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May 21, 2009

# VIA ELECTRONIC FILING AND OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Oregon Public Utility Commission 550 Capitol Street NE, Suite 215 Salem, OR 97301-2551

Attention: Filing Center

Re: **Docket AR 518 – Phase IIII** Comments of PacifiCorp

PacifiCorp, d.b.a. Pacific Power, hereby submits its Comments on Staff's proposed rules for Phase III in the above-referenced matter.

Questions on this filing may be directed to Joelle Steward, Regulatory Manager, at (503) 813-5542.

Sincerely,

Andrea L. Kelly/15

Andrea L. Kelly Vice President, Regulation

Enclosure

cc: AR 518 Service List

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that I have cause to be served the foregoing **PacifiCorp's Comments** in OPUC Docket No. AR 518 by electronic mail to the parties on the attached service list.

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# BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

AR 518 – Phase III

In the Matter of a Rulemaking to Implement SB 838 Relating to Renewable Portfolio Standard

**COMMENTS OF PACIFICORP** 

PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power (the "Company") submits the following comments regarding the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (the "Commission") Staff's proposed rules to implement Phase III of the proceeding to implement the Oregon Renewable Energy Act (the "Act") for electric companies and electricity service suppliers. Phase III addresses six proposed rules relating to: incremental costs (OAR 860-083-0100), revenue requirements (OAR 860-083-0200), compliance standards (OAR 860-083-0300), compliance reports (OAR 860-083-0350), implementation plans (OAR 860-083-0400), and alternative compliance payments (OAR 860-083-0500).<sup>1</sup> A formal hearing was convened by the Commission to consider the proposed rules on May 18, 2009 (the "May 18 Hearing").

The Company appreciates the comprehensive and challenging effort undertaken by Staff and other interested parties in this proceeding. Developing the proposed rules was a substantial undertaking and the Company commends Staff for its willingness to consider and, in many instances, incorporate comments and proposals of all participants. The proposed rules are complex and the concepts and calculations they incorporate are

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In addition, definitions are added at OAR 860-083-0010.

novel. PacifiCorp appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments on the proposed rules.

### I. DISCUSSION

## A. Staff Should Work With Interested Parties to Avoid Duplication of Existing Integrated Resource Planning and Avoided Cost Processes and Develop Standardized Compliance Filing Formats

The proposed rules generally acknowledge an objective of avoiding duplicative or unnecessary requirements as relating to the Company's Integrated Resource Planning ("IRP") and avoided cost processes, especially in the context of calculating incremental costs. *See* OAR 860-083-0100(1)(a), (6), (7), and (8); OAR 860-083-0400(4) and (5). The incorporation of the analytical work currently employed by the Company as part of its IRP and avoided cost filings is essential to implementing the proposed rules in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The Company appreciates Staff's commitment to limiting duplication and excessive reporting obligations as the Company focuses on complying with the Act.

As suggested in proposed rules OAR 860-083-0350(3) and -0400(3) and at the May 18 Hearing, the Company is also encouraged by Staff's willingness to work with interested parties to develop standard formats and practices relating to reporting obligations. The complexity of the subject matter incorporated in the proposed rules calls for a commitment among interested parties to develop standard compliance formats to minimize the cost of compliance to the greatest extent possible, and further benefit customers. Standardized filing formats will also provide an efficient and effective means for the Commission to review and acknowledge various regulatory filings required by the Act by providing routine and familiar submissions on the part of regulated entities. Meaningful cooperation has been achieved among interested parties in other similar contexts, including the creation of tax reporting templates to facilitate the implementation of SB 408. Ultimately, standard reporting formats have the potential to become routine, long-term solutions that benefit reporting entities, the Commission and customers. The Company looks forward to working with Staff and other interested parties in developing compliance methods to avoid duplication and develop standard formats to streamline the compliance process for all parties.

#### B. The Company Supports Staff's Clarification of Requirements Associated with the Disclosure and Use of Bundled REC Sales

The Company appreciates Staff's reconsideration of the requirement that the Commission approve the sale of bundled RECs. In it place, Staff has included a requirement that the Company provide sufficient documentation or a citation to explain how its implementation plan appropriately balances risks and expected costs as required by the integrated resource planning guidelines in 1.b. and c. of Commission Order No. 07-047 and subsequent guidelines related to implementation plans set forth by the Commission, including whether the Company plans to sell any bundled RECs that are included in the rates of Oregon retail electricity consumers. Proposed OAR 860-083-0400(5)(c). Staff's Comments clarify that an electric company would have to explain how the future sale of bundled RECs would appropriately balance cost and risk as required by the IRP Guidelines. Staff Comments at 11.

The Company supports Staff's proposed change consistent with Staff's clarification and the clarifying changes offered by Portland General Electric to identify the precise IRP Guidelines that will be applied to implementation plans in the specific circumstances described by the proposed rules. PacifiCorp notes, however, that the IRP

and IRP Guidelines do not specifically address or call for the disclosure of REC sales. Accordingly, the Company does not interpret Staff's position to establish a new IRP Guideline by virtue of this rulemaking, rather only that the existing IRP Guidelines (e.g. 1.b and c) relating to the appropriate balance of costs and risks should be used as the relevant standard for the sale of bundled RECs. In this context, the Company also interprets the disclosure requirement to apply only to qualifying bundled RECs, and those RECs acquired after January 1, 2007, which is consistent with the definition of bundled RECs included in the proposed rules.

The Company also supports Staff's position on the chronological use of bundled RECs. *See* Proposed OAR 860-083-0300(3)(b)(C). The Company's sole substantive concern relates to whether this requirement is capable of being implemented through the current regional renewable energy certificate system and trading system, also known as the Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System ("WREGIS"). During the May 18 Hearing, the Company, Staff and staff for the Oregon Department of Energy discussed the capabilities and limitations of WREGIS in this regard and it was determined that WREGIS can track the acquisition of bundled RECs on a monthly basis. As noted in Staff's Reply Comments, the Company supports Staff's clarification that the "rule intends monthly chronological order" with regard to bundled RECs. Staff Reply Comments at 5. The Company is willing to work with Staff and other interested parties to ensure that WREGIS can effectively implement the Oregon law.

# C. Staff Should Eliminate the Definition of "To use a renewable energy certificate" from the Proposed Rules

The Company strongly opposes Staff's inclusion of remove the definition for "to use a renewable energy certificate" in the proposed rules. OAR 860-083-0010(41). The

above-referenced definition is the subject of a separate ongoing proceeding, Phase II, which relates to the use of renewable energy certificates for compliance with the Act and retail disclosure requirements under OAR 860-038-0300. The subject matter of Phase II, including the proposed definition, was the subject of extensive discussion and comment at a separate hearing convened in January 2009, in which the Company was an active participant. To date, no final determinations or decisions have been rendered with regard to Phase II and, accordingly, it is premature and inappropriate to include the proposed definition as part of this phase.

The proposed definition attempts to create a new "use" of RECs by virtue of the inclusion of a REC as part of power source disclosure reporting. As previously stated by the Company in the Phase II proceeding, Staff's proposed definition is not provided for in the Act, is not within Staff's authority to adopt, and is contrary to the intent of the Act by introducing a new "use," and associated limitation, for RECs in the context of RPS compliance. The Act simply does not authorize the Commission to determine what constitutes a "use," or to otherwise limit the use of RECs in the context of RPS compliance, much less in the context of power source disclosure requirements. For reference, the Company's comments filed in this docket on January 12, 2009.

## D. The Company Appreciates Staff's Acknowledgement of the Confidential Nature of the Information to be Included in Reporting Obligations Under the Proposed Rules.

Throughout the proposed rules, Staff has incorporated clarifying language stating that only public portions of the Company's reporting obligations, including compliance reports and implementation plans, must be made available for review. *See* Proposed OAR 860-083-0350(6) and OAR 860-083-0400(9)(a) and (b). The Company appreciates

Staff's consideration and acknowledgment as to the competitive, proprietary, and confidential nature of the information to be disclosed as part of the Company's ongoing compliance reports and implementation plans, among other things. In this context, the Company looks forward to working with Staff and other interested parties to effectuate the proposed rules.

## II. CONCLUSION

The Company appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments and respectfully requests that the Commission adopt the proposed rules subject to these comments. The proposed rules represent a complex and novel approach to compliance with the Act. The Company looks forward to working with Staff and other interested parties to implement the proposed rules in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

Dated at Portland, Oregon, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2009.

Marca L. Kelly X/S

Vice President, Regulation