1	BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION		
2	OF OREGON		
3	UE 204		
4 5	In the Matter of		
6	PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY	STAFF RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR PREHEARING CONFERENCE	
7 8	Request for recovery of costs associated with its Selective Water Withdrawal Project		
9	On July 7, 2009, Portland General Electric Company ("PGE") filed a request for a		
10	prehearing conference for the purpose of establishing a schedule for the remainder of this docket		
11	which concerns tariffs to recover costs associated with a Selective Water Withdrawal Project		
12	"SWW"). Because the Public Utility of Oregon Staff ("Staff") believes it is premature to adopt		
13	a procedural schedule at this time, Staff files this response respectfully requesting that PGE's		
14	request for a prehearing conference be denied.		
15	Background		
16	On April 14, 2009, PGE asked the Commission to suspend the procedural schedule in thi		
17	docket on the ground that PGE had experienced a delay in the construction of the SWW project.		
18	In that motion, PGE stated that it would work with other parties and make a filing regarding the		
19	schedule for the remainder of the docket by May 15, 2009. (PGE April 14, 2009 Motion for		
20	Amendment to Procedural Schedule.)		
21	On May 15, 2009, PGE asked the Commission to schedule a prehearing conference on		
22	June 25, 2009. PGE noted that it anticipated that by that time (June 25) it would have "in place a		
23	new schedule for completion of the SWW project." (PGE May 15 Request Regarding		
24	Procedural Schedule.)		
25	On June 24, 2009, PGE asked the Commission to postpone the prehearing conference		
26	scheduled for June 25, 2009, noting that PGE "	desire[d] a little additional time to discuss this	
	Page 1 - STAFF RESPONSE TO REQUEST F	OR PREHEARING CONFERENCE	

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1	matter with parties, and assess the status of the Selective Water Withdrawal project and its
2	construction schedule prior to a prehearing conference." PGE noted that by July 7, 2009, PGE
3	would file with the Commission either an agreed upon schedule for the remainder of the docket,
4	or a request that the date for the prehearing conference be set. (PGE June 24, 2009 Motion for
5	Postponement of Prehearing Conference.)
6	PGE's request.
7	During a phone conference held on June 24, 2009, PGE told staff and other parties that
8	three independent root cause analyses of the SWW project construction delay are being prepared.
9	According to PGE, the first two root cause analysis will not be complete until mid-to-late July
10	and the third will not be complete until mid-to-late August. Because there is no determination
11	of the cause of the construction delay, there is no timeline of when costs associated with the
12	incident will be established. Furthermore, it is staff's understanding that PGE currently has only
13	an estimated timeline for the completion of the project; due to complications created by the
14	mishap.
15	Staff has already recommended adjusting PGE's proposed cost recovery of the SWW
16	project due to premature design, prolonged construction schedules, and construction cost
17	overruns. Staff made these recommendations prior to the current construction delay precipitating
18	the most recent suspension in the schedule. Now Staff will be required to investigate this new
19	construction delay, and how costs associated with the delay should be treated for ratemaking
20	purposes. Staff must have meaningful information to base this analysis on and an opportunity to
21	file testimony in this docket on these issues.
22	Because all analysis of the cause of the costs will not be complete until mid-to-late
23	August 2009, at the earliest, it is premature to set the remainder of the schedule in this docket.
24	Any procedural schedule that is set now will not be based on an informed decision as to when
25	necessary information will be available to parties, but on estimates. Such a schedule will not
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1	ensure that staff and intervenors have sufficient time to review information related to		
2	construction delay at the SWW prior to any deadline for submitting testimony.		
3	CONCLUSION		
4	Staff asks the Commission to deny PGE's request to schedule a prehearing conference is		
5	this docket. Staff asks that the Commission wait to schedule a prehearing conference until		
6	information regarding the construction delay of the SWW project is made available and		
7	associated costs are known so that the Commission may make an informed decision as to the		
8	appropriate deadlines for staff and intervenor testimony as opposed to a guess.		
9	DATED this day of July 2009.		
10	Respectfully submitted,		
11	JOHN R. KROGER Attorney General		
12	01010		
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14	Stephanie S. Andrus, #92512 Senior Assistant Attorney General		
15	Of Attorneys for the Public Utility Commission of Oregon Staff		
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į	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE		
2	I certify that on July 9, 2009, I served the foregoing Staff Response upon all parties of		
3	record in this proceeding by delivering a copy by electronic mail and by postage prepaid first		
4	class mail or by hand delivery/shuttle mail to the parties accepting paper.		
5	W		
6	CITIZEN'S UTILITY BOARD OF OREGON G. CATRIONA MCCRACKEN - CONFIDENTIAL	OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION CARLA OWINGS – CONFIDENTIAL REVENUE REQUIREMENTS ANALYST	
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