

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UE 263

In the Matter of

PACIFICORP, dba PACIFIC POWER,

Request for a General Rate Revision. .

RULING AND BENCH REQUEST

DISPOSITION: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED BY
FEBRUARY 7, 2020

PacifiCorp, dba Pacific Power, filed a motion to amend Order No. 13-474. ORS 756.568 authorizes the Commission, upon notice to the utility and an opportunity to be heard, to rescind, suspend, or amend any order made by the Commission. In advance of the Commission acting on PacifiCorp's motion, I issue this ruling directing PacifiCorp to confer with parties about whether the Transition Adjustment Mechanism (TAM) Guideline at issue requires a broader edit than the one-time edit proposed in PacifiCorp's motion. I set an expedited deadline of February 7, 2020 for all responses.

A. PacifiCorp's Motion

PacifiCorp asks the Commission to make a one-time modification to a TAM Guideline to allow PacifiCorp to file the 2021 TAM concurrently with its general rate case on February 14, 2020.¹ PacifiCorp states that the following parties do not oppose the modification: Commission Staff; the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB); the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (AWEC); and Calpine Energy Solutions, LLC (Calpine).

PacifiCorp explains that when a general rate case is filed before March 31 of a given year, the TAM is processed concurrently.² PacifiCorp states that concurrent filing promotes procedural efficiency by allowing for schedules to be considered in the same prehearing conference, and facilitates substantive review by providing the overlapping TAM net power cost inputs to intervenors at the same time as PacifiCorp provides its general rate case revenue requirement.

B. The TAM Guideline at Issue

Order No. 13-474 in PacifiCorp's 2014 rate case adopted a stipulation, including a revision to a TAM Guideline:

¹ PacifiCorp Motion to Amend (Jan 21, 2020) (The specific modification PacifiCorp seeks is "Allow PacifiCorp to make the 2021 TAM filing on the same date as the GRC filing if that date is before March 1, 2020.").

² *Id.* at 1 and 2.

Beginning January 1, 2015, if the Company files a general rate case between January 1 and March 31, then the TAM will be filed the later of March 1 or the date of the general rate case filing. If the TAM is filed on a stand-alone basis, it will be filed no later than April 1.”

In joint testimony, the stipulating parties explained the revised guideline as follows: “In the event that PacifiCorp, however, files a general rate case during the first three months of the year, then PacifiCorp would file its TAM earlier than March 31.”³

C. Bench Request

PacifiCorp recognizes that the TAM Guideline provides that when a rate case is filed in February (like this year) the guideline requires a separate, later TAM filing on March 1. In contrast, PacifiCorp describes “procedures surrounding the TAM” that allow for the concurrent filing of the TAM with a general rate case.⁴ It is unclear to me whether the TAM Guideline as written reflected the parties’ intended result, or whether the language was a mistake and should read “the TAM will be filed simultaneously with the general rate case or no later than March 1”.

I request that PacifiCorp confer with the parties to its motion (Staff, CUB, AWEC, and Calpine) and discuss whether the underlined TAM Guideline language should be changed to allow for the efficiency PacifiCorp describes with concurrent TAM and rate case filings. The TAM Guideline could also be changed to ensure the TAM is filed no later than March 1 or March 31.

PacifiCorp is directed to file a brief response in this docket by close of business February 7, 2020. I request that the filing be a joint response due to the short turnaround for a Commission order in advance of PacifiCorp’s February 14, 2020 general rate case filing date. If a joint response is not possible, a party may submit an individual response by February 7. Lastly, PacifiCorp’s response shall also describe whether it still seeks the one-time modification to the TAM Guideline.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2020, at Salem, Oregon.



Sarah Rowe
Administrative Law Judge

³ Stipulating Parties/100, Dalley, Gardner, Jenks, Deen, Higgins, Chriss/10.

⁴ PacifiCorp Motion to Amend at 2.