

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 1565

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF
OREGON

Investigation of Fuel Switching and
Cross Fuel Energy Efficiency Issues.

RULING

**DISPOSITION: ISSUES LIST PROPOSED FOR COMMENT; PROCEDURAL
SCHEDULE ISSUED FOR COMMENT**

On April 23, 2012, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon held a prehearing conference in this docket. After the conference, the parties' proposed procedural schedule and issues lists were taken under advisement.

Issues Lists

On March 28, 2012, the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon and Commission Staff filed proposed issues lists.¹ During the prehearing conference, I stated that I would issue a proposed issues list for comment. I also stated that I would get back to the parties on the issue of staging.

The modified issues list below is issued for comment. Comments on the list should be filed by Monday, May 21, 2012. If no comments are received, the issues list will be adopted.

As a preface to the list, I note that the investigation will be limited to the Energy Trust of Oregon's policies and procedures related to residential fuel switching. Should the investigation reveal a significant issue with fuel switching, the scope of this docket may be expanded to review the policies and practices of regulated utilities.

Moreover, the issues will be phased. In its opening testimony, the Energy Trust should provide information on its policies and practices affecting residential fuel switching, its messaging on the subject, and any data that may reveal the number of customers who have actually switched fuels under the policies and practices at issue. The parties are welcome to discuss in their own testimony the significance of this information and whether additional phases are warranted based on the information provided.

¹ Staff's issues list was supported by a number of parties.

The modified issues list is as follows:

- Issue 1: What are the Energy Trust's policies and practices regarding residential fuel switching related to space conditioning? What outreach and messaging does the Energy Trust engage in related to this type of fuel-switching?
- Issue 2: Is fuel switching actually occurring?
- Issue 3: Do the answers to Issues 1 and 2 indicate a need to modify Energy Trust policies or practices or ratepayer-funded messaging?

This list excludes the question of whether fuel switching is uneconomic to ratepayers. Should the Commission ultimately determine that this issue should be addressed, an additional phase may be added to develop a uniform methodology for analyzing the evidence on this issue.

Procedural Schedule


The parties proposed a procedural schedule, which I took under advisement. Because the proposed deadline for joint opening testimony is approaching and the issues list is still subject to comment, two weeks have been added to each deadline in the proposed schedule.

Event	Deadline
Joint opening testimony from Staff and Energy Trust of Oregon (neutral description of current policy and procedures)	June 6, 2012
Opening testimony from Cascade and NW Natural	July 11, 2012
Response testimony from all other parties	August 22, 2012
Reply testimony from Cascade and NW Natural	September 24, 2012

This schedule anticipates fewer rounds of testimony than were originally proposed.² If the state of the evidence warrants additional rounds of testimony after the above rounds are completed, parties may move for additional rounds.

The parties are welcome propose modifications to this schedule by Monday, May 21, 2012. If no changes are proposed by close of business May 21, the above schedule will go into effect.

Dated this 15th day May, 2012, at Salem, Oregon.



Lisa D. Hardie
Administrative Law Judge

² See Prehearing Conference Memorandum (Apr 24, 2012).