon 610 SW Broadway, Suite 400 Portland, OR 97205 Bob@oregoncub.org

Irion A. Sanger Sanger Law PC 1117 SE 53<sup>rd</sup> Ave Portland, OR 97215 irion@sanger-law.com

Kevin Higgins
Energy Strategies
215 State St., Suite 200
Salt Lake City, UT 84111-2322
Khiggins@energystrat.com

Oregon Dockets
Pacific Power
825 NE Multnomah St., Suite 2000
Portland, OR 97232
oregondockets@pacificorp.com

Katherine A. McDowell McDowell Rackner & Gibson PC 419 SW 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 400 Portland, OR 97205 Katherine@mcd-law.com

Greg Bass Noble Americas Energy Solutions, LLC 401 West A Street, Suite 500 San Diego, CA 92101 gbass@noblesolutions.com

Gregory M. Adams Richardson & O'Leary PO Box 7218 Boise, ID 83702 greg@richardsonadams.com Samuel L. Roberts Hutchinson, Cox, Coons, Orr & Sherlock, P.C. PO Box 10886 Eugene, OR 97440 sroberts@eugenelaw.com

Maja K. Haium
Tracy Rutten
League of Oregon Cities
1201 Court Street NE, Suite 200
Salem, OR 97301
mhaium@orcities.org
trutten@orcities.org

Jay Tinker
Portland General Electric
121 SW Salmon 1WTC-0702
Portland, OR 97204
Pge.opuc.filings@pgn.com

Nona Soltero Fred Meyer Stores/Kroger 3800 SE 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Portland, OR 97202 Non.soltero@fredmeyer.com

Steve W. Chriss Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. 2001 SE 10th Street Bentonville, AR 72716 stephen.chriss@wal-mart.com

Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> of September, 2016.

Lauren Haney

Coordinator, Regulatory Operations

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

UM
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In the Matter of

PACIFICORP d/b/a PACIFIC POWER

Application for Approval of Deferred Accounting for a Balancing Account Related to the Purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates.

# APPLICATION FOR DEFERRED ACCOUNTING

#### 1 I. **INTRODUCTION** 2 In accordance with Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 757.259(2)(e) and Oregon 3 Administrative Rules (OAR) 860-027-0300, PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power (PacifiCorp or 4 Company) submits this application to the Public Utility Commission of Oregon 5 (Commission) for an order authorizing the Company to establish and maintain a balancing 6 account to record the deferral of costs related to contracts to purchase renewable energy 7 certificates (REC), the actual collections through the Company's Schedule 203, along with 8 related interest. 9 The Company requests to begin deferral of costs associated with the purchase of RECs from the date of this filing until the payments for these RECs are completed in 2036.<sup>1</sup> 10 II. 11 **NOTICE** 12 Communications regarding this application should be addressed to: 13 **Oregon Dockets** Etta Lockey 14 PacifiCorp Senior Counsel 825 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 2000 PacifiCorp 15 16 Portland, OR 97232 825 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 1800 17 Email: oregondockets@pacificorp.com Portland, OR 97232 18 Email: etta.lockey@pacificorp.com

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In accordance with OAR 860-027-0300, PacifiCorp will file for reauthorization of the deferral, as necessary.

1	In addition, the Company requests that all data requests regarding this application be		
2	sent to the following:		
3	By email (preferred): <u>datarequest@pacificorp.com</u>		
4 5 6 7	By regular mail:  Data Request Response Center PacifiCorp 825 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 2000 Portland, OR 97232		
8	Informal questions may be directed to Natasha Siores, Regulatory Affairs Manager,		
9	503-813-6583.		
10	III. BACKGROUND		
11	The Company's purchase of RECs was the result of a request for proposal (RFP)		
12	process initiated April 11, 2016 that included a RFP for renewable resources and a RFP for		
13	RECs. The RFPs were issued to explore whether federal tax incentives and reduced resource		
14	costs might provide a near-term procurement opportunity that could reduce RPS compliance		
15	costs over the long-term.		
16	Bids submitted in response to both RFPs were received May 20, 2016, and a final		
17	shortlist was identified July 25, 2016. Final review and analysis of the RFP bids supports the		
18	Company's purchase of RECs from seven renewable energy projects. The Company is		
19	purchasing 2014 and 2015 vintage RECs from one existing wind facility located in Colorado		
20	and additional current and forward vintage RECs from six solar facilities located in Oregon		
21	and Utah. The six solar projects that will deliver current and forward vintage RECs have an		
22	aggregate capacity of 168.5 megawatts and are expected to generate nearly six million REC		
23	that can be applied to the Company's Oregon RPS requirements over the period 2016		
24	through 2036.		

These REC purchases are lower cost when compared to resource opportunities bid into the renewable resource RFP, particularly when considering potential continuing cost declines and on-going availability of federal tax incentives. Procurement of these RECs will extend PacifiCorp's initial RPS compliance shortfall in Oregon from 2025 to 2028 with an overall estimated rate impact of 0.05 percent.

# IV. DEFERRAL OF COSTS

PacifiCorp respectfully requests authorization under ORS 757.259(2)(e) to establish and maintain a balancing account to record the costs and Schedule 203 collections related to the Company's REC purchases, along with related interest consistent with the treatment of interest rates during accrual and amortization described in Order No. 08-263 as modified by Order No. 10-279.

As required by OAR 860-027-0300(3), PacifiCorp provides the following:

# A. Description of Utility Expense

The Company proposes to establish and maintain a balancing account to record the costs related to the purchase of RECs, the amortization of collections through Schedule 203 and related interest. The use of a balancing account will ensure that Schedule 203 will not under- or over-collect amounts related to the purchase of RECs.

# B. Reasons for Deferral

ORS 757.259(2)(e) allows the deferral of identifiable utility expenses in order to minimize the frequency of rate changes or the fluctuation of rate levels or to match appropriately the costs borne and received by customers. In this application the Company seeks use a balancing account to match the costs borne and benefits received by customers.

# C. Proposed Accounting

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- 2 If this application is approved, PacifiCorp will record deferred REC purchase cost
- 3 amounts by crediting REC purchases in FERC Account 555, Purchased power, and debiting
- 4 the REC balancing account, in FERC Account 182.3, Other regulatory assets. The deferral
- 5 balance will be reduced monthly by the amount collected under proposed Schedule 203,
- 6 Renewable Resource Deferral Supply Service Adjustment. A carrying charge calculated at
- 7 the current Modified Blended Treasury (MBT) rate will be recorded each month on the
- 8 deferral balance. If this application is denied, the cost of REC purchases will remain in
- 9 Purchased power, FERC Account 555.

# **D.** Estimate of Amounts

- PacifiCorp has filed Advice 16-011 for approval to recover the costs associated with
- 12 REC purchases through proposed Schedule 203, Renewable Resource Deferral Supply
- 13 Service Adjustment. The rates reflected in the proposed Schedule 203 are designed to collect
- \$662,000 over the 12 months beginning October 12, 2016. As mentioned above, deferred
- REC purchase cost amounts will be recorded in the proposed balancing account and will be
- offset monthly by the amount collected under proposed Schedule 203. Thus, the difference
- between REC purchase costs and Schedule 203 collections will be reflected in the proposed
- balancing account along with interest calculated at the MBT. Generally, it is expected that
- 19 the balancing account will zero out over time.

# 20 E. Notice

- A copy of the Notice of Application and a list of persons served with the notice are
- 22 attached as Exhibit A to this application.

# V. CONCLUSION

- 2 PacifiCorp respectfully requests that, in accordance with ORS 757.259(2)(e), the
- 3 Commission authorize the Company to establish and maintain a balancing account to record
- 4 costs, Schedule 203 recovery and interest related to the Company's 2016 REC purchases.

Respectfully submitted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016.

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By:

Etta Lockey

Senior Counsel

PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power

## ATTACHMENT A

## **NOTICE**

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

<b>UM</b>	

In the Matter of

PACIFICORP d/b/a PACIFIC POWER

Application for Approval of Deferred Accounting for a Balancing Account Related to the Purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates

# NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AUTHORIZATION OF DEFERRED ACCOUNTING

On September 9, 2016, PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power (Company) filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) for an order authorizing the Company to establish and maintain a balancing account to record the deferral of costs related to contracts to purchase renewable energy certificates (REC), the actual collections through the Company's Schedule 203, and related interest. The granting of this application will not authorize a change in rates. To obtain a copy of the application, contact the following:

Oregon Dockets PacifiCorp 825 NE Multnomah, Suite 2000 Portland, OR 97232

E-mail: oregondockets@pacificorp.com

Any person may submit to the Commission written comment on the Application, in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the Commission. The deadline for comments on the application is 25 days from the date of this application.

Respectfully submitted on September 9, 2016.

By:

Etta Lockey

Senior Counsel

PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power