

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: October 20, 2020**

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE October 21, 2020

DATE: October 9, 2020

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Sabrinna Soldavini

THROUGH: Bryan Conway and John Crider **SIGNED**

SUBJECT: PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC:
(Docket No. ADV 1188/Advice No. 20-29)
Updates Schedule 125 language, allowing PGE to finalize 2021 planned maintenance outages for West Side hydro facilities in November 6, 2020, Net Variable Power Cost Update.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) approve Portland General Electric's (PGE or Company) Advice No. 20-29, which modifies the language of Schedule 125, allowing PGE to finalize 2021 planned maintenance outages for its West Side hydro facilities in its November 6, 2020, Net Variable Power Cost (NVPC) Update, effective for service on and after October 21, 2020, on less than statutory notice (LSN).

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Commission should approve PGE's Advice No. 20-29, which modifies the language of Schedule 125, allowing PGE to finalize 2021 planned maintenance outages for West Side hydro facilities in its November 6, 2020, Net Variable Power Cost Update, effective for service on and after October 21, 2020, on less than statutory notice.

Applicable Law

The Commission may approve tariff changes if they are deemed to be fair, just, and reasonable. See ORS 757.210. Tariff revisions may be made by filing revised sheets

with the information required under the Commission's administrative rules, including OAR 860-022-0025. Filings that propose any change in rates, tolls, charges, rules, or regulations must be filed with the Commission at least 30 days before the effective date of the change. See ORS 757.220; OAR 860-022-0020. The Commission may approve tariff changes on less than 30 days' notice for good cause shown. *Id.*

Analysis

Background

On September 22, 2020, PGE alerted parties to Docket No. UE 377 that as a result of the recent wildfires in the state, the Company would need additional time to finalize the 2021 planned maintenance outages for its West Side hydro facilities. Currently, Schedule 125, Annual Power Cost Update, states that "[o]n or before October 1st of each calendar year, the Company will file updated estimates of planned maintenance outages..."¹

However, PGE noted in its discussions with parties that it needed approximately four additional weeks to assess any damage to its West Side Hydro facilities from the wildfires and to finalize planned maintenance schedules for 2021. The affected facilities include Faraday and Oak Grove on the Clackamas River, the Harriet and Timothy Lake powerhouses, as well as the Stone Creek hydro facility owned by Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB), which is under a power purchase agreement with PGE.

After discussion, the parties agreed that given the extent of the recent wildfires, an acceptable resolution would be to allow PGE a one-time extension to update the planned maintenance outages of its West Side hydro facilities in its November 6, 2020, NVPC update. As Schedule 125 explicitly lists the date for final updates to planned maintenance outages, a tariff change is necessary to implement this agreement between the parties. All other planned maintenance outages are still to be finalized in the Company's October 1, 2020, NVPC filing.

On September 28, 2020, the Company filed Tariff Advice No. 20-29, requesting that the Schedule 125 language be modified to state that "[o]n November 6, 2020, for one-time only and due to extraordinary wildfire events in the state of Oregon, the Company will file updated estimates with final planned maintenance outages for the following hydro facilities: Faraday, Oak Grove, Harriet Lake, Timothy Lake, and Stone Creek."

Review

Staff has reviewed the Company's proposed tariff modification. Staff ensured that the proposed modifications accurately capture the agreement between the UE 377 parties.

¹ PGE Schedule 125, Sheet No. 125-2.

In light of the extraordinary impacts of recent wildfires, Staff finds that the proposed changes are justified.

Following Staff's review of the changes, Staff recommends approval of the proposed tariff changes. Staff further finds that the proposed tariff is just and reasonable.

Staff notes that this is a one-time, temporary change, and the Company must submit another advice filing to the Commission to revert the tariff back to its current language before October 1, 2021.

Conclusion

Based on review of the filing, Staff concludes that the proposed changes to the Schedule 125 tariff sheets are in the public interest and should be approved, on less than statutory notice.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve PGE's Advice No. 20-29, which modifies the language of Schedule 125, allowing PGE to finalize 2021 planned maintenance outages for its West Side hydro facilities in its November 6, 2020, Net Variable Power Cost Update, effective for service on and after October 21, 2020, on less than statutory notice.