

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: April 18, 2023**

REGULAR **CONSENT** **EFFECTIVE DATE** April 19, 2023

DATE: April 10, 2023

TO: Oregon Public Utility Commission

FROM: Charles Lockwood

THROUGH: Bryan Conway and Caroline Moore **SIGNED**

SUBJECT: PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC:
(Docket No. ADV 1492/Advice No. 23-05)
Updates Schedules 7 and 32, Residential and Small Commercial
Renewable Portfolio Options, and Renewable Development Fund
guidelines.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Portland General Electric's (PGE or Company) proposed updates to Schedule 7 and Schedule 32, Residential and Small Commercial Renewable Portfolio Options, as described in Advice No. 23-05, effective for service rendered on and after April 19, 2023, and proposed updates to the Company's Renewable Development Fund guidelines.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Oregon Public Utility Commission should approve PGE's Advice No. 23-05, which updates its Schedules 7 and 32, Residential and Small Commercial Renewable Portfolio Options, removing the Renewable Solar (Green Future Solar) option and effective for service rendered on and after April 19, 2023, and updates to best modernize the Renewable Development Fund guidelines.

Applicable Rule or 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.

ORS 757.603 requires electric utilities to provide a portfolio of rate options to residential customers. The Commission regulates portfolio options so that the rates reflect the costs and risks of serving each option.

OAR 860-038-0220 sets forth the Commission's requirements for electric companies providing a portfolio of products and pricing options (Portfolio Options) to residential and, in some instances, small nonresidential customers.

Analysis

Background

PGE has offered portfolio options to residential and small commercial customers for two decades. Starting in 2016, PGE offered a portfolio option product called Green Future Solar which sourced its renewable energy certificates (RECs) from the Steel Bridge solar farm in Willamina, Oregon. In Docket No. ADV 1421, the filing came before the Commission at the September 6, 2022 public meeting and the Commission approved the Company's proposal to eliminate the Green Future Solar option. The Company stated that it will move customers of Green Future Solar to the Green Future Block option, which costs \$1.24 less per unit. If some of these customers do prefer a solar-only option, subscribing to Community Solar remains an alternative. At the time, the following language was included in Schedule 7 and 23 under the Green Future Solar option description:

PGE's Renewable Solar Option will operate through December 31, 2022. Beginning on January 1, 2023, participants currently subscribed to the Renewable Solar Option will automatically transition to two blocks of the Renewable Fixed Option for every unit of the Renewable Solar Option.

On March 9, 2023, the Company filed Advice No. 23-05/ADV 1492 which seeks to remove all language about the Green Future Solar option from the schedules and includes two additional housekeeping proposals:

- Under the eligibility policies for portfolio options, the Company proposes references to “accounts” to “customer” to reflect the fact that customers can have more than one account. This is focused on the ineligibility of customers that have been disconnected in the past 12 months.
- Modifications to the Renewable Development Fund guidelines that clarify the eligibility of storage resources, minor tweaks for clarity of additional ineligible costs for funding, as well as updates the Company’s project requirements, preferences, and funding parameters with evaluation criteria.

Staff Analysis

Overall, the changes to Schedule 7 and Schedule 32 will not increase or otherwise change participant rates. The program is optional, self-funded, and has no impact on the cost-of-service prices. Staff has reviewed the updated rate schedules and Renewable Development Fund guidelines and found it is consistent with state policy directive. First, the elimination of the Green Future Solar option was approved in Docket No. ADV 1421, and this advice filing only seeks to remove any language regarding the option from Schedule 7 and Schedule 32. Staff points to the programs including Community Solar and purchase of unbundled solar RECs, as a means for customers looking for a solar-only option. Second, Staff believes the language change from “accounts” to “customer” is reasonable. Lastly, Staff’s review of the updated Renewable Development Fund guidelines found that the updates accurately reflect modernization of the program and are agreeable with Commission policy.

Conclusion

Staff finds that the language updates in Schedule 7 and Schedule 32, as well as the Renewable Development Fund guidelines are aligned with the Commission’s approval in Docket No. ADV 1421 and policy and recommends that the Commission approve the proposed tariff.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve PGE’s proposed updates to Schedule 7 and Schedule 32, Residential and Small Commercial Renewable Portfolio Options, as described in Advice No. 23-05, effective for service rendered on and after April 19, 2023, and updates to the Company’s Renewable Development Fund guidelines.