

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: December 15, 2020**

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE January 1, 2021

DATE: December 2, 2020

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Michelle Scala

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

SUBJECT: PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC:
(Docket No. ADV 1202/Advice No. 20-40)
Updates Schedule 139, New Large Load Transition Cost Adjustment.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Portland General Electric's (PGE or Company) proposed updates to Schedule 139, New Large Load Transition Cost Adjustment, as described in Advice No. 20-40, effective for service rendered on and after January 1, 2021.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Oregon Public Utility Commission (Commission) should approve PGE's Advice No. 20-40, which updates its Schedule 139, New Large Load Transition Cost Adjustment, effective with service rendered on and after January 1, 2021.

Applicable Law

ORS 757.205 requires public utilities to file schedules showing all rates, tolls, and charges for service that have been established and are in force at the time. Pursuant to ORS 757.210, the Commission may approve tariff changes if they are deemed to be fair, just, and reasonable.

ORS 757.220 requires that any change in rates, tolls, charges, rules, or regulations be filed with the Commission at least 30 days before the effective date of the change.

OAR 860-022-0025 and OAR 860-022-0030 set forth the requirements for tariff filings naming increased rates. OAR 860-022-0025(2) specifically requires that each energy utility changing existing tariffs or schedules include, in its filing, a statement plainly indicating the increase, decrease, or other change made with the filing, the number of customers affected by the proposed change and the resulting change in annual revenue; and the reasons or grounds relied upon in support of the proposed change.

OAR 860-022-0030(1) further requires that for tariff or schedule filings proposing increased rates, the utility must for each separate schedule, identify the total number of customers affected, the total annual revenue derived under the existing schedule, and the amount of estimated revenue which will be derived from applying the proposed schedule, the average monthly use and resulting bills under both the existing rates and the proposed rates that will fairly represent the application of the proposed tariff or schedules, and the reasons or grounds relied upon in support of the proposed increase.

ORS 757.600 to 757.689 authorize and regulate the provision of the "direct access" (Direct Access) options in Oregon. The Commission's rules implementing these statutes are set forth in OAR Chapter 860, Division 038. OAR 860-038-0740 concerns Direct Access transition charges and credits for New Large Load Program participants.

Analysis

Background

The purpose of instituting transition adjustment rates for PGE's New Large Load Direct Access customers is to ensure that there is no unwarranted cost-shifting between Cost of Service (COS) customers and New Large Load customers. For New Large Load Programs, transition charges recover 20 percent of the fixed generation costs for five years and all reasonable costs of administering the New Large Load Direct Access program.

The proposed Schedule 139 update in Advice No. 20-40 is the result of updated fixed generation costs for 2021. Prices for New Large Load COS Opt-Out customers are calculated based on twenty percent of the Company's fixed generation costs and subject to change annually based on changes in fixed generation costs during the Customer's five years enrolled in Schedule 689. To the extent changes in fixed generation costs impact COS Schedule 89 prices, Direct Access Schedule 689 customers will be commensurately affected.

The Company attributes the change in fixed generation costs to the inclusion in PGE rates of the initial cost recovery of the Wheatridge Wind facility (Wheatridge), pursuant

to the Company's Renewable Resource Automatic Adjustment Clause through its Schedule 122. Advice No. 20-40 updates Schedule 139 to reflect these effects.

Staff Review

The proposed updates to Schedule 139 affect only those customers enrolled in Schedule 689, New Large Load customers who have opted-out of a COS Schedule in favor of Direct Access. As filed, the proposed Schedule 139 change affects one customer with an estimated 1.5 percent to current prices.

Staff corresponded directly with the Company to discuss Advice No. 20-40 and did not require any information requests as the Company's filing included all requisite documents to perform the analysis and review. Staff reviewed the filing, tariff schedule, and workpapers to ensure the proposed filing is accurately calculated and consistent with past Commission Orders.

Conclusion

Staff finds that the updated rates in Schedule 139 are appropriately calculated, and recommends that the Commission approve PGE proposed rate changes in Schedule 139.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve PGE's proposed updates to Schedule 139, New Large Load Transition Cost Adjustment, as described in Advice No. 20-40, effective for service rendered on and after January 1, 2021.