ITEM NO. CA2

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: February 4, 2014

REGULAR ____ **CONSENT** X **EFFECTIVE DATE** February 5, 2014

DATE: January 28, 2014

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Paul Birkeland

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer and Lori Koho

SUBJECT: PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC: (Docket No. UM 1384(3)) Revises Meter Inspection and Testing Policy.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission approve Portland General Electric's proposed revisions to its Electric Metering Test and Inspection Policy.

DISCUSSION:

Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 860-023-0015 requires that the Commission approve the metering testing and inspection schedules of each energy utility to assure metering accuracy. This requirement applies to the testing of new meters, reinstalled meters, in-service metering systems, obsolete meters, laboratory metering standards, and associated metering equipment.

On January 6, 2014, Portland General Electric (PGE or Company) filed a revised Electric Metering Test and Inspection Policy (Policy). The changes in this revision pertain to certain testing procedures that have become unnecessary since PGE's deployment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meters in 2008-2010. This revision also incorporates into PGE's policy the latest recognized ANSI standards for Electrical Metering (ANSI C12.1 2008).

PGE's current policy requires that the meters in its system be divided into homogeneous meter groups (HMG's) (which can be by manufacturer, model, design changes, or other attributes). PGE has approximately 840,000 meters installed on its system. The bulk of the meters are grouped in HMG's and tested under a statistical sampling plan in accordance with ANSI Z1.9.2008 standards of testing. Under this statistical sampling

statistical sampling program, approximately 2800 in-service meters are tested annually. This part of the policy remains unchanged.

The remainder of PGE's meters are in HMG's that are under a Periodic Interval Plan, where approximately 42,000 meters are tested on 5-year or 12-year intervals, depending on the average load. (Meters with average load under 1MW are tested every 12 years, meters with average load 1MW and above are tested every 5 years.) The company estimates that 3500 meter tests are being performed annually for these two groups of meters. The majority of these meter installations serve commercial and industrial customers.

PGE's revised policy will transition the groups of meters with average load under 1MW to a statistical sampling plan testing pool. The meters with average load of 1 MW and above will remain in a periodic interval plan and will be 100 percent tested on 5-year intervals. The number of periodic in-service tests done annually will drop from 3500 to 100. The number of meters tested under all statistical sampling plans will increase from 2800 to 3300.

By reducing the number of in-service meter tests by a net of 2900 annually, PGE estimates that unbudgeted overtime to test meters will be reduced by approximately $133,000 annually. The Company has agreed to update Staff on the number of meters, hours of labor, and costs relating to this change in its Annual Metering Report for calendar year 2014.

PGE's 2011 and 2012 tests of this population of meters identified no defects and confirmed the accuracy of the solid state AMI meters. Staff believes that the advancements in AMI technology, both hardware and software, will enable the reduction in testing with no degradation in meter accuracy.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

PGE's revised Meter Testing and Inspection Policy be approved.