May 14, 2010

Public Utility Commission of Oregon 550 Capitol Street NE #215 PO Box 2148 Salem, OR 97308-2148

Dear Commissioners,

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 125 represents approximately 3,600 members who work in the Pacific Northwest's electric utility business. We advocate for the wages, hours, and working conditions of our members. As an intervenor in Portland General Electric's (PGE) Integrated Resource Plan LC 48, we urge the Commission to acknowledge the company's proposal.

IBEW Local 125 knows a balanced energy portfolio is necessary to protect Oregon's interests by providing safe, reasonably priced, and reliable generation, and we believe PGE's plan meets that need. We feel the plan is a compromise and addresses environmental concerns without jeopardizing the company's ratepayers—residential and industrial. All parties must exercise some flexibility and demonstrate a willingness to look at multiple aspects of this complex dynamic situation by focusing on the commonalities. Our preference would be for the Boardman generation facility to operate until 2040 or beyond; however, given the data available in today's climate, we understand the company's position and rationale for proposing the 2020 date. Ultimately, we want to see this same level of passion and involvement focused on PGE investing in research and finding an acceptable fuel source, so the plant <u>can</u> continue operating.

We encourage the Commission to consider the following:

Oregon's Workers—PGE needs time to retrain its workers and make alternative
career options available. While some workers could end up at other facilities, there is
a potential Boardman could operate using a different fuel method. The company needs
time to ascertain the feasibility of such options.

In addition to PGE's workers, we are concerned about those employed in energy-intensive industries as well as small businesses. School districts that continue to face additional layoffs will be challenged even further due to increased energy costs. Increased fuel costs mean employers must find other options to cut costs, which may

include eliminating or reducing positions. Oregon's economy needs to maintain existing and attract new employers, and the availability of a stable and affordable energy system is a key component.

- **Financial Impact**—PGE's ratepayers should not be presented with \$600 million worth of costs by eliminating coal as a fuel source prior to 2020. The volatility of buying replacement power on the open market could generate many unforeseen expenditures. Likewise, the cost of depreciation at Boardman could increase rates well beyond what many customers can afford.
- Environmental Issues— We believe PGE's strategy to minimize Boardman's environmental impact is sound. The company will install pollution controls to address mercury emissions and nitrogen oxides. Lower sulfur coal will be burned. Research and evaluation will continue to find additional ways of mitigating emissions. IBEW Local 125 recognizes the necessity of environmental standards but not at risk of devastating not only the local economies of Morrow, Umatilla, and the surrounding counties but Oregon as a whole.

Oregonians are fierce stewards of the environment, and that stewardship is evident in a variety of ways. During this debate, many have discussed the importance of protecting the sanctity of the Columbia Gorge. Where were these advocates when it came time to debate the logic of altering fertile farmland and eliminating picturesque pastures which sustain Eastern Oregon's economy? For those who live and work in rural Oregon, we know their commitment to sound environmental practices. These are families with deep ties to the land; they understand balance and know how to take care of the environment. We believe they have made tremendous sacrifices through the development of wind farms throughout their region. Should these families give up more by losing a major employer, too?

IBEW Local seeks a reasonable timeframe that will address the needs of 110 full-time employees, 25 contractors, and 225 seasonal maintenance workers. We respectfully request the Commission to acknowledge PGE's 2020 plan and enable the company to move forward. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marcy Putman, PHR

Political Affairs and Communication Representative

IBEW Local 125

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day caused the attached comments the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 125 regarding OPUC Docket No. LC 48 -- Portland General Electric's Integrated Resource Plan to be served by electronic mail to those parties whose email addresses appear on the attached service list, and by First Class US Mail, postage prepaid and properly addressed, to those parties on the attached service list who have not waived paper service from OPUC Docket No. LC 48.

Dated Portland, Oregon, this 13 day of May, 2010.

Marcia L. Putman

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