

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: January 26, 2021**

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE Upon Approval

DATE: January 14, 2021

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Curtis Dlouhy

THROUGH: Bryan Conway, John Crider, and Matt Muldoon **SIGNED**

SUBJECT: PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC:
(Docket No. UM 1631)
Petition to Extend Partial Waiver of OAR 860-021-0130(2) Meter Test.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Portland General Electric's (PGE or Company) request to extend the partial waiver of OAR 860-021-0130(2) for an additional six months in response to the continuing COVID-19 public health emergency.

DISCUSSION:

Issues

Whether the Commission should approve Portland General Electric's request for a partial waiver of OAR 860-021-0130(2) for an additional six months.

Applicable Rules

OAR 860-021-0130(2) states that a customer and/or a designated representative shall have the right to be present at any meter test and that the test shall be conducted at a mutually acceptable time during regular business hours.

Under OAR 860-021-0005, the Commission may waive any of Division 21 rules for good cause shown upon request or for good cause shown.

Analysis

Background

On April 1, 2020, PGE filed an application requesting a partial waiver of OAR 860-021-0130(2) due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. PGE requested a waiver of the first sentence of this rule relating to a customer's right to be present at any meter test for a period of 60 days beginning on May 20, 2020. The Commission approved the waiver request at its public meeting on May 19, 2020.¹ On July 15, 2020, the Commission extended PGE's temporary partial waiver of OAR 860-021-0130(2) for a period of 6 months effective July 15, 2020, pursuant to Order No. 20-225. On January 11, 2021, PGE filed a request for another six month extension.

Staff observes that the current waiver is set to expire on January 15, 2021, before the next available public meeting. Since the COVID-19 pandemic is still causing massive disruptions and vaccine rollouts have been slower than anticipated, Staff recommends the Commission extend the waiver. A limited waiver of the rule does not compel the Company to utilize the waiver, but it does provide the option if it deems it necessary.

Conclusion

Staff finds there is good cause to continue to support PGE's limited waiver of the rule related to meter testing due to the continued uncertainties and flux with regards to the public health situation, inclusive of social distancing, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve Portland General Electric's request to extend the partial waiver of OAR 860-021-0130(2) for an additional six months in response to the continuing COVID-19 public health emergency.

¹ See Docket No. UM 1631, Order No. 20-170.