

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: October 6, 2020**

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE October 7, 2020

DATE: September 30, 2020

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Curtis Dlouhy, Scott Gibbens, and Moya Enright

THROUGH: Bryan Conway, John Crider, and Matt Muldoon **SIGNED**

SUBJECT: PACIFIC POWER:
(Docket No. ADV 1189/Advice No. 20-012)
Requests updates with less than statutory notice to Rule 13: Line Extensions, to waive costs of Temporary Service for those affected by 2020 wildfires.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) approve Pacific Power's (PacifiCorp, PAC, or Company) Advice No. 20-012, which temporarily waives the costs of Temporary Service in Rule 13 for those affected by 2020 wildfires, on less than statutory notice, for service rendered on and after October 7, 2020.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Commission should approve PacifiCorp's Advice No. 20-012, which temporarily waives the costs of Temporary Service in Rule 13 for those affected by 2020 wildfires, on less than statutory notice, for service rendered on and after October 7, 2020.

Applicable Law

The Commission may approve tariff changes if they are deemed fair, just, and reasonable. 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 allow changes on less than 30 days' notice for good cause shown. ORS 757.220.

Analysis

Background

On September 29, 2020, PacifiCorp filed Advice No. 20-012 requesting an update to its Rule 13, Section V.E. – Temporary Service. The purpose of the filing is to update its Tariff Rule to temporarily waive the costs of establishing temporary service for those impacted by 2020 wildfires.

Tariff Rule 13, Line Extensions, Section V. E., Temporary Service currently provides that customers requesting temporary service to a service loop must pay a Temporary Service charge that ranges from \$85 to \$115, and all customers that require more than a connection of a service loop are required to pay additional Temporary Service costs for the installation and removal of related equipment.

In this filing, PacifiCorp proposes to make a minor change to Rule 13, Section V.E. to waive all fees associated with setting up temporary service for those affected by the unprecedented 2020 wildfires through June 30, 2021.

If approved, customers affected by wildfires will have Temporary Service charges waived. Any municipalities or agencies of municipal, county, state, or federal government, or non-governmental organization providing temporary centralized locations for mobile housing will also have their Temporary Service costs waived. Any interested party would have to request service no later than June 30, 2021, and would still be responsible for electric service under the appropriate rate schedule.¹

PacifiCorp would treat all waived charges as an incremental cost associated with wildfire damages and restoration and proposes to record the waived charges in the deferral account requested in Docket No. UM 2116, which is PacifiCorp's request to defer expenses related to the 2020 wildfires. Docket No. UM 2116 is still subject to Commission approval, and approval of this rule change does not prejudice the Commission's determination in that proceeding.

Because the requested effective date for the requested tariff change is less than 30 days from the date of filing, the Company also requests Commission action for good cause shown on less than statutory notice. The Company claims states that it has "started to receive requests from customers and communities impacted by the

¹ Page 3 of PacifiCorp's initial application filed on September 29, 2020.

devastating wildfires that started in early September 2020.”² PacifiCorp hopes to implement this waiver of statutory notice so that it may quickly implement the tariff change and can more quickly assist affected communities. Given the unprecedented nature of the wildfires and the need to extend temporary service to customers affected, Staff finds that there is good cause to approve the requested tariff change on less than statutory notice.

Staff Analysis

Staff has reviewed the Company’s filing and rationale, and finds that PacifiCorp’s requested change to Rule 13, with less than statutory notice, is a fair and reasonable way to assist in the recovery from the 2020 wildfires in a timely manner. Staff takes no position in this memo on the appropriateness of PacifiCorp’s requested wildfire deferral (UM 2116).

Conclusion

Staff is satisfied that the changes proposed in Rule 13, Section V.E.: Temporary Service are fair, just, and reasonable.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve PacifiCorp’s Advice No. 20-012, which temporarily waives the costs of Temporary Service in Rule 13 for those affected by 2020 wildfires, on less than statutory notice, for service rendered on and after October 7, 2020.

² Page 7 of PacifiCorp’s initial application filed on September 29, 2020.