



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Public Utility Commission

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April 18, 2023



BY EMAIL
PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC
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RE: Advice No. 23-05

At the public meeting on April 18, 2023, the Commission adopted Staff's recommendation in this matter docketed as ADV 1492. The Staff Report and a receipted copy of the sheets in your advice filing are attached.

Nolan Moser
Chief Administrative Law Judge
Public Utility Commission of Oregon
(503) 378-3098

ITEM NO. CA1

**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.

SCHEDULE 7 (Continued)

ENERGY PRICE PLANS: TOU PORTFOLIO OPTION (Continued)

Special Conditions Pertaining to Whole Premises and Electric Vehicle Time of Use Options

1. Service may be terminated at the next regularly scheduled meter reading provided the Company has received two weeks' notice prior to the meter read date. Absent the two-week notice, the termination will occur with the next subsequent meter reading date.
2. Participation requires a one-year commitment by the Customer. Generally, if a Customer requests removal from the TOU Option, the Customer will be required to wait 12 months before re-enrolling. However, a Customer may request to reinstate service within 90 days of termination, in which case the Portfolio Enrollment Charge will be waived.
3. The Customer must take service at 120/240 volts or greater.
4. The Customer must provide the Company access to the meter monthly.
5. After a Customer's initial 12 months of service on the TOU Option, the Company will calculate what the Customer would have paid under the default plan and compare billings. If the Customer's Energy Charge billings (including all applicable supplemental adjustments) under the TOU Option exceeded the default plan Energy Charge (including all applicable supplemental adjustments) by more than 10%, the Company will issue the Customer a refund for the amount more than 10% either as a bill credit or refund check. No refund will be issued for Customers not meeting the 12-month requirement.
6. The Company may recover lost revenue from the TOU Option through Schedule 105.
7. Billing will begin for any Customer no later than the next regularly scheduled meter reading date following the initialization meter reading made on a regularly scheduled meter reading date, assuming no meter exchange is required to enable the TOU rate.
8. The Company may choose to offer promotional incentives, including but not limited to rebates or coupons.

GREEN FUTURE RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO OPTIONS

Customers can add any of the following Green Future Renewable Portfolio options to any service described in this schedule: renewable fixed option, renewable usage option, and renewable habitat option adder (Habitat Support).

(C)

The Customer will be charged for the Green Future Renewable Portfolio option in addition to all other charges under this schedule for the term of enrollment in the Green Future Renewable Portfolio option.

SCHEDULE 7 (Continued)

GREEN FUTURE RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO OPTIONS (Continued)

RENEWABLE USAGE OPTION

Amounts received from Customers under the renewable usage option will be used to cover program costs and acquire RECs and/or Energy, all of which will come from new renewable resources.

The Company will place any funds received from Customers enrolled in this option that are not spent after covering program and REC costs in a renewable resources development and demonstration fund ("Renewable Development Fund" or "RDF"). See Special Conditions for additional details on the RDF.

Monthly Rate

Renewable Usage Option	0.940	¢ per kWh in addition to Energy Charge
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(D)

SCHEDULE 7 (Continued)

GREEN FUTURE RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO OPTIONS (Continued)

RENEWABLE HABITAT OPTION ADDER (HABITAT SUPPORT)

The Company will distribute \$2.50 per month as received from each Customer enrolled in habitat support to a nonprofit agency chosen by the Company who will use the funds for habitat restoration.

Available

Only Customers who are enrolled in a Green Future Renewable Portfolio option, described in this schedule, may choose habitat support.

Monthly Rate

Habitat Support	\$2.50	per month
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SPECIAL CONDITIONS RELATED TO GREEN FUTURE RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO OPTIONS

1. Service will become effective with the next regularly scheduled meter reading date provided the Customer has selected the option at least five days prior to their next scheduled meter read date. Absent the five-day notice, the change will become effective on the subsequent meter read date. Service may be terminated at the next regularly scheduled meter reading provided the Company has received two weeks' notice prior to the meter read date. Absent the two-week notice, the termination will occur with the subsequent meter reading date.
2. The Company, in its discretion, may accept participation from accounts that have a time payment agreement in effect, or have received two or more final disconnect notices. However, the Company will not accept participation from customers that have been involuntarily disconnected in the last 12 months due to non-payment. (C)
(C)
3. The Company will use reasonable efforts to ensure energy assistance dollars from the Oregon Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP) assistance programs are not used to cover Green Future program participation during the time which participants receive these energy assistance funds. As such, PGE will unenroll Customers from the Green Future program if they receive energy assistance funds from LIHEAP and OEAP. If these energy assistance dollars are no longer applied to the bill, the Customer may re-enroll in the program subject to the above requirements.

SCHEDULE 32 (Continued)

MONTHLY RATE (Continued)

Renewable Portfolio Options

(available upon enrollment in either
Energy Charge option)

Renewable Usage	0.940 ¢ per kWh in addition to Energy Charge	
Renewable Fixed	\$1.88 per month per block	(D)
Renewable Habitat Adder(*)	\$2.50 per month	

* Only Customers who are enrolled in a Renewable Portfolio Option (Renewable Usage or Renewable Fixed Portfolio Options described herein) may choose the Renewable Habitat Portfolio Option Adder. (C)

RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO OPTIONS

The Customer will be charged for the Renewable Portfolio Option in addition to all other charges under this schedule for the term of enrollment in the Renewable Portfolio Option.

Renewable Fixed Option

The Company will use funds received under this option to cover program costs and purchase 200 kWhs of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) and/or renewable energy per block enrolled in the Renewable Fixed Option. All RECs purchased under this option will come from new renewable resources.

The Company will also place any funds not spent after covering program and REC costs received from Customers enrolled in this option in a renewable resources development and demonstration fund ("Renewable Development Fund" or "RDF". See Special Conditions for additional details on the RDF.

Renewable Usage Option

Amounts received from Customers under the Renewable Usage Option will be used to cover program costs and acquire RECs and/or renewable energy, all of which will come from new renewable resources.

The Company will also place any funds received from Customers enrolled in this option not spent after covering program and REC costs in a renewable resources development and demonstration fund ("Renewable Development Fund" or "RDF"). See Special Conditions for additional details on the RDF.

SCHEDULE 32 (Continued)

RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO OPTIONS (Continued)

Renewable Habitat Adder

(D)

The Company will distribute \$2.50 per month as received from each Customer enrolled in the Habitat Option to a nonprofit agency chosen by the Company who will use the funds for habitat restoration.

Energy or RECs supporting the Renewable Portfolio Options will be acquired by the Company such that by March 31 of the succeeding year, the Company will have received sufficient RECs or renewable energy to meet the purchases by Customers. For Renewable Fixed Option and Renewable Usage Option, the Company is not required to own renewables or to acquire energy from renewable resources simultaneously with Customer usage.

For purposes of these options, renewable resources include wind, solar, biomass, low impact hydro (as certified by the Low Impact Hydro Institute) and geothermal energy sources used to produce electric power. All RECs will be Green-e® Energy certified by the Center for Resource Solutions (CRS).

SCHEDULE 32 (Continued)

SPECIAL CONDITIONS (Continued)

2. The Company, in its discretion, may accept enrollments on accounts that have a time payment agreement in effect, or have received two or more final disconnect notices. However, the Company will not accept enrollments from customers that have been involuntarily disconnected in the last 12 months due to non-payment.
3. The Company will use reasonable efforts to acquire renewable energy, but does not guarantee the availability of renewable energy sources to serve Renewable Portfolio Options. The Company makes no representations as to the impact on the development of renewable resources or habitat restoration projects of Customer participation.
4. Amounts in the RDF will be disbursed by the Company to non-residential renewable resource demonstration projects or projects that commit to supply Energy according to a contractually established timetable. The Company will report to the Commission annually by March 15th, pursuant to Order No. 16-156, on collections and disbursements for the preceding calendar year. The annual report will include a list of projects that received or were allocated RDF funding.
5. Amounts placed in the RDF prior to July 6, 2016 will accrue interest at the Commission-authorized cost of capital until disbursed. Amounts placed in the fund on and after July 6, 2016 will accrue interest at the Commission-authorized rate for deferred accounts in amortization until disbursed. Amounts within the fund will be disbursed on a first-in-first-out basis. Once funds have been committed to projects, following the required OPUC review, they will be deemed disbursed. Funds deemed disbursed and still held by the Company, will accrue interest at the Commission-authorized rate for deferred accounts in amortization.

Pertaining to TOU Option

1. Service may be terminated at the next regularly scheduled meter reading provided the Company has received notice two weeks prior to the meter read date. Absent the two-week notice, the termination will occur with the next subsequent meter reading date.
2. Participation requires a one-year commitment by the Customer. Generally, if a Customer requests removal from the TOU Option, the Customer will be required to wait 12 months before re-enrolling. However, a Customer may request to reinstate service within 90 days of termination, in which case the Portfolio Enrollment Charge will be waived.