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November 9, 2020

***VIA ELECTRONIC FILING***

Public Utility Commission of Oregon  
201 High Street SE, Suite 100  
Salem, OR 97301-3398

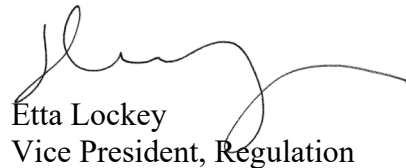
Attn: Filing Center

**RE: UM 1631—PacifiCorp's Application for a Partial Waiver of OAR 860-021-0410,  
Emergency Medical Certificate for Residential Electric and Gas Service  
(Expedited Consideration Requested)**

PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power submits for filing the attached Application for a Partial Waiver of OAR 860-021-0410, Emergency Medical Certificate for Residential Electric and Gas Service. PacifiCorp requests expedited consideration by the Public Utility Commission of Oregon to prevent unnecessary burdens on PacifiCorp's customers and medical professionals during the ongoing public health emergency in Oregon caused by COVID-19.

Informal inquiries regarding this filing may be directed to Cathie Allen, Regulatory Affairs Manager, at (503) 813-5934.

Sincerely,



Etta Lockey  
Vice President, Regulation

Enclosure

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

**UM 1631**

In the Matter of

PACIFICORP d/b/a PACIFIC POWER

Application for Partial Waiver of OAR 860-021-0410, Emergency Medical Certificate for Residential Electric and Gas Service

**PETITION OF PACIFICORP**

*Expedited Consideration Requested*

In accordance with OAR 860-021-005, PacifiCorp d/b/a/ Pacific Power (PacifiCorp) requests the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) grant a temporary, partial waiver of OAR 860-021-0410, Emergency Medical Certificate for Residential Electric and Gas Service, effectively immediately. PacifiCorp specifically requests partial waiver of subsection (2) of OAR 860-021-0410 through October 1, 2022.

PacifiCorp requests expedited consideration of this petition. Good cause exists to grant the waiver request to allow PacifiCorp to comply with Commission Order No. 20-401 issued in docket UM 2114, specifically paragraph 16 from the Stipulated Agreement. Expedited consideration is appropriate because there is no harm to customers.

**I. BACKGROUND**

On May 7, 2020, the Commission issued Order 20-156 approving PacifiCorp’s application for a temporary six-month partial waiver of the rule relating to emergency medical certificates effective May 6, 2020.

On September 4, 2020, the Commission opened docket UM 2114 to investigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on utility customers. During the course of that proceeding, the energy utilities, Commission Staff, and stakeholders, reached an agreement

on certain terms and conditions that would be implemented to protect utility customers and allow for utilities to reinstate collection activities. At the November 3, 2020 Public Meeting, Commission Staff presented a Stipulated Agreement between Staff, the energy utilities, and stakeholders that incorporated the agreed upon terms and conditions and recommended the Commission approve the Stipulated Agreement. The Commission issued Order No. 20-401 on November 5, 2020, confirming its decision to adopt Staff's recommendation.

The Stipulated Agreement addresses the submission and handling of customer claims of a medical emergency. OAR 860-021-0410(2) specifically requires that requests for an emergency medical certificate and the renewal of an existing emergency medical certificates be accompanied by a medical professional's certification, specifically, that an oral certification to the utility must be confirmed in writing within 14 days by the qualified medical professional prescribing medical care. However, Paragraph 16 from the Stipulated Agreement states:

The Utilities will allow initial self-certification of customer medical certificates when a medical certificate is required and allow customers two months to submit confirming certification from a qualified medical professional through October 1, 2022. The Parties agree to confer in good faith on or about October 1, 2021 to determine whether to request that the Commission modify the October 1, 2022 end date.

To comply with Paragraph 16 from the Stipulated Agreement, PacifiCorp requests a waiver of the requirement in OAR 860-021-0410(2) through October 1, 2022.

## **II. DISCUSSION**

PacifiCorp requests a temporary, partial waiver of OAR 860-021-0410(2). Specifically, PacifiCorp requests that the requirement in OAR 860-021-0410(2) that a

customer provide written certification from a qualified medical professional within 14 days after oral certification be temporarily waived to allow PacifiCorp's customers to provide written certification from a qualified medical professional within two months of an oral certification under the regulation.

Granting this waiver is in the public interest. The requested waiver allows to implement the terms outlined in Paragraph 16 from the Stipulated Agreement in a timely manner. There is no harm to PacifiCorp's other customers because this request only extends the timeframe by which a customer must provide written certification of their medical emergency. Granting this waiver request will provide additional protection for some of PacifiCorp's most vulnerable customers. Accordingly, good cause exists to grant PacifiCorp's request for this waiver.

PacifiCorp requests that this waiver of OAR 860-021-0410(2), in the manner requested above, be granted until October 1, 2022. PacifiCorp will continue to monitor the COVID-19 public health emergency and will reassess the need for this waiver prior to its expiration.

### III. CONCLUSION

For all the reasons described above, PacifiCorp requests that the Commission approve this request for a waiver effective upon Commission approval.

Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,



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