

August 22, 2022

Public Utility Commission of Oregon Attn: Filing Center 201 High Street, S.E. P.O. Box 1088 Salem, OR 97308-1088

RE: AR 653, Formal Rulemaking Round 2 Comments of the Joint Utilities in Response to Recommended Changes to Division 21 of the Oregon Administrative Rules

Avista Utilities, Cascade Natural Gas, Idaho Power Company, NW Natural, PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power, and Portland General Electric Company (collectively "the Joint Utilities") submit the following comments in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Hearings with Statement of Need, Fiscal Impact Statement, and Proposed Rules ("the Notice") issued July 1, 2022 and the collective discussion during the first Rulemaking Hearing on July 21, 2022.

The central issue remaining for the Joint Utilities is the proposed change to the severe weather protection's temperature threshold, which is discussed below and is followed by a summary of individual utility responses to Staff's Information Request on this topic. A compilation of individual utility responses to the Information Request is included in Attachment A. Additionally, the Joint Utilities recommend several minor edits intended to increase clarity and consistency within the proposed Division 21 rules. These suggested edits do not introduce new concepts and are included in redline document in Attachment B.

On the topic of extending the 15-day disconnection notification to a 20-day window, the Joint Utilities appreciate the importance of responding to customer feedback provided in focus groups initiated by the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (OPUC). Individual utility information is provided at the end of these comments to indicate the varying timelines and costs anticipated to implement 20-day disconnection notices. The timelines and costs to systematically implement the broader set of low-income protections and fee waivers within the proposed Division 21 rules may be much greater for some utilities.

Severe Weather Protections

The Joint Utilities continue to be concerned with the proposed change to remove the word "high" from the current rules such that a moratorium would be in effect when the temperature forecast is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit at any point in the day.

During the Rulemaking Hearing to discuss the Division 21 rules, Chair Decker and Commissioner Thompson both expressed concern regarding this change and the significant impact it could have on the reduction of days when disconnections may occur.

In particular, and as highlighted previously by the Joint Utilities and discussed by the Commissioners, the temperature in Oregon can sometimes fluctuate 15-20 degrees, and occasionally even up to 30 degrees, in a single day, especially in the late Fall or early Spring. If the proposed change were to be adopted, there would be severe winter weather moratorium days in some parts of the state beginning in September and going all the way into June due to low temperatures, which seems to stretch well beyond the intent of a severe weather moratorium due to winter weather. Also, during the heart of winter, there would likely be months where potential disconnections for non-payment could not occur at all in certain parts of the state, thereby possibly resulting in the increased accumulation of bad debt.

Following the Rulemaking Hearing, Commission Staff issued an information request to each of the utilities to obtain data regarding the number of severe weather moratorium days that occurred in 2020 and 2021 under the current rule and what would have happened under the proposed rules; attached to these comments is each utility's response to Staff's information request. This data will help inform the conversation on this issue and what an appropriate "high" temperature threshold should be, if the Commission decides to change from the current threshold.

Finally, the Joint Utilities continue to believe that maintaining a "high" temperature threshold is the best option compared to the alternative of a "low" temperature threshold, or both a "high" and "low" temperature threshold within a single day. The current "high" model continues to be easy to administer and is easily understandable for customers. As previously mentioned, the Joint Utilities are open to increasing the "high" temperature threshold if the Commission desires to do so and continues to support their previous proposal such that a moratorium would be in effect when a day's forecasted high temperature is below 35 degrees Fahrenheit. At the next Rulemaking Hearing, the Joint Utilities look forward to continuing the discussion on this issue.

Staff's Information Request and Individual Utility Responses

Please provide the number of business days a severe weather moratorium would be triggered by the 32-degree temperature threshold under the current language and the proposed changes to 860-21-0407 (1). Please provide the data by year (2020 and 2021) and county.

- a. Please provide the number of days a severe weather moratorium would be in effect due to a forecasted temperature less than 32 degrees. (Proposed language)
- b. Please provide the number of days a severe weather moratorium would be in effect due to a high temperature of 32 degrees. (Current language)

Please exclude days covered under 860-021-0320:

Disconnection of Service on Weekends and Holidays

Utility service shall not be disconnected for nonpayment on a weekend or a state- or utility-recognized holiday. Utility service shall not be disconnected for nonpayment on a Friday or the day before a state- or utility-recognized holiday unless mutually agreed upon by the customer, utility, and the Commission's Consumer Services Division.

Table 1. Sum of days in each county triggered by a severe weather moratorium beyond those already excluded under 860-021-0320, by utility

		language perature"	Proposed language "low temperature"		
Utility	2020	2021	2020	2021	
Avista	4	19	220	235	
Cascade	9	23	260	240	
Idaho Power	13	29	270	273	
NW Natural	1	4	197	159	
Pacific Power	12	12	1,643	1,523	
Portland General Electric	0	1	59	42	

Rule Change Implementation

Table 2. Division 21 rule change implementation timelines and impacts

Utility	Estimated Activation	Impacts to Collections Process	Range of Estimated IT Investments
Avista	Within 30 days of final order adopting rules for 20-day notice.	An additional 5 days will be added to the collections process.	Minimal
Cascade	Up to 60-days after conclusion of rules for implementation, configuration, and testing.	It will require configuration changes to our collection process templates in order to align when the system kicks off severance with the notice pay by date that is calculated by the letter extract.	Up to \$50,000
Idaho Power	Mid-Q2 2023 for 20- day notice	Reconfiguration of the Company's collections system will provide an additional 5 days to customers' existing collections cycle.	\$15,000 - \$30,000
NW Natural	January 2023 for items not related to 20-day notice TBD for 20-day notice	NW Natural is still identifying the best course of action to comply with the 20-day notice changes	TBD
Pacific Power	Q1 2023 to adopt all rule changes	An additional 5 days will be added to the collections process.	TBD
Q1 2023 for most items not related to 20-day notice TBD for 20-day notice		PGE is still identifying the best course of action to comply with the 20-day notice changes	TBD

Other

In addition to the above, the Joint Utilities seek Commission clarification on the sunsetting of protections granted by the Commission through Order No. 21-236, issued July 23, 2021 in UM 2114. Because many of the proposed Division 21 rule modifications have incorporated the transitional protections put into place last summer, the Joint Utilities seek Commission clarification as to whether such transitional protections shall cease upon the revised Division 21 rules going into effect.

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Summary

The Joint Utilities appreciate the opportunity to provide follow-up comments and look forward to engaging in further conversations throughout this rulemaking.

Thank you,

/s/ Shawn Bonfield Sr. Manager of Regulatory Policy & Strategy Avista Utilities

/s/ Connie Aschenbrenner Rate Design Manager Idaho Power Company

/s/ Robert Meredith
Director, Pricing and Tariff Policy
PacifiCorp

/s/ Christopher Mickelson Manager, Regulatory Affairs Cascade Natural Gas

/s/ Natasha Siores Manager, Regulatory Affairs NW Natural

/s/ Robert Macfarlane Manager, Pricing & Tariffs Portland General Electric Company

AR 653 Formal Rulemaking Round 2 Comments of the Joint Utilities Attachment A

AVISTA CORP. RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

JURISDICTION: Oregon DATE PREPARED: 08/01/2022 CASE NO.: AR 653 WITNESS: Shawn Bonfield REOUESTER: PUC Staff RESPONDER: Shawn Bonfield DEPT: TYPE: **Information Request Regulatory Affairs** (509) 495-2782 REQUEST NO.: Staff - 01TELEPHONE:

EMAIL: shawn.bonfield@avistacorp.com

REQUEST:

(1) Please provide the number of business days a severe weather moratorium would be triggered by the 32-degree temperature threshold under the current language and the proposed changes to 860-21-0407 (1). Please provide the data by year (2020 and 2021) and county.

- a. Please provide the number of days a severe weather moratorium would be in effect due by a forecasted less than of 32 degrees. (Proposed language)
- b. Please provide the number of days a severe weather moratorium would be in effect due to a high temperature of 32 degrees. (Current language)

Please exclude days covered under 860-021-0320:

Disconnection of Service on Weekends and Holidays

Utility service shall not be disconnected for nonpayment on a weekend or a state- or utility-recognized holiday. Utility service shall not be disconnected for nonpayment on a Friday or the day before a state- or utility-recognized holiday unless mutually agreed upon by the customer, utility, and the Commission's Consumer Services Division.

RESPONSE:

The following table includes the number of severe weather moratorium days under the current rule and proposed rule for each primary city the Company serves in Oregon. Note weather data is not available by county. Fridays, weekends, state holidays, and the day before state holidays have been excluded from the data.

	202	20	202	1
Service Area	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
Service Area	Rule	Rule	Rule	Rule
Grants Pass	0	21	5	37
Klamath Falls	2	84	8	95
La Grande	2	72	6	74
Medford	0	29	0	24
Roseburg	0	14	0	5

CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION Oregon Public Utility Commission Strengthening Customer Protections Concerning Disconnections AR 653

Request No. 1

Date prepared: August 2, 2022

Preparer: Chris Mickelson

Contact: Chris Mickelson

Telephone: (509)-734-4549

Topic or Keyword:

- (1) Please provide the number of business days a severe weather moratorium would be triggered by the 32-degree temperature threshold under the current language and the proposed changes to 860-21-0407 (1). Please provide the data by year (2020 and 2021) and county.
 - a. Please provide the number of days a severe weather moratorium would be in effect due by a forecasted less than of 32 degrees. (Proposed language)
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CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION

Oregon Public Utility Commission Strengthening Customer Protections Concerning Disconnections AR 653

Response:

Cascade does not store weather data by county; however, Cascade does have the weather information by service district; the service districts and the counties they cover are:

- District 1: Baker, Malheur
- District 2: Crook, Jefferson
- District 3: Deschutes, Klamath
- District 4: Morrow, Umatilla

Cascade serves the following counties within Oregon (customers served in county): Baker (4,092), Crook (3,716), Deschutes (52,283), Jefferson (1,807), Klamath (284), Malheur (4,848), Morrow (552), Umatilla (13,378).

Current Rule Data:

Below is the weather event table that shows the number of days in calendar years 2020 and 2021 where high temperature was 32 degrees or below within Cascade's service area.

Days when Highs are Below 32 degrees (Current Rule)

Days when riighs are i			District 3	District 4
Customers Served	8,940	5,523	52,567	13,930
2020				
Monday	0	0	1	1
Tuesday	1	1	1	1
Wednesday	2	0	0	0
Thursday	0	1	0	0
Friday	2	0	0	0
Saturday	0	1	0	1
Sunday	0	0	0	1
Monday – Thursday	3	2	2	2
2021				
Monday	2	2	0	4
Tuesday	1	1	1	2
Wednesday	2	1	1	1
Thursday	1	2	1	1
Friday	2	2	1	2
Saturday	2 2 3	1	0	1
Sunday	3	1	1	1
Monday – Thursday	6	6	3	8

CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION

Oregon Public Utility Commission Strengthening Customer Protections Concerning Disconnections AR 653

Proposed Rule Data:

Below is the weather event table that shows the number of days in calendar years 2020 and 2021 where temperature of the day was below 32 degrees within Cascade's service area.

Days Below 32 degrees (Proposed Rule)

Days Below 32 degrees (Proposed Rule) <u>District 1 District 2 District 3 District 4</u>									
	<u>District 1</u>	District 2	District 3	<u>District 4</u>					
Customers Served	8,940	5,523	52,567	13,930					
2020									
Monday	22	13	18	16					
Tuesday	23	15	15	12					
Wednesday	23	7	20	6					
Thursday	25	17	15	13					
Friday	25	13	18	9					
Saturday	21	9	14						
Sunday	22	13	13	12					
Monday – Thursday	93	52	68	47					
2021									
Monday	22	10	12	11					
Tuesday	26	14	12	12					
Wednesday	26	14	17	12					
Thursday	20	11	14	7					
Friday	22	11	13	9					
Saturday	26	8	14	8					
Sunday	21	7	15	8					
Monday – Thursday	94	49	55	42					

Proposed Rule Change Analysis:

To determine total number of non-disconnect days within calendar years 2020 and 2021, Cascade first eliminates Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and observed holidays which also didn't follow on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday; this results in the following:

Number of Non-Disconnect	Days	
Calendar Year	2020	2021
Fridays	52	53
Saturdays	52	52
Sundays	52	52
Observed Holidays	8	7
Total Non-Disconnect Days	164	164

CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION

Oregon Public Utility Commission Strengthening Customer Protections Concerning Disconnections AR 653

The proposed rule change analysis for number of disconnect days takes the calendar days for either 2020 or 2021 minus their respective total non-disconnect days and weather events based on either current or proposed rules that only include Monday through Thursday. This provides Cascade with disconnect days allowed; see table below.

		District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4
	2020				
	Calendar Days	366	366	366	366
l ur	Total Non-Disconnect Days	164	164	164	164
Current	Weather Event Days	3	2	2	2
t	Disconnect Days Allowed	199	200	200	200
P1	Calendar Days	366	366	366	366
do.	Total Non-Disconnect Days	164	164	164	164
Proposed	Weather Event Days	93	52	68	47
þ	Disconnect Days Allowed	109	150	134	155
	Reduction in Disconnect Days Allowed	90	50	66	45
	Change in Disconnect Days Allowed	45.2%	25.0%	33.0%	22.5%
	2021				
	2021	265	265	265	267
Q	Calendar Days	365	365	365	365
ım	Total Non-Disconnect Days	164	164	164	164
Current	Weather Event Days	6	6	3	8
. ,	Disconnect Days Allowed	195	195	198	193
	61 1 5	265	265	265	265
P_{r}	Calendar Days	365	365	365	365
opc	Total Non-Disconnect Days	164	164	164	164
Proposed	Weather Event Days	94	49	55	42
Д	Disconnect Days Allowed	107	152	146	159
			T		
	Reduction in Disconnect Days Allowed	88	43	52	34
	Change in Disconnect Days Allowed	45.1%	22.1%	26.3%	17.6%

Analysis of the impact of Proposed Rule compared to the Current Rule reduces the total number of disconnect days allowed on average between 34 and 90 days, depending on the service area and weather conditions. The proposed language change of removing "high" from the Current Rule would reduce disconnect days based on weather conditions by approximately 17.6 to 45.2 percent. This analysis does not include Cascade's self-imposed practice to not disconnect during winter break due to children being off from school and at home, which could further reduce the number of disconnect days if Cascade kept this self-imposed practice.

AR 653 Idaho Power Company's Response to Staff's Information Request No. 1

Topic or Keyword:

STAFF'S DATA REQUEST NO. 1:

Please provide the number of business days a severe weather moratorium would be triggered by the 32-degree temperature threshold under the current language and the proposed changes to 860-21-0407 (1). Please provide the data by year (2020 and 2021) and county.

- a. Please provide the number of days a severe weather moratorium would be in effect due by a forecasted less than of 32 degrees. (Proposed language)
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IDAHO POWER COMPANY'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S DATA REQUEST NO. 1:

Please see the data provided within the below tables in response to this request and note that Idaho Power offers a Commission-approved winter protection program.¹ As a result of Idaho Power offering a Commission-approved winter protection program, cold-weather protections are provided to customers in accordance with OAR 860-021-0407(8) and Rule F of the Company's Tariff.

a. Proposed OAR 860-021-0407(1) language:

	Severe Weather Moratorium, Days' Temperature Less Than 32°F ²					
County (Idaho Power's service area only):	2020	2021				
Baker	93	91				
Harney	91	99				
Malheur	86	83				

b. Current OAR 860-021-0407(1) language:

	Severe Weather Moratorium, Days' High Temperature Less Than 32°F ²					
County (Idaho Power's service area only):	2020	2021				
Baker	5	11				
Harney	6	10				
Malheur	2	8				

¹ Docket No. ADV 637, Idaho Power Winter Protection Program.

² Data is based on observed daily temperatures during the year.



Strengthening Customer Protections Concerning Disconnections

Data Request Response

Request No.: AR 653 OPUC IR 1

- 1. Please provide the number of business days a severe weather moratorium would be triggered by the 32-degree temperature threshold under the current language and the proposed changes to 860-21-0407 (1). Please provide the data by year (2020 and 2021) and county.
- a. Please provide the number of days a severe weather moratorium would be in effect due by a forecasted less than of 32 degrees. (Proposed language)
- b. Please provide the number of days a severe weather moratorium would be in effect due to a high temperature of 32 degrees. (Current language)

Please exclude days covered under 860-021-0320:

Disconnection of Service on Weekends and Holidays

Utility service shall not be disconnected for nonpayment on a weekend or a stateor utility-recognized holiday. Utility service shall not be disconnected for nonpayment on a Friday or the day before a state- or utility-recognized holiday unless mutually agreed upon by the customer, utility, and the Commission's Consumer Services Division.

Response:

NW Natural provides the following estimates in response to this data request. Note that the Company has used the actual high temperature or actual low temperature for each day because we do not record the forecasted high temperature or forecasted low temperature in our customer information system. In addition, NW Natural only stores temperature data by the weather zones that correspond with our service districts, as approved in our Oregon tariff Rule 24 Gas Quality Standards and Determination of Thermal Units. As a result, we provide the data by zone/district and not by county because these weather zones may cross counties; providing the response by weather zone/district is more efficient and does not require assumptions as to which weather zone to use for each county.

a. Number of days a severe weather moratorium would be in effect under the proposed language for OAR 860-21-0407(1) of an actual temperature of 32 degrees or less. Please note data have been truncated to remove the months of May-September, as there were no daily data in those months meeting the criteria. As shown in the table below, moratorium days would have totaled 244 in

AR 653 OPUC IR 1 NWN Response Page 2 of 4

2019, 197 in 2020, and 159 in 2021. Please note that these totals are a simple sum of all the moratorium days for each weather zone and useful only for comparing the results of this response part a to the response to part b.

2019 01 Jan	Albany 36	Astoria 25	Coos Bay		Lincoln			The	
2019	36		Coos Bay					me	
		25		Eugene	City	Portland	Salem	Dalles	Total
01 Jan	7		11	43	13	22	39	55	244
		3	0	9	1	3	7	8	38
02 Feb	10	8	8	11	9	9	10	14	79
03 Mar	7	5	2	6	2	4	6	10	42
04 Apr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
10 Oct	4	5	0	6	0	2	6	8	31
11 Nov	2	2	0	4	1	0	3	5	17
12 Dec	6	2	1	7	0	4	7	9	36
2020	33	18	6	33	15	18	33	41	197
01 Jan	3	4	0	2	3	2	3	4	21
02 Feb	8	4	5	10	4	5	12	10	58
03 Mar	9	4	0	8	6	4	6	8	45
04 Apr	1	2	0	1	1	0	1	2	8
10 Oct	3	0	0	4	0	2	2	4	15
11 Nov	3	1	1	3	1	2	3	5	19
12 Dec	6	3	0	5	0	3	6	8	31
2021	25	23	3	25	15	10	20	38	159
01 Jan	5	5	1	4	1	2	4	3	25
02 Feb	4	4	0	5	2	3	4	8	30
02 Teb	8	9	1	7	7	2	8	12	54
04 Apr	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	2	9
10 Oct	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3
11 Nov	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	6
12 Dec	5	3	1	5	3	3	3	9	32

b. Number of days a severe weather moratorium would be in effect under the current language of OAR 860-21-0407(1) of a high actual temperature of 32 degrees or less. Please note data have been truncated to remove the months of May-September, as there were no daily data in those months meeting the criteria. As shown in the table below, moratorium days would have totaled 6 in 2019, 1 in 2020, and 4 in 2021. Please note that these totals are a simple sum of all the moratorium days for each weather zone and useful only for comparing the results of this response part b to the response to part a.

AR 653 OPUC IR 1 NWN Response Page 3 of 4

				Cı	urrent Rule	es			
					Lincoln			The	
	Albany	Astoria	Coos Bay	Eugene	City	Portland	Salem	Dalles	Total
2019	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
01 Jan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
02 Feb	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
03 Mar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
04 Apr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 Oct	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11 Nov	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 Dec	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
01 Jan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
02 Feb	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03 Mar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
04 Apr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 Oct	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11 Nov	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 Dec	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	4
01 Jan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
02 Feb	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03 Mar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
04 Apr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 Oct	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11 Nov	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 Dec	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	4

An additional view of the impact of the proposed rule change would be to look at the days available for field collections without a moratorium both under the current and proposed rules. The following table provides this comparison, with heat mapping format used to illustrate the impact of the proposed rules. This table shows, for example, that in January 2019 the Portland weather zone would have had 14 days available for field collections under the proposed rules versus 17 days under the current rules, illustrating how the proposed rule would restrict the number of days available for field collections. For an extreme example, note that in February 2019, The Dalles zone would have had only one day available out of the entire month for field collections under the proposed rules versus having 11 days under the current rules.

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					Days	Availabl	e for Fie	ld Colle	ction No	t Under a	Morato	rium				1 01
				Curren	t Rules				Propsed Rules							
			Coos		Lincoln	Portlan		The			Coos		Lincoln	Portlan		The
Row Labels	Albany	Astoria	Bay	Eugene	City	d	Salem	Dalles	Albany	Astoria	Bay	Eugene	City	d	Salem	Dalles
2019																
01 Jan	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	10	14	17	8	16	14	10	9
02 Feb	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	11	5	7	7	4	6	6	5	1
03 Mar	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	14	9	11	14	10	14	12	10	6
04 Apr	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	17
10 Oct	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	14	13	18	12	18	16	12	10
11 Nov	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	11	11	13	9	12	13	10	8
12 Dec	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	8	12	13	7	14	10	7	5
2020																
01 Jan	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	15	13	12	16	14	13	14	13	12
02 Feb	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	7	11	10	5	11	10	3	5
03 Mar	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	9	14	18	10	12	14	12	10
04 Apr	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	17	16	18	17	17	18	17	16
10 Oct	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	13	16	16	12	16	14	14	12
11 Nov	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	10	12	12	10	12	11	10	8
12 Dec	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	10	13	16	11	16	13	10	8
2021																
01 Jan	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	10	10	14	11	14	13	11	12
02 Feb	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	11	11	15	10	13	12	11	7
03 Mar	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	11	10	18	12	12	17	11	7
04 Apr	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	16	16	17	15	15	17	16	15
10 Oct	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	14	15	15	14	15	15	15	14
11 Nov	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	13	13	14	13	14	14	14	11
12 Dec	15	14	15	15	15	15	15	12	10	12	14	10	12	12	12	6

PacifiCorp Attachment OPUC 1

a. Please provide the number of days a severe weather moratorium would be in effect due by a forecasted less than 32 degrees. (Proposed language)

	Janı	uary	Febr	uary	Ma	rch	Ap	ril	M	lay	Ju	ne	Ju	ıly	Aug	gust	Septe	mber	Octo	ber	Nove	mber	Dece	mber	Tot	als
County	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
BENTON	2	6	12	4	10	9	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	3	2	5	8	36	26
CROOK	11	12	14	12	16	19	8	11	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	8	11	16	14	81	71
DESCHUTES	13	14	14	15	18	19	10	16	6	5	3	6	0	1	0	1	2	2	10	8	9	10	17	16	102	99
DOUGLAS	15	15	14	15	18	19	14	16	6	7	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	2	8	7	8	12	19	17	106	96
GILLIAM	5	4	10	7	9	11	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	7	5	7	10	43	35
HOOD RIVER	11	13	14	14	17	17	4	6	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	8	10	15	14	76	67
JACKSON	16	14	15	15	17	19	12	16	6	9	2	1	3	1	3	0	0	4	6	11	12	11	19	18	111	105
JEFFERSON	11	13	15	11	14	17	10	11	5	4	0	12	0	9	0	7	0	6	7	11	9	15	15	14	86	117
JOSEPHINE	16	15	15	15	18	19	18	17	15	16	18	18	18	17	17	18	17	17	17	16	14	16	19	18	202	187
KLAMATH	16	15	15	15	18	19	18	17	11	15	7	6	5	0	0	8	11	13	16	15	14	15	19	18	150	141
LAKE	15	14	15	14	16	19	11	13	4	6	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	5	8	8	19	16	96	86
LANE	2	7	12	5	9	10	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	6	3	10	6	45	32
LINN	12	13	15	14	16	19	10	12	3	2	0	0	0	8	0	0	1	0	6	4	8	9	18	14	89	82
MARION	2	3	10	3	6	9	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	5	5	9	6	35	29
MULTNOMAH	2	2	4	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	5	5	17	11
POLK	5	4	8	4	9	9	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	1	6	8	33	25
SHERMAN	7	11	10	11	12	11	8	5	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	3	3	8	9	14	15	63	58
UMATILLA	10	12	14	12	16	16	9	13	4	1	0	0	0	4	0	3	0	3	5	7	9	11	17	14	84	84
WALLOWA	15	15	15	15	17	19	13	15	5	6	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	7	8	7	12	13	19	17	106	101
WASCO	10	13	14	12	15	15	9	11	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	7	8	8	16	14	82	71
Totals	196	215	255	216	274	298	156	197	73	75	34	49	27	42	22	39	34	59	129	112	159	174	284	262	1643	1523

b. Please provide the number of days a severe weather moratorium would be in effect due to high temperature of 32 degrees. (Current language)

	Janu	uary	Febr	uary	Ma	ırch	Αį	oril	М	ay	Ju	ne	Ju	ıly	Aug	gust	Septe	mber	Octo	ober	Nove	mber	Dece	mber
County	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	20201	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
BENTON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CROOK	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DESCHUTES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DOUGLAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GILLIAM	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HOOD RIVER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JACKSON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JEFFERSON	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JOSEPHINE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KLAMATH	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
LAKE	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
LANE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LINN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MARION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MULTNOMAH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
POLK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SHERMAN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UMATILLA	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
WALLOWA	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
WASCO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	7	2	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6

August 19, 2022

To: Melissa Nottingham

Public Utility Commission of Oregon

From: Robert Macfarlane

Manager, Pricing and Tariffs

Portland General Electric Company
AR 653
PGE Response to OPUC Information Request 01
Dated July 29, 2022

Request:

- (1) Please provide the number of business days a severe weather moratorium would be triggered by the 32-degree temperature threshold under the current language and the proposed changes to 860-21-0407 (1). Please provide the data by year (2020 and 2021) and county.
 - a. Please provide the number of days a severe weather moratorium would be in effect due by a forecasted less than of 32 degrees. (Proposed language)
 - b. Please provide the number of days a severe weather moratorium would be in effect due to a high temperature of 32 degrees. (Current language)

Please exclude days covered under 860-021-0320:

Disconnection of Service on Weekends and Holidays

Utility service shall not be disconnected for nonpayment on a weekend or a state- or utility-recognized holiday. Utility service shall not be disconnected for nonpayment on a Friday or the day before a state- or utility-recognized holiday unless mutually agreed upon by the customer, utility, and the Commission's Consumer Services Division.

Response:

Table 1 below details the number of days in 2019-2021 that would have been triggered by a severe weather moratorium under the current language, "any day a high temperature of less than 32 degrees is forecasted," and under the proposed language, "any day a temperature of less than 32 degrees is forecasted." These counts, shown for each non-summer month, are incremental to the number of days when disconnection for non-payment would was disallowed under 860-021-0320, per request. Table 2 provides the number of available days per month that would have been eligible for non-payment disconnections under the current and proposed language.

PGE provides an additional year of data (2019) to show a broader range of impacts, as 2019 was colder than the past two years. Data responses are provided by weather station rather than county, reflecting Portland General Electric's (PGE) standard weather data. Furthermore, since PGE does not store forecasted temperature values, actual temperature values are used as a proxy.

AR 653 PGE Response to OPUC Information Request 01 August 19, 2022
Page 2

Table 1. Days triggered by a severe weather moratorium under current and proposed language, by month, 2019-2021

	Days disallowed by 860-021-0320			Moratorium ent Language		Severe Weather Moratorium Days under Proposed Language						
	by 600-021-0320	Portland	Salem	Troutdale	Hillsboro	Portland	Salem	Troutdale	Hillsboro			
2021	97	0	1	0	1	10	13	19	31			
Jan	16	0	0	0	0	2	1	4	3			
Feb	13	0	0	0	0	3	2	4	5			
Mar	12	0	0	0	0	1	4	7	10			
Apr	13	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3			
Oct	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1			
Nov	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2			
Dec	13	0	1	0	1	4	5	3	7			
2020	96	0	0	0	0	12	17	30	37			
Jan	15	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	4			
Feb	14	0	0	0	0	3	7	11	11			
Mar	13	0	0	0	0	2	3	5	9			
Apr	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1			
Oct	15	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	3			
Nov	15	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	3			
Dec	12	0	0	0	0	4	1	7	6			
2019	97	0	0	0	0	19	16	35	35			
Jan	14	0	0	0	0	3	1	5	8			
Feb	13	0	0	0	0	9	9	9	9			
Mar	15	0	0	0	0	4	3	5	4			
Apr	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Oct	13	0	0	0	0	1	1	6	5			
Nov	16	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3			
Dec	14	0	0	0	0	2	1	7	6			
Annual Ave (2019-2021)	97	0	0	0	0	14	15	28	34			

AR 653 PGE Response to OPUC Information Request 01 August 19, 2022 Page 3

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} Table 2. Available days for disconnection under current and proposed language, by month, \\ 2019-2021 \end{tabular}$

			or Disconnec nt Language	tion	Availabe Days for Disconnection under Proposed Language							
	Portland	Salem	Troutdale	Hillsboro	Portland	Salem	Troutdale	Hillsboro				
2021	200	199	200	199	190	187	181	169				
Jan	15	15	15	15	13	14	11	12				
Feb	15	15	15	15	12	13	11	10				
Mar	19	19	19	19	18	15	12	9				
Apr	17	17	17	17	17	16	16	14				
Oct	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	14				
Nov	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	14				
Dec	18	17	18	17	14	13	15	11				
2020	202	202	202	202	190	185	172	165				
Jan	16	16	16	16	16	13	13	12				
Feb	15	15	15	15	12	8	4	4				
Mar	18	18	18	18	16	15	13	9				
Apr	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	17				
Oct	16	16	16	16	14	15	14	13				
Nov	15	15	15	15	14	13	13	12				
Dec	19	19	19	19	15	18	12	13				
2019	199	199	199	199	180	183	164	164				
Jan	17	17	17	17	14	16	12	9				
Feb	15	15	15	15	6	6	6	6				
Mar	16	16	16	16	12	13	11	12				
Apr	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18				
Oct	18	18	18	18	17	17	12	13				
Nov	14	14	14	14	14	13	11	11				
Dec	17	17	17	17	15	16	10	11				
Annual Ave (2019-2021)	200	200	200	200	187	185	172	166				

AR 653 Formal Rulemaking Round 2 Comments of the Joint Utilities Attachment B

Redline Adjustments Proposed by the Joint Utilities for Clarity and Consistency

OAR 860-021-0008, Definitions for Regulation of Utility Services

(7) "Low-income residential customer" means a customer or applicant whose eligibility has been verified under OAR 860-021-0180.

Recommend removing the word applicant from the definition. Customers and applicants are specifically different terms, and an applicant should not be considered a customer. Except for charging a deposit or reconnect fee to an applicant, all of Division 21's low-income protections are for customers. Additionally, the proposed rule changes include a requirement that the utility must allow an application for verification as a low-income customer (OAR 860-021-0328) and OAR 860-021-0180 allows that applicant to self-attest to being low income, which then means we would not charge a deposit or reconnection fee, in qualifying instances, for a low-income applicant's connection or reconnection of service.

OAR 860-021-0180, Verification of Eligibility for Low-Income

- (1) A residential customer shall qualify as an eligible low-income residential customer for purposes of OAR 860-021-0205(5), OAR 860-021-0210, OAR 860-021-0330 or OAR 860-021-0420 through the following methods:
- (a) The customer is a recipient <u>within at least the past 12 months</u> of energy assistance through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), <u>or</u>-the Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP) or an energy assistance program offered by an energy utility; or
- (b) The customer is enrolled in any of the utility's income-qualified energy assistance programs, including or qualifies to enroll in any program offered by a utility to residential customers based on differential energy burdens based on factors that affect affordability pursuant to ORS 757.230(1).

Recommend adding "within at least the past 12 months" to recognize that Energy Assistance isn't an ongoing status and that some time interval needs to be assumed. Also modified section (1)(b) to allow for low-income protections to be provided to customers who otherwise qualify to participate in a utility's HB 2475-related program.

OAR 860-021-0205, Deposit Payment Arrangements for Residential Energy Utility Service (1) WExcept as provided in OAR 860-021-0335(1) and (2), when an energy utility requires a deposit, the customer or applicant may pay the deposit in full or in three installments. The first installment is due immediately; the remaining installments are due 30 days and 60 day with the subsequent two monthly bills after the first installment payment. Except for the last payment, installments shall be the greater of \$30 or one-third of the deposit. An energy utility shall not require a low-income residential customer to pay a deposit.

The Joint Utilities support the proposed change but recommend the bolded language be moved and incorporated into OAR 860-021-0200, Establishing Credit for Residential Utility Service. As an example, the proposed clause at the end of 860-021-0200(2)(b), "or is a low-income residential customer," could be modified to, "or is a low-income residential customer who shall not be charged a deposit."

OAR 860-021-0215, Refund of Deposits for Residential and Nonresidential Utility Service

- (6) An energy utility that collects or has collected a deposit from a low-income residential customer must apply or return the deposit as outlined in this section. For a low-income residential customer, the energy utility will return the deposit within two billing cycles.
- (a) The deposit will first be applied to any outstanding balance on a low-income residential customer's account. If there are any remaining funds, the funds will be applied to the customer's account or returned by <u>electronic payment or</u> check mailed to the last-known address,
- (b) If a low-income residential customer account is current, the deposit will be applied to a customer's account or returned by <u>electronic payment or</u> check mailed to the last-known address,

(c) For a low-income residential customer that pays the deposit in installments per section (1) above as set forth in OAR 860-021-0205, the energy utility will return the deposit within two billing cycles, after the last installment payment is made.

Recommend modernizing adjustments to both 6(a) and 6(b) to allow for return of the deposit by electronic payment by adding "by electronic payment or" before "by check mailed to the last-known address".

Additionally, section (6)(c)'s section reference has been clarified.

OAR 860-021-0305, Grounds for Disconnecting Utility Service

(3) When the customer fails to pay Oregon tariffed or price-listed charges due for services rendered.

OAR 860-021-0328, Reconnection of Residential Energy Utility Service

(3)(b) For a request for reconnection received anytime other than a Business Day: except as provided under section (6) of this rule, the request for reconnection must be treated as if it were received at 8:00 a.m. on the next Business Day and service must be restored in accordance with Subsection (3)(a)(A) of this rule.

Correction of typographical errors.

OAR 860-021-0335, Refusal of Utility Service

(1) Except as provided in section (2) of this rule and in OAR 860-021-0330, an energy utility may refuse to provide service to a customer or applicant until the utility receives full payment of any overdue amount of an Oregon tariffed or price-listed charge and any other like obligation related to an Oregon prior account.

Inclusion of "an Oregon" appears to be a typographical error and could be removed to align with similar verbiage within section (2) of this rule.

OAR 860-021-0405, Notice of Pending Disconnection of Residential Electric or Gas Utility Service (11) When the energy utility makes personal contact under this rule, the utility's representative making contact ismay be empowered to accept reasonable partial payment of the overdue balance under the time-payment provisions of OAR 860-021-0415. If an energy utility has a policy to not allow collections at the door, the utility representative shall attempt to notify the customer of methods to pay the outstanding balance or a reasonable partial payment to prevent disconnection. The energy utility shall delay disconnection, as determined by the utility, and notify the customer in such case that they have a minimum of 24 hours for the customer to contact the energy utility and make adequate payments.

Recommend the addition of commas around "as determined by the utility" for readability and the removal of the redundant "for the customer".

OAR 860-021-0406, Wildfire Displacement Protection

(4) An energy utility shall make best efforts to have information available on its website concerning wildfire displacement <u>protections</u>; and when practical, information from the energy utility that includes energy utility contact information shall be available at local emergency command centers, local <u>community-based</u> organizations, and local media.

OAR 860-021-0407, Severe Weather Moratorium on Involuntary Disconnection of Residential and Small Commercial Electric or Gas Utility Service-for Nonpayment

(1) Except as set forth in section (4410) of this rule, an energy utility must put into effect a moratorium on the disconnection of residential service for nonpayment on any day a high-temperature of less than 32 degrees

Fahrenheit is forecasted by the applicable weather reporting service or a winter storm warning indicating weather conditions pose a threat to life or property is issued by the applicable weather reporting service.

Corrected the section being referenced to within section (1).

OAR 860-021-0410, Emergency Medical Certificate for Residential Electric and Gas Service

- (2) The oral Any oral certification by a qualified medical professional and any residential customer's initial self-certification, to the utility must be confirmed in writing within 1430 days by the qualified medical professional prescribing medical care. Written certifications must include:
- (6) If a medical certificate customer fails to enter into a written time-payment agreement within 20 days of filing the certificate, or to abide by its terms, the energy utility shall notify the Commission's Consumer Services Division of its intent to disconnect service and the reason for the disconnection. The energy utility may disconnect service after providing a notice 15-20 days in advance of disconnection for nonpayment, or five days before disconnection for failure to enter into a written time-payment agreement. The notice shall comply with the requirements of OAR 860-021-0405, except paragraph (2)(d)(C) shall not be applicable. A hearing may thereafter be held to determine whether the energy utility should be permitted to disconnect service to the customer.

Slightly tweaked section (2)'s verbiage for readability and updated the noticing timeline within section (6) to align with OAR 860-021-0405's requirements.

OAR 860-021-0415, Time-Payment Agreements for Residential Electric and Gas Service (Nonmedical Certificate Customers)

(5) During the term of the time-payment agreement, aA customer whose financial condition changes during the term of a time-payment agreement, and who defaults on a time-payment agreement and who seeks to renegotiate such time-payment agreements, may do so at least one time under the same terms specified above.

Streamlined this rule's verbiage for readability.

OAR 860-021-0420, Field Visit Charge

A Commission approved fee may be charged whenever an energy utility visits a residential service address intending to reconnect or disconnect service, but due to customer action, the energy utility is unable to complete the reconnection or disconnection at the time of the visit. An energy utility shall waive the first filed field -visit charge within a 12-month window to low-income residential customers.

Corrected a typo ("first filed" instead of "first field") and recommend adding "within a 12-month window" for clarity.

OAR 860-021-0505, Disconnection Procedures for All Commercial Electric and Gas Utility Customers and All Customers of Large Telecommunications Utilities

(5) The energy or large telecommunications utility must serve the notice of disconnection in person or send it by first class mail, or electronically, to the last known addresses of the customer and the customer's designated representative. Service is complete on the date of personal delivery, electronic transmittal, or, if service is by US Mail, on the day after the US Postal Service postmark or the day after the date of postage metering.