

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON  
STAFF REPORT  
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: May 18, 2021**

REGULAR  CONSENT  EFFECTIVE DATE June 2, 2021

DATE: May 10, 2021

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Kacia Brockman

THROUGH: Bryan Conway, JP Batmale, and Sarah Hall **SIGNED**

**SUBJECT:** PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC:  
(Docket No. ADV 1262/Advice No. 21-10)  
Extends rebate reservation period for Residential Battery Energy Storage Pilot, Schedule 14.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve Portland General Electric Company's (PGE or Company) Advice No. 21-10 effective with service on or after June 2, 2021, revising the Residential Battery Energy Storage Pilot, Schedule 14, to extend the rebate reservation period from six months to nine months.

**DISCUSSION:**

Issue

Whether the Commission should approve Advice No. 21-10, PGE's request to extend the rebate reservation period for the Residential Battery Energy Storage Pilot from six months to nine months.

Applicable Law

Under ORS 757.205(1):

Every public utility shall file with the Public Utility Commission, within a time to be fixed by the commission, schedules which shall be open to public inspection, showing all rates, tolls and charges which it has established and which are in force at the time for any service performed by it within the state, or for any

service in connection therewith or performed by any public utility controlled or operated by it.

The Commission may approve tariff changes if they are deemed to be 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. OAR 860-022-0025(2) specifically requires that each energy utility changing existing tariffs or schedules must 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.

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. ORS 757.220; OAR 860-022-0015. Tariff filings to be effective on less than 30 days following notice of the change may be authorized with a waiver of less than statutory notice pursuant to ORS 757.220 and OAR 860-022-0020.

## Analysis

### *Background*

PGE's Residential Battery Energy Storage Pilot (Pilot) is defined in the operational tariff Schedule 14. The Pilot launched in August 2020 for a five-year period. The Pilot offers monthly incentives to residential customers who allow the Company to manage the charging and discharging of residential customer batteries, with the option for customer override. The number of participants in the Pilot is capped at 525. As of March 2021, there were 33 active participants, and 25 pending customer enrollments awaiting their battery installations. PGE began calling events and dispatching the batteries earlier in Q1 2021.

The Pilot also offers rebates to residential customers located within the Smart Grid Testbed boundaries who purchase new batteries and allow PGE to manage the charging and discharging of the batteries. Rebates for new batteries are limited to 200 customers and progressively decline in value as more participants are approved for rebates. Additionally, a separate, higher rebate is available to a maximum of 25 income-qualified customers. Rebates are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebates are reserved for a period of six months, after which the battery must be operational and controllable by PGE, or the reserved rebate will be released.

On April 22, 2021, PGE filed Advice No. 21-10, which modifies Schedule 14 to extend the duration of the rebate reservation period from six months to nine months. On

April 28, 2021, PGE made a supplemental filing to correct the requested effective date from June 1 to June 2, 2021.

PGE requests to extend the rebate reservation period from six months to nine months because batteries from the Pilot's predominant battery manufacturer are currently on six to eight months back order, and customers' incentive reservations are expiring before their batteries can be installed. The three-month extension is expected to provide sufficient time for the batteries to be received and installed.

#### *Analysis*

The short time extension to accommodate the manufacturer backlog will reduce administrative burden for PGE and customers with expiring reservations and increase certainty for customers with reserved rebates, while retaining sufficient time pressure to ensure the rebates result in timely installed battery systems.

Staff reviewed PGE Advice No. 20-10 and confirms that the proposed revisions to Schedule 14 are limited to the extension of the rebate reservation period and correction of a misspelled word.

#### Conclusion

PGE's request to extend the rebate reservation period to nine months is reasonable and responsive to customer needs and should be approved.

#### **PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:**

Approve PGE's Advice No. 21-10 effective with service on or after June 2, 2021.