

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UE 204

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| In the Matter of |) | |
| |) | |
| PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC |) | STATUS CONFERENCE REPORT |
| COMPANY, |) | & RULING |
| |) | |
| Request for recovery of costs associated with |) | |
| its Selective Water Withdrawal Project. |) | |

**DISPOSITION: PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE MODIFIED; PGE’S
REQUEST FOR INTERIM RATES TAKEN UNDER
ADVISEMENT**

On February 27, 2009, a status conference was held in this matter before the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission). Representatives appeared for Portland General Electric Company (PGE or the Company), the Citizens’ Utility Board of Oregon (CUB), the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities (ICNU), and Commission Staff (Staff). At issue was Staff’s motion to suspend PGE’s proposed tariff schedule for an additional three months.¹ Issues for discussion at the conference included issuing a modified procedural schedule and PGE’s request for interim rates.

During the conference, the parties agreed on a modified schedule for completing this docket, but disagreed about whether it would be appropriate for PGE to implement interim rates. The modified schedule was adopted, and PGE’s request for interim rates was taken under advisement.

Background. In a stipulation filed in docket UE 197, Staff, PGE, CUB, and ICNU agreed to address issues raised by PGE’s Selective Water Withdrawal Project (SWW project) in this docket, and to make good-faith efforts to ensure that rates including approved costs from this docket would be effective the latter part of May 2009, or when the SWW project is closed to plant for accounting purposes. *See* UE 197 Stipulation Regarding Revenue Requirement at 2(b)(2) (filed October 9, 2008).

On October 24, 2008, PGE filed tariff sheets to implement proposed rate changes for recovery of costs associated with the SWW project. The Commission suspended the proposed tariff schedule until May 24, 2009. On February 13, 2009, Staff filed a motion to suspend PGE’s proposed tariff schedule for an additional three months

¹ *See* Staff’s Motion to Suspend Tariffs for an Additional Three Months (February 13, 2009).

to allow Staff to complete its investigation of the SWW project.² PGE opposed Staff's motion, arguing that additional delay was unjustified and would harm PGE. A status conference was scheduled to discuss the motion.

Modified Schedule. During the status conference, the parties agreed to a more modest extension of the schedule than the extension requested by Staff in its motion. The agreed-upon schedule would delay the effective dates of the tariffs for approximately five additional weeks after the end of the current suspension, rather than three months. In accordance with the parties' agreement, the following new dates were adopted:³

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Staff and Intervenor Reply Testimony | March 18, 2009 |
| PGE Rebuttal Testimony | April 17, 2009 |
| Evidentiary Hearing | April 29, 2009 |
| Simultaneous Opening Briefs | May 13, 2009 |
| Simultaneous Reply Briefs | May 20, 2009 |
| Commission Decision Target Date | July 1, 2009 |

The modified dates for filing are considered "in hand" dates. The schedule will not be modified further except for good cause shown or by agreement of the parties.

Interim Rates. As noted above, the new schedule will require an approximately five-week extension of the current tariff suspension. During the status conference, the parties disagreed about whether it would be appropriate for PGE to implement interim rates during the additional suspension period. PGE's request for interim rates is taken under advisement and will be addressed in a subsequent Commission order.

Dated this 3rd day of March, 2009, at Salem, Oregon.

Lisa D. Hardie
Administrative Law Judge

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² See ORS 757.215(1) (allowing the Commission to suspend a rate or schedule of rates for up to three months beyond the last day of an initial six-month suspension). Staff's requested extension would result in a suspension until August 24, 2009. Staff's motion was supported by CUB and ICNU.

³ The parties also agreed that PGE would provide the parties with cost updates on March 3, 2009. After that date, the parties agree to a five-business-day turnaround for data requests addressing the cost updates. Data requests addressing other issues will be governed by the prior discovery schedule.