Stoll Berne

January 11, 2024

Via Electronic Filing

Public Utility Commission of Oregon Attn: Filing Center 201 High St. SE, Suite 100 Salem, OR 97301 puc.filingcenter@puc.oregon.gov

Re: Docket No. UE 428 – Samuel Drevo's Reply to PacifiCorp's Partial Objection to Samuel Drevo's Petition to Intervene

Attention Filing Center,

Please find attached for filing in the above-referenced proceeding Samuel Drevo's Reply to PacifiCorp's Partial Objection to Samuel Drevo's Petition to Intervene.

Thank you for your assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding this filing. Mr. Drevo can be contacted via his attorney, listed in the Reply below.

Thank you,

/s/ Matthew J. Preusch

Matthew J. Preusch, OSB No. 134610 KELLER ROHRBACK L.L.P. 801 Garden Street, Suite 301 Santa Barbara, CA 93101 Tel: (805) 456-1496 mpreusch@kellerrohrback.com

Counsel for Samuel Drevo and James Plaintiffs

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

UE 428

In the Matter of

PACIFICORP, dba PACIFIC POWER,

Advice No. 23-018 (ADV 1545), Modifications to Rule 4, Application for Electrical Service.

REPLY TO PACIFICORP'S PARTIAL OBJECTION TO SAMUEL DREVO'S PETITION TO INTERVENE

PacifiCorp has a multi-billion dollar wildfire liability problem and is inappropriately invoking this Commission's authority to help solve it. Last summer, after hearing seven weeks' worth of evidence, a Multnomah County jury found that PacifiCorp's negligent, grossly negligent, reckless, and willful conduct on Labor Day 2020 caused wildfires that harmed thousands of Oregonians, including Mr. Drevo. The jury then found that there was clear and convincing evidence that PacifiCorp showed a reckless and outrageous indifference to a highly unreasonable risk of harm, and it imposed substantial punitive damages to punish PacifiCorp's misconduct.

However, the civil justice system has not yet finished tallying up PacifiCorp's bill. The trial that took place over the summer in *James et al. v. PacifiCorp* was a "class action with respect to particular * * * issues," as permitted by ORCP 32 G. Only the question of PacifiCorp's *liability* was resolved as to the entire class of people who lived or owned property in the area PacifiCorp burned down. *Damages*, by contrast, were tried only as to a group of seventeen class representatives, including Mr. Drevo, who obtained judgment in the total amount of \$6,824,296.38 in economic damages, \$67,500,000 in non-economic damages, and \$17,968,796.63 in punitive damages (of which 70% goes to the State of Oregon). Now, the rest of the class members—thousands more injured people—will each have their own damages REPLY TO PACIFICORP'S PARTIAL OBJECTION TO SAMUEL DREVO'S PETITION TO INTERVENE - 1

claims heard by juries. One such trial is underway as of this filing. PacifiCorp's total potential responsibility is in the billions of dollars.

Importantly for this proceeding, however, no class member other than the seventeen named plaintiffs currently holds a money judgment against PacifiCorp. If PacifiCorp has individual defenses that apply to class members who do not yet have judgments—such as the defense that the tariff it has proposed to this Commission limits recovery—there is no doubt that it will try to raise those defenses. Further, PacifiCorp has appealed the judgments as to the seventeen named plaintiffs, and if it prevails in a way that requires a new trial, PacifiCorp will try to raise any such defenses as to the named plaintiffs too.

Intervenor Samuel Drevo and his business, Northwest River Guides LLC, were named class representatives in the *James* litigation by order of the Multnomah County Circuit Court. Mr. Drevo's concern is that PacifiCorp intends to use the new tariff to block or reduce recovery for *James* class members who do not yet have judgments in their hands (or even for himself, should the Court of Appeals vacate his own judgment), as well as for future fire survivors. PacifiCorp has asked the Commission to block Mr. Drevo from making those arguments or from asserting the rights of absent class members in this proceeding.

The Commission should permit Mr. Drevo to participate as he requested. First, Mr. Drevo's concern regarding PacifiCorp's plans is a valid one, because PacifiCorp has intentionally left open the door to arguing that the new tariff will reduce or eliminate recovery for class members who do not have judgments. Second, Mr. Drevo must be permitted to intervene and assert the class's interests because he meets all the requirements set forth in OAR 860-001-0300(6), and because limiting the scope of his participation would create serious due process concerns.

I. PacifiCorp Refuses to Take the Steps Necessary to Ensure that Its Rate Request Will Not Affect Pending Litigation.

PacifiCorp's main objection to Mr. Drevo's participation on behalf of the James class in

this proceeding is that the James class purportedly has no interest in this proceeding. In support

of that position, PacifiCorp represents there is no chance that this proceeding will affect its multi-

billion dollar potential liability stemming from its reckless and willful conduct on Labor Day

2020. Yet when called upon to make the same promise in court, in the James litigation,

PacifiCorp has refused. Consequently, the Commission should decline PacifiCorp's request to

silence its litigation adversary in this proceeding. It should instead permit Mr. Drevo to protect

the effect of the liability judgment he helped win for the class.

To start, consider the plain language of the revised tariff PacifiCorp requests:

Limitation of Liability: In any action between the parties arising out of the provision of electric service, the available damages shall be limited to actual economic damages. * * By receiving electric service, Customer agrees to *waive and release Company from any and all claims* for special, noneconomic, punitive, incidental, indirect, or consequential damages (including, without limitation, lost profits) as part of *any claim* against Company related to or arising from Company's operations or electrical facilities. This provision shall not be binding where state law disallows limitations of liability.

(Emphasis added.) This provision contains no express language limiting its application to future occurrences or exempting pending litigation from its scope. In fact, it seems tailor-made to fit the claims at issue in *James*. The *James* class action arises out of the provision of electric service and seeks, in addition to economic damages, non-economic and punitive damages. Assuming that the tariff is enforceable as written, it appears to dramatically reduce the damages that anyone in PacifiCorp's service area will be able to recover if their electric utility burns down a substantial portion of the state.

PacifiCorp repeatedly insists that the tariff modification is "prospective" only, and that it will not affect the *James* class members. At first blush, those statements have the veneer of legitimacy. For example, it asserts "unequivocally" that the tariff

<u>cannot</u> threaten Mr. Drevo or other class members' potential recovery from issues related to the *James* litigation, because the Company's request only seeks prospective relief. * * * Their interests as a certified class under Oregon Rule of Civil Procedure 32 to a pre-existing civil lawsuit cannot be implicated by the Company's proposed tariff language that only seeks prospective relief, and that was filed several years after the *James* litigation began.

(Objection at 4-5.)

But PacifiCorp refuses to take the steps that would legally bind it to that position in a meaningful way: entering a stipulation both here, before the Commission, and in the pending litigation regarding those fires. Mr. Drevo provided a draft stipulation to PacifiCorp under which it would waive "any and all defenses, arguments, and contentions that its liability or potential liability" to *James* class members "is in any way reduced, modified, or otherwise affected by any tariff or tariff modification approved by the PUC after September 7, 2020," the date of the Labor Day fires. PacifiCorp refused to agree to this proposal. And it did not counteroffer with another stipulation that it would be comfortable with. Instead, it categorically stated that it was not willing to file a stipulation.

More alarming is what PacifiCorp *has* said in the litigation. The plaintiffs in the *James* case requested that PacifiCorp admit, pursuant to ORCP 45, that it has asked this Commission to authorize a tariff "that would prevent James class members from recovering special, noneconomic, punitive, incidental, indirect, and consequential damages arising from any of the Labor Day 2020 Fires." (Exhibit A at 16.) If what PacifiCorp was "unequivocally represent[ing]" to the Commission were true, the answer would have been to deny this request, "unequivocally." (*See* Objection at 4-5.) Instead, it said, after some boilerplate objections:

Defendant further objects that while Defendant has proposed certain amendments to its tariffs, the Public Utility Commission has not determined whether to accept those amendments, and their legal effect has not been determined by any Court. To that end, reasonably [sic] inquiry has been made and the information known or readily obtainable is insufficient to enable Defendant to admit or deny whether any tariff amendments, if permitted by the Public Utility Commission, would have any effect as to James class members; Defendant accordingly lacks knowledge or information necessary to respond to this request and on that basis denies the same.

(Exhibit A at 16-17) (emphasis added). This response is dated December 13, 2023, only two weeks before PacifiCorp's supposedly "unequivocal[]" statement to the Commission.

From these inconsistent words and actions, Mr. Drevo can only surmise that PacifiCorp is trying to preserve the opportunity to advance arguments that it has suggested—but not quite promised—to the Commission that it will not make. *Cf. Mozilla Corp. v. FCC*, 940 F3d 1, 95 (DC Cir 2019) (Williams, J., concurring in part and dissenting in part) ("And be these juggling fiends no more believed, That palter with us in a double sense; That keep the word of promise to our ear, And break it to our hope.") (quoting William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*, act V, sc. vii).

To see how this maneuver would work, consider the following scenario, which is plausible based on the way PacifiCorp has conducted itself in the *James* litigation to date. First, PacifiCorp blocks Mr. Drevo from intervening on behalf of the class in this proceeding, cutting off his ability to assert the class's position. Then, the Commission permits the new tariff to come into effect, which forces class members who are presently PacifiCorp customers—or who thereafter become PacifiCorp customers by moving into its service territory—to agree to the limitation on liability. Armed with its new tariff, PacifiCorp goes back to the court, whereupon it argues that the tariff limits its liability to anyone who does not yet have a money judgment against PacifiCorp. Then, when class members point to PacifiCorp's statements to the Commission that this new limitation of liability provision is only "prospective," PacifiCorp will argue that no such limitation appears in the text of the tariff itself, and that it expressly told the Commission that it is "not within the scope of the Commission's statutory authority" to "make rulings directly relating to ongoing litigation." (Objection at 4.) It will argue that the court should therefore consider the plain text of the tariff on its own, without considering any parol evidence about what effect the Commission might have thought it would have on the litigation. In the alternative, PacifiCorp will explain that it *is* asking for a "prospective" application of the tariff, just as it promised the Commission, because the new tariff applies "prospectively" to limit liability to any ratepayer who does not yet have a money judgment against PacifiCorp. A *retroactive* application, PacifiCorp will tell the court, would be one that affects a judgment that has already been entered.

These arguments are wrong in many ways, and class members would certainly have a good chance to defeat them in court. But no outcome is certain in litigation. The prudent approach—the one that offers the greatest protection for wildfire survivors and the one that permits all interested parties to have their say in these proceedings—is to permit Mr. Drevo to intervene here to ensure that neither he nor any other class member faces the risk that PacifiCorp makes and prevails on these arguments in court.

II. The Commission Is Required to Permit Mr. Drevo to Intervene.

PacifiCorp is right that this Commission has no power to make rulings that bind PacifiCorp into taking a certain position in pending litigation, which is why Mr. Drevo and the class cannot rely on PacifiCorp's representations to the Commission. The Commission does not, however, need to close its eyes to the effect that PacifiCorp's requested tariff may have on pending litigation, especially where PacifiCorp is unwilling to back up its statements in this proceeding with corresponding positions in court. The best way to ensure that these important issues are presented to the Commission is to permit Mr. Drevo to intervene in this proceeding on behalf of himself and the certified class.

Permitting Mr. Drevo to intervene is also required under the Commission's rules. The relevant rule provides that "If the Commission or ALJ finds the [Mr. Drevo] has sufficient interest in the proceedings and [Mr. Drevo's] appearance and participation will not unreasonably broaden the issues, burden the record, or delay the proceedings, then the Commission or ALJ *must* grant the petition." OAR 860-001-0300(6) (emphasis added); *see also* ORS 756.525(2). Here, all of these requirements are met: Mr. Drevo has substantial interest in the proceeding, both individually and as class representative; matters related to the *James* litigation are already part of this proceeding; Mr. Drevo's participation will not substantially add to the record; and while denying his petition to intervene would result in substantial delay to provide constitutionally required notice to *James* class members, granting it will not. Accordingly, the Commission is obligated to grant Mr. Drevo's petition.

A. Mr. Drevo Has Sufficient Interest in the Proceeding.

First, as described in detail above, Mr. Drevo plainly has sufficient interest in the proceedings. Most obviously, he holds a judgment for millions of dollars against PacifiCorp. If that judgment were to be vacated on appeal—say, on the basis of an incorrect evidentiary ruling—and the new tariff had been approved, then PacifiCorp would be able to attempt its argument that the new tariff limits his recovery.

But that is not Mr. Drevo's only interest. As a class representative, he is "a fiduciary to the class." *Strawn v. Farmers Ins. Co. of Oregon*, 353 Or 210, 244, 297 P3d 439 (2013); *accord* ORCP 32 A(4) (requiring Mr. Drevo to "fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class"). As a fiduciary, he is bound to act with "the highest degree of honesty and loyalty toward" the

other members of the class and "in the best interests of" those class members. *In re Conduct of Phinney*, 354 Or 329, 338 n.10, 311 P3d 517 (2013); *see also Standard Fire Ins. Co. v. Knowles*, 568 US 588, 594 (2013) (referring to "a class representative's fiduciary duty not to 'throw away what could be a major component of the class's recovery" (citation omitted)). He cannot come to this proceeding and argue solely for his own interests without violating the duty imposed on him by court order. To be clear, the class is not seeking to intervene as an entity. Mr. Drevo is seeking to intervene for the purpose of asserting the class's interests as its court-appointed fiduciary, the same way that a federal bankruptcy trustee or the personal representative of a deceased person's estate might do so. PacifiCorp offers no cogent legal basis to oppose that.

PacifiCorp also complains that it does not know if Mr. Drevo is a ratepayer, and that some class members might not be current ratepayers. Mr. Drevo is, in fact, a ratepayer, through his business Northwest River Guides LLC. *See* Exhibit B. His business, like him, is a Courtappointed class representative in *James*. PacifiCorp surely knows this since it has been litigating against Mr. Drevo and his business for years.

Beyond that, common sense dictates that a large number of class members are ratepayers, as much of the area that PacifiCorp recklessly and willfully burned down lies in its service territory. Further, PacifiCorp is the electric utility for large portions of the state. If this tariff is approved, then *James* class members risk being effectively banished from those areas, infringing on their fundamental right of freedom to move and reside wherever they please within the State of Oregon. *See Josephine Cty.*. *Sch. Dist. No. 7 v. Oregon Sch. Activities Ass 'n*, 15 Or App 185, 197, 515 P2d 431 (1973). Because PacifiCorp's service territory includes Corvallis, *James* class members would even be unable to attend Oregon State University, contravening the fundamental public policy of the state. *See* ORS 350.005 (finding that Oregon's public universities "should

provide educational access to all segments of Oregon's diverse population"). Nobody should have to risk having to sign away their right to damages for past injury just so they can have electricity in their home.

B. PacifiCorp Has Already Expressly Brought the *James* Litigation into this Proceeding.

Next, permitting Mr. Drevo to intervene to assert the interests of the class will not broaden the issues unreasonably—or indeed at all—because the issue of liability in the *James* action is already very much in this proceeding. In fact, PacifiCorp *specifically told the Commission* that Mr. Drevo's case is the main reason it is asking for the tariff revision:

The proposed tariff amendment would complement these existing limitations on liability. It also better enables the Company to finance expenditures at reasonable costs, as the increased risk of wildfire has led to litigation and greater exposure to significant a-typical damage, including special, non-economic, punitive, incidental, indirect, or consequential, for utilities in the West. For example, as a result of recent wildfire litigation in Oregon, PacifiCorp's credit was downgraded from A to BBB+.

(Advice 23-01 at 3.) S&P Global Ratings downgraded PacifiCorp's credit specifically as a result

of the James litigation. S&P Global Ratings, "PacifiCorp Downgraded To 'BBB+', Outlook

Revised To Negative; Berkshire Hathaway Energy Co. Outlook Also Negative" (June 20, 2023),

https://disclosure.spglobal.com/ratings/en/regulatory/article/-/view/type/HTML/id/3009376

("The downgrade of PacifiCorp follows a Multnomah County jury's verdict that the company contributed to the Santiam Canyon, Echo Mountain Complex, South Obenchain, and Two Four Two wildfires that occurred in Oregon in September 2020, acting in a grossly negligent and reckless manner."). Also, to Mr. Drevo's knowledge, his is the only case in which punitive damages have been assessed against PacifiCorp with respect to a wildfire, so PacifiCorp cannot be talking about any other lawsuit. If Mr. Drevo is permitted to intervene, there is no risk that the issues to be considered by the Commission will be enlarged. However, if he is not permitted to intervene, then the Commission will hear only PacifiCorp's one-sided view of that litigation, which it has already started presenting. *Compare* Advice 23-01 at 3 (blaming its credit rating decrease solely on liability for damages in the *James* case) *with* S&P Global Ratings, *supra* (explaining that "[t]he jury's findings that the company acted in a grossly negligent manner reflects safety performance that does not meet stakeholder standard"). The Commission should not permit PacifiCorp to raise pending litigation as the justification for a tariff modification, then shut the opposing party wholly out of the debate, especially where it has refused to make a binding commitment not to apply the new tariff in the pending case.

C. Hearing Both Sides of the Story Does Not Unreasonably Burden the Record.

Similarly, PacifiCorp does not and cannot explain how Mr. Drevo's participation on behalf of the class would unreasonably burden the record in this proceeding. In fact, the additions to the record as a result of Mr. Drevo's participation will be minor. In addition to the legal argument presented by Mr. Drevo's counsel, the Commission will need to consider a handful of documents from the *James* litigation. The largest of those—the limited judgment—is already going to be part of the record regardless of Mr. Drevo's participation, because PacifiCorp has used it to justify its request for the tariff. The only unreasonable course of action here would be for the Commission to hear argument from one side of the *James* litigation (PacifiCorp) but deem it too burdensome to hear from the other side (the plaintiff class).

D Permitting Mr. Drevo to Assert the Class's Interests Prevents Delay.

Finally, while permitting Mr. Drevo to intervene on behalf of the class would not delay the proceedings at all, declining to do so would require a substantial delay. In order to comply with due process and ensure the constitutionality of this proceeding, the Commission has to provide *James* class members with notice and a meaningful opportunity to be heard. If Mr. Drevo is permitted to assert class members' interests, consistent with ORCP 32, then due process is satisfied. If he isn't, then the Commission would have to provide meaningful notice to individual *James* class members whose protected property interests would be adjudicated in this proceeding and provide them with an opportunity to be heard.

"As a matter of procedural due process, it is well established that the state may not deprive a person of life, liberty, or property without notice and opportunity for hearing appropriate to the nature of the case." *Koskela v. Willamette Indus., Inc.*, 331 Or 362, 378, 15 P3d 548 (2000) (internal quotation marks omitted). "[A] cause of action is a species of property protected by the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause." *Logan v. Zimmerman Brush Co.*, 455 US 422, 428 (1982). Further, Article 1, Section 10 of Oregon's constitution vests class members with a right to the substantial remedy for the non-economic damages they suffered. *See Rains v. Stayton Builders Mart, Inc.*, 289 Or App 672, 690, 410 P3d 336 (2018). Because this proceeding threatens to take away that right, they have a right to meaningful notice and an opportunity to be heard here. *See Logan*, 455 US at 429–30 ("[T]he Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause has been interpreted as preventing the States from denying potential litigants use of established adjudicatory procedures, when such an action would be the equivalent of denying them an opportunity to be heard upon their claimed rights.") (internal quotation marks and alterations omitted).

"[W]hen notice is a person's due, process which is a mere gesture is not due process. The means employed must be such as one desirous of actually informing the absentee might reasonably adopt to accomplish it." *Grant Cty. v. Guyer*, 296 Or 14, 19, 672 P2d 702 (1983)

(quoting *Mullane v. Cent. Hanover Bank & Tr. Co.*, 339 US 306, 315 (1950)). Where known individuals' property rights are at stake, publication notice—like the notice that the Commission provided to the public here—is not good enough. *See id.*; *Eisen v. Carlisle & Jacquelin*, 417 US 156, 175 (1974). Rather, "[n]otice by mail or other means as certain to ensure actual notice is a minimum constitutional precondition to a proceeding which will adversely affect the liberty or property interests of any party * * *." *Mennonite Bd. of Missions v. Adams*, 462 US 791, 800 (1983) (emphasis omitted). Class members in the *James* case have already been provided with notice of that proceeding, so their names and addresses are easily ascertainable. Of course, given the number of class members, providing that notice would certainly delay the proceeding (although not unreasonably so, as it is never unreasonable to comply with the Constitution).

There is an easy way to avoid that problem. An Oregon court has *already determined* that Mr. Drevo and his business are well-qualified to represent the interests of the class with respect to the *James* litigation and provided notice that complies with due process. The matters that Mr. Drevo intends to address on behalf of the class are limited to asserting their interests in the *James* litigation, which is a common function of a class representative in cases where a defendant seeks to undermine the class's claims outside the courtroom. *See, e.g., Benson v. DoubleDown Interactive, LLC*, No. 18-CV-0525-RSL, 2023 WL 3761929, at *2 (WD Wash. June 1, 2023); *Davis v. City & Cty. of San Francisco*, 976 F2d 1536, 1545 (9th Cir 1992), *opinion vacated in part on denial of reh'g*, 984 F2d 345 (9th Cir 1993). There is no reason that his doing so will cause any more delay to the proceedings than any of the other parties whose intervention petitions the Commission has already granted, or indeed, any delay at all.

If the Commission permits Mr. Drevo to advocate for individual class members, then due process is satisfied for the same reason that it was satisfied by Mr. Drevo's representation of

their interests at trial. If the Commission does not permit Mr. Drevo to assert both his interests and the interests of the class that he has a court appointment to represent, then thousands of other individual class members will need to be provided notice and a meaningful opportunity to intervene here. Mr. Drevo respectfully submits that the more efficient way to proceed is to permit him to discharge his fiduciary duty to the class he has already been appointed to represent.

III. Conclusion.

PacifiCorp suggests that it has concerns about "potential abuse of this proceeding to further litigation efforts in ongoing wildfire litigation." It does not explain exactly how Mr. Drevo might engage in such abuse, nor does it explain why he would want to. As things stand today, without the revised tariff, Mr. Drevo has a judgment against PacifiCorp, and every absent class member will have the opportunity to present the full scope of their damages to a jury. Mr. Drevo and the class *have already won*. They do not need the Commission to help them win more. Rather, Mr. Drevo's primary goal here is to ensure that PacifiCorp cannot use an order of this Commission to snatch back some of that hard-earned victory.

PacifiCorp, by contrast, owes Mr. Drevo millions of dollars and faces billions of dollars more in liability resulting from conduct a jury found to be reckless, willful, and so reprehensible that punitive damages were warranted. It has requested a tariff modification due to the fallout from its unlawful actions—a tariff modification that, if approved, it may raise as a defense in the ongoing wildfire litigation. By intervening, Mr. Drevo seeks to prevent this "potential abuse of this proceeding to further litigation efforts in ongoing wildfire litigation." The Commission should permit Mr. Drevo to intervene for that purpose. RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 11th day of January, 2024.

KELLER ROHRBACK L.L.P.

By <u>s/Matthew J. Preusch</u> Matthew J. Preusch, OSB No. 134610

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Attorneys for Petitioner and the James class

EXHIBIT A

12/13/2023 7:47 PM 20CV33885

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3				
4	IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON			
5	FOR THE COUNTY OF MULTNOMAH			
6	JEANYNE JAMES, ROBIN COL	Nos. 20CV33885 (Lead)		
7	JANE DREVO, SAM DREVO, B		20CV37430 (Consolidated)	
/	EDGE AND BILL EDGE, SR., L FOWLER, IRIS HAMPTON, JAN		21CV33595 (Consolidated)	
8	HOLLAND, RACHELLE MCMA		22CV26326 (Consolidated)	
	KRISTINA MONTOYA, NORTI		22CV29694 (Consolidated)	
9	RIVER GUIDES, LLC, SHARIE		22CV29976 (Consolidated)	
10	STOCKTON AND KEVIN STOC VICTOR PALFREYMAN, PALF		22CV30450 (Consolidated)	
11	FAMILY TRUST, and DUANE H		DEFENDANTS' RESPONSES AND	
11	individually and on behalf of all o	others	OBJECTIONS TO PHASE II	
12	similarly situated,		PLAINTIFFS' FIRST SET OF REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION	
13	Plaintiffs,		Assigned to: Hon. Steffan Alexander	
14	v.		Trial Date: January 8, 2024	
15	v.			
16	PACIFICORP, an Oregon corporation; and PACIFIC POWER, an Oregon registered			
17	electric utility and assumed business name of PACIFICORP,			
18	Defendants.			
19				
20	PROPOUNDING PARTIES:	Plaintiffs M	ary Becherer, Alfred Cuozzo, Deborah	
21	Fawcett, David Giller, Richard Jensen, Scott Johnson, Frank King, the King Revocable Trust, Stephen Nielse Cory Staniforth, and Deborah Tank		avid Giller, Richard Jensen, Scott Johnson,	
21				
LL			PacifiCorp and Pacific Power	
23				
. .	SET ONE: One (1-30)			
24				
25	Pursuant to Oregon Rule of Civil Procedure 45, Defendants PacifiCorp and Pacific			
26	Power ("PacifiCorp" or "Defendant") hereby submit the following responses and objections			

Page 1 - DEFENDANTS' RESPONSES AND OBJECTIONS TO PHASE II PLAINTIFFS' FIRST SET OF REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION

STOEL RIVES LLP 760 SW Ninth Avenue, Suite 3000, Portland, OR 97205 *Main 503.224.3380 Fax 503.220.2480* to the First Set of Requests for Admission propounded by Plaintiffs Mary Becherer, Alfred
 Cuozzo, Deborah Fawcett, David Giller, Richard Jensen, Scott Johnson, Frank King, the
 King Revocable Trust, Stephen Nielsen, Cory Staniforth, and Deborah Tank.

4 I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

These objections, while based on diligent inquiry and investigation by Defendant, 5 necessarily reflect only the current state of Defendant's knowledge, understanding, and belief 6 based upon those facts and information presently and specifically known and readily 7 available to Defendant at this time. Discovery in this matter has only just begun. Further 8 9 discovery, depositions, investigation, legal research, and analysis may supply additional facts, add meaning to known facts, and/or establish entirely new factual conclusions or legal 10 11 contentions, all of which may lead to additions to, changes in, and variations from the present responses. 12

Furthermore, Defendant's responses will be given without prejudice to its right to 13 produce, use, or rely upon, at a hearing, trial, or otherwise, facts, documents, things, or 14 information that are subsequently discovered, the relevance of which has not yet been 15 determined, or which was omitted from its responses by mistake, error, inadvertence, 16 excusable neglect, or otherwise. Without in any way obligating itself to do so, Defendant 17 reserves the right to supplement, modify, revise, or amend these responses and objections and 18 19 to correct any inadvertent errors or omissions which may be contained herein, based upon information that Defendant may subsequently obtain or discover. A partial response to any 20 Request for Admission that has been objected to in whole, or in part, is not a waiver of the 21 objection. Defendant makes these responses subject to all appropriate objections that may be 22 made later in the proceedings. 23

Defendant reserves the right to interpose any such objection at the time of deposition or in any subsequent proceedings in, or the trial of, this or any other action. Defendant

Page 2 - DEFENDANTS' RESPONSES AND OBJECTIONS TO PHASE II PLAINTIFFS' FIRST SET OF REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION

makes these responses subject to all appropriate objections that may be made later in the
 proceedings.

Nothing contained herein is intended as, nor shall in any way be deemed, a waiver of the attorney-client privilege, the attorney work product doctrines, the right of privacy, or any other privilege or immunity available under the United States Constitution, the Constitution of the State of Oregon, any federal or state statute, or common law. In the event Defendant inadvertently discloses information protected by any applicable privilege or immunity, Defendant specifically reserves the right to demand the return of such information without

9 prejudice.

10 I

II. GENERAL OBJECTIONS

11 Defendant makes the following general objections (collectively, the "General 12 Objections") to each Request contained within Plaintiffs' Requests for Admission, Set One. 13 The assertion of the same, similar, or additional objections, or the provision of responses to 14 the Requests does not constitute waiver of any of Defendant's objections as set forth below.

Each of the General Objections is incorporated by reference in each of the specific objections and responses below as if fully set forth therein. For emphasis, one or more of the General Objections may be reiterated in a specific response. The absence or inclusion or any reiteration in a specific response is neither intended as, nor shall be construed as, a limitation or waiver of any General Objection or any other specific objection made herein. Defendant reserves the right to make such additional objections as may be appropriate, and nothing contained herein shall be in any way construed as a waiver of any such objection.

By making this response, Defendant does not concede that any of the requested information is relevant or properly discoverable or admissible and reserves the right to object to discovery into the subject matter addressed in any information produced and to the introduction of such information into evidence.

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Page 3 - DEFENDANTS' RESPONSES AND OBJECTIONS TO PHASE II PLAINTIFFS' FIRST SET OF REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION

1 1. Defendant objects to each Request for Admission to the extent that it expressly or impliedly seeks the disclosure of information prepared in anticipation of 2 litigation or trial, or is protected by any privilege or immunity including, without limitation, 3 the attorney-client privilege, the work product doctrine, the right of privacy, or any personal 4 5 privilege or immunity available under the United States Constitution, the Constitution of the State of Oregon, any federal or state statute, or common law. Information covered by such 6 privileges is not subject to disclosure, and the Requests for Admission will not be construed 7 8 to seek such information. Specific objections on the grounds of privilege are provided for 9 emphasis and clarity only, and the absence of a specific objection should not be interpreted as evidence that Defendant does not object to a Request for Admission based on an applicable 10 privilege. Nothing contained in these Responses is intended as, nor shall in any way be 11 deemed, a waiver of the attorney-client privilege, the work product doctrine, the right of 12 privacy, or any other applicable privilege or immunity. By responding to these Requests, 13 Defendant does not waive the right to assert any and all privileges at any time. 14

Defendant objects to the Requests for Admission including, but not limited to,
 the definitions, to the extent they are inconsistent with, seek to impose obligations not
 required by, or seek to expand the scope of permissible discovery under the Oregon Rules of
 Civil Procedure, the Multnomah County Supplemental Local Rules, or any order or ruling by
 the Court in this action.

3. Defendant objects to the Requests for Admission to the extent that they are
 vague, ambiguous, overbroad, or otherwise lack sufficient precision to permit a response.
 Defendant has made an effort to respond to the Requests, where possible, as it understands
 and interprets them.

Defendant objects to each Request for Admission to the extent that it is not
 reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence, purports to require
 production of information that is not relevant to the claims and defenses in the action, or is

Page 4 - DEFENDANTS' RESPONSES AND OBJECTIONS TO PHASE II PLAINTIFFS' FIRST SET OF REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION

not proportional to the needs of this case. In Defendant's response to each Request,
 Defendant will not undertake to provide such information.

5. Defendant objects to the Requests for Admission including, but not limited to,
the definitions, to the extent that they are overly broad, are unduly burdensome, seek
irrelevant information, and cause Defendant unwarranted annoyance, embarrassment, or
undue expense.

6. Defendant objects to the Requests for Admission to the extent that they require Defendant to produce information not in the possession, custody, or control of Defendant. Defendant's responses and objections shall not be construed as representations regarding the existence or nonexistence of information outside his possession, custody, or control. Defendant also objects to the Requests to the extent they seek information that is public, is already in the possession, custody or control of, or is equally accessible to, Plaintiffs.

7. Defendant objects to each Request for Admission to the extent that it
expressly or impliedly seeks information that is confidential, personal, or proprietary in
nature, or that constitutes protected commercial, financial, or trade secret information of
Defendant or third parties.

8. Any response of Defendant to an individual Request is not intended to be, and
shall not be construed as, an admission that any factual or legal predicate stated in the
Request is accurate.

9. Defendant objects to each Request for Admission to the extent that it assumes
 facts that do not exist or the occurrence of events that did not take place. In furnishing the
 responses herein, Defendant does not concede the truth of any assertion or implication
 contained in any of the Requests.

25 10. Defendant objects to the Requests for Admission to the extent that they are
26 impermissibly compound and are, in fact, multiple Requests.

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1 11. Defendant objects to the Requests for Admission on the ground that they are
 2 premature at the present stage of these proceedings.

Defendant objects to the definitions of "YOU," "YOUR," and 3 12. "PACIFICORP" as overbroad, vague and ambiguous. Furthermore, Defendant objects that 4 the definitions of "YOU," "YOUR," and "PACIFICORP" is overbroad, vague and 5 ambiguous, and calling for information about entities that Defendant does not control or have 6 knowledge of, because it purports to include any "agents...and all persons acting or 7 purporting to act on its behalf for any purpose whatsoever. This specifically includes 8 insurance adjustors, attorneys, etc." Defendant will interpret these Requests for Admission 9 as applying only to PacifiCorp, its current officers, and its current employees. 10

11 13. Defendant objects to the definition of Labor Day Fires as "including" (but
apparently not limited to) the "Santiam Canyon Fire," Echo Mountain Complex Fire, South
Obenchain Fire, and 242 Fire. Defendant interprets the phrase Labor Day Fires as only
including those fires at issue in this case.

15 14. Defendant objects to the definitions of 242 Fire, South Obenchain Fire, Echo 16 Mountain Complex Fire, and "Santiam Canyon Fire" as not self-contained within Plaintiffs' 17 requests for admission, and because Plaintiffs' references to trial exhibits appear to cite the 18 wrong page numbers. Defendant interprets the boundaries of each fire to have the same 19 meaning as is reflected in the parties' December 8, 2023, stipulation regarding properties 20 within the boundaries of the certified class.

Subject to the Preliminary Statement and General Objections outlined above and the
 more specific objections set forth below, Defendant responds as follows:

23

RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR ADMISSIONS

24 **<u>REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 1</u>**:

25 51579 Gates Bridge Rd. East, Gates, OR 97346 is within the boundaries of the
26 Santiam Canyon Fire.

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1 **RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 1**:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant 2 objects that the phrase "within the boundaries" is vague and ambiguous because the class 3 definition in this case did not refer solely to whether property was within a defined territory; 4 to be within the class, a property also had to experience fire activity, which Plaintiffs have 5 defined as experiencing a minimum soil burn severity. To the extent Plaintiffs only request 6 an admission of whether a property falls within the outer bounds of the lines contained in the 7 8 exhibits defined in the instructions, Defendant responds that it has already agreed to stipulate 9 to the same in the parties' December 8, 2023 stipulation. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections, Defendant admits that the listed address is wholly or partly within the 10 11 boundaries of what has been termed the Santiam Canyon Fire, while denying and not admitting that any other component of the class definition has been met for the property or 12 plaintiff associated with that listed address. 13

14 **R**

REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 2:

2561 Butte Falls Hwy., Eagle Point, OR 97524 is within the boundaries of the South
Obenchain Fire.

17 **RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 2**:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant 18 19 objects that the phrase "within the boundaries" is vague and ambiguous because the class definition in this case did not refer solely to whether property was within a defined territory; 20 to be within the class, a property also had to experience fire activity, which Plaintiffs have 21 22 defined as experiencing a minimum soil burn severity. To the extent Plaintiffs only request an admission of whether a property falls within the outer bounds of the lines contained in the 23 exhibits defined in the instructions, Defendant responds that it has already agreed to stipulate 24 to the same in the parties' December 8, 2023, stipulation. Subject to and without waiving the 25 foregoing objections, Defendant admits that the listed address is wholly or partly within the 26

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1 boundaries of what has been termed the South Obenchain Fire, while denying and not

2 admitting that any other component of the class definition has been met for the property or

3 plaintiff associated with that listed address.

4 **<u>REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 3</u>**:

5 51725 Gates Bridge East, Gates, OR 97346 is within the boundaries of the Santiam
6 Canyon Fire.

7 **<u>RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 3</u>**:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant 8 9 objects that the phrase "within the boundaries" is vague and ambiguous because the class definition in this case did not refer solely to whether property was within a defined territory; 10 to be within the class, a property also had to experience fire activity, which Plaintiffs have 11 defined as experiencing a minimum soil burn severity. To the extent Plaintiffs only request 12 an admission of whether a property falls within the outer bounds of the lines contained in the 13 exhibits defined in the instructions, Defendant responds that it has already agreed to stipulate 14 to the same in the parties' December 8, 2023, stipulation. Subject to and without waiving the 15 16 foregoing objections, Defendant admits that the listed address is wholly or partly within the boundaries of what has been termed the Santiam Canyon Fire, while denying and not 17 admitting that any other component of the class definition has been met for the property or 18 19 plaintiff associated with that listed address.

20 **REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 4**:

21 25672 Dewitt Ln. SE, Lyons, OR 97358 is within the boundaries of the Santiam

22 Canyon Fire.

23 **<u>RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 4</u>**:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant objects that the phrase "within the boundaries" is vague and ambiguous because the class definition in this case did not refer solely to whether property was within a defined territory;

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to be within the class, a property also had to experience fire activity, which Plaintiffs have
defined as experiencing a minimum soil burn severity. To the extent Plaintiffs only request
an admission of whether a property falls within the outer bounds of the lines contained in the
exhibits defined in the instructions, Defendant responds that it has already agreed to stipulate
to the same in the parties' December 8, 2023, stipulation. Subject to and without waiving the
foregoing objections, Defendant admits that the listed address is wholly or partly within the
boundaries of what has been termed the Santiam Canyon Fire, while denying and not
admitting that any other component of the class definition has been met for the property or
plaintiff associated with that listed address.

10 **REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 5**:

Fisherman's Bend Recreation Site in Mill City, Oregon, is within the boundaries of the Santiam Canyon Fire.

3 <u>RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 5</u>:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant objects that the phrase "within the boundaries" is vague and ambiguous because the class definition in this case did not refer solely to whether property was within a defined territory; to be within the class, a property also had to experience fire activity, which Plaintiffs have 17 defined as experiencing a minimum soil burn severity. To the extent Plaintiffs only request 18 19 an admission of whether a property falls within the outer bounds of the lines contained in the exhibits defined in the instructions, Defendant responds that it has already agreed to stipulate 20 to the same in the parties' December 8, 2023, stipulation. Subject to and without waiving the 21 22 foregoing objections, Defendant admits that the listed address is wholly or partly within the boundaries of what has been termed the Santiam Canyon Fire, while denying and not 23 admitting that any other component of the class definition has been met for the property or 24 plaintiff associated with that listed address. 25

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Page 9 - DEFENDANTS' RESPONSES AND OBJECTIONS TO PHASE II PLAINTIFFS' FIRST SET OF REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION

REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 6: 1

33502 Railroad Ave., Gates, OR 97346 is within the boundaries of the Santiam 2 Canyon Fire. 3

RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 6: 4

5 Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant objects that the phrase "within the boundaries" is vague and ambiguous because the class 6 definition in this case did not refer solely to whether property was within a defined territory; 7 to be within the class, a property also had to experience fire activity, which Plaintiffs have 8 9 defined as experiencing a minimum soil burn severity. To the extent Plaintiffs only request an admission of whether a property falls within the outer bounds of the lines contained in the 10 exhibits defined in the instructions, Defendant responds that it has already agreed to stipulate 11 to the same in the parties' December 8, 2023, stipulation. Subject to and without waiving the 12 foregoing objections, Defendant admits that the listed address is wholly or partly within the 13 boundaries of what has been termed the Santiam Canyon Fire, while denying and not 14 admitting that any other component of the class definition has been met for the property or 15 plaintiff associated with that listed address. 16

17

REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 7:

310 N. Fawn Drive, Otis, OR 97368 is within the boundaries of the Echo Mountain 18 19 Complex Fire.

RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 7: 20

21 Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant objects that the phrase "within the boundaries" is vague and ambiguous because the class 22 definition in this case did not refer solely to whether property was within a defined territory; 23 to be within the class, a property also had to experience fire activity, which Plaintiffs have 24 defined as experiencing a minimum soil burn severity. To the extent Plaintiffs only request 25 an admission of whether a property falls within the outer bounds of the lines contained in the 26

DEFENDANTS' RESPONSES AND OBJECTIONS TO PHASE II Page 10 -PLAINTIFFS' FIRST SET OF REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION

Ex. A

exhibits defined in the instructions, Defendant responds that it has already agreed to stipulate
to the same in the parties' December 8, 2023, stipulation. Subject to and without waiving the
foregoing objections, Defendant admits that the listed address is wholly or partly within the
boundaries of what has been termed the Echo Mountain Complex Fire, while denying and
not admitting that any other component of the class definition has been met for the property
or plaintiff associated with that listed address.

7 **<u>REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 8</u>**:

8 51420 Gates Bridge East, Gates, OR 97346 is within the boundaries of the Santiam
9 Canyon Fire.

10 **RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 8**:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant 11 objects that the phrase "within the boundaries" is vague and ambiguous because the class 12 definition in this case did not refer solely to whether property was within a defined territory; 13 to be within the class, a property also had to experience fire activity, which Plaintiffs have 14 defined as experiencing a minimum soil burn severity. To the extent Plaintiffs only request 15 an admission of whether a property falls within the outer bounds of the lines contained in the 16 exhibits defined in the instructions, Defendant responds that it has already agreed to stipulate 17 to the same in the parties' December 8, 2023, stipulation. Subject to and without waiving the 18 19 foregoing objections, Defendant admits that the listed address is wholly or partly within the boundaries of what has been termed the Santiam Canyon Fire, while denying and not 20admitting that any other component of the class definition has been met for the property or 21 plaintiff associated with that listed address. 22

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- 24 ///
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Page 11 - DEFENDANTS' RESPONSES AND OBJECTIONS TO PHASE II PLAINTIFFS' FIRST SET OF REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION

1 **REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 9**:

2 2220 Butte Falls Hwy., Eagle Point, OR 97524 is within the boundaries of the South
3 Obenchain Fire.

4 **RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 9**:

5 Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant objects that the phrase "within the boundaries" is vague and ambiguous because the class 6 definition in this case did not refer solely to whether property was within a defined territory; 7 to be within the class, a property also had to experience fire activity, which Plaintiffs have 8 9 defined as experiencing a minimum soil burn severity. To the extent Plaintiffs only request an admission of whether a property falls within the outer bounds of the lines contained in the 10 exhibits defined in the instructions, Defendant responds that it has already agreed to stipulate 11 to the same in the parties' December 8, 2023, stipulation. Subject to and without waiving the 12 foregoing objections, Defendant admits that the listed address is wholly or partly within the 13 boundaries of what has been termed the South Obenchain Fire, while denying and not 14 admitting that any other component of the class definition has been met for the property or 15 plaintiff associated with that listed address. 16

17 **R**

REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 10:

431 NE Cherry St., Mill City, OR 97360 is within the boundaries of the Santiam
Converse Fire

19 Canyon Fire.

20 **<u>RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 10</u>**:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant objects that the phrase "within the boundaries" is vague and ambiguous, because the class definition in this case did not refer solely to whether property was within a defined territory; to be within the class, a property also had to experience fire activity, which Plaintiffs have defined as experiencing a minimum soil burn severity. To the extent Plaintiffs only request an admission of whether a property falls within the outer bounds of the lines contained in the

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exhibits defined in the instructions, Defendant responds that it has already agreed to stipulate
to the same in the parties' December 8, 2023, stipulation. Subject to and without waiving the
foregoing objections, Defendant admits that the listed address is wholly or partly within the
boundaries of what has been termed the Santiam Canyon Fire, while denying and not
admitting that any other component of the class definition has been met for the property or
plaintiff associated with that listed address.

7 **<u>REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 11</u>**:

8 PacifiCorp does not accept the jury's verdict dated June 9, 2023, in this action.

9 **<u>RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 11</u>**:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant 10 objects that the phrase "does not accept" is vague and ambiguous. Defendant further objects 11 that whether or not Defendant "accepts" a verdict is irrelevant to the issues remaining in this 12 case. Defendant objects that this request is harassing and argumentative. Defendant objects 13 that argument or reference to "accepting responsibility" is prejudicial and meant to inflame 14 and manipulate the jury's emotions, and bears no relevance to any issue any Phase II jury 15 will be asked to determine. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections, 16 Defendant recognizes the jury's verdict dated June 9, 2023, for what it is, the terms of which 17 speak for themselves. 18

19 **REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 12**:

20 PacifiCorp does not accept responsibility for causing the 242 Fire.

21 **<u>RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 12</u>**:

22 Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant

23 objects that this request is vague and ambiguous. Defendant is committed to the

24 communities it serves and to providing safe, reliable electrical service for the people of

- 25 Oregon. Defendant further objects that whether or not Defendant "accepts responsibility" is
- 26 irrelevant to the issues remaining in this case. Defendant objects that this request is harassing

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1 and argumentative. Defendant objects that argument or reference to "accepting

2 responsibility" is prejudicial and meant to inflame and manipulate the jury's emotions, and

3 bears no relevance to any issue any Phase II jury will be asked to determine. Defendant

4 recognizes the jury's June 9, 2023, verdict regarding Defendant's legal responsibility for the

5 Labor Day Fires for what it is, the terms of which speak for themselves.

6 **<u>REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 13</u>**:

7

PacifiCorp does not accept responsibility for causing the South Obenchain Fire.

8 **RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 13**:

9 Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant objects that this request is vague and ambiguous. Defendant is committed to the 10 communities it serves and to providing safe, reliable electrical service for the people of 11 Oregon. Defendant further objects that whether or not Defendant "accepts responsibility" is 12 irrelevant to the issues remaining in this case. Defendant objects that this request is harassing 13 and argumentative. Defendant objects that argument or reference to "accepting 14 responsibility" is prejudicial and meant to inflame and manipulate the jury's emotions, and 15 bears no relevance to any issue any Phase II jury will be asked to determine. Defendant 16 recognizes the jury's June 9, 2023, verdict regarding Defendant's legal responsibility for the 17 Labor Day Fires for what it is, the terms of which speak for themselves. 18

19 **REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 14**:

20 PacifiCorp does not accept responsibility for causing the Echo Mountain Complex21 Fire.

22 **RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 14**:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant
objects that this request is vague and ambiguous. Defendant is committed to the
communities it serves and to providing safe, reliable electrical service for the people of
Oregon. Defendant further objects that whether or not Defendant "accepts responsibility" is

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irrelevant to the issues remaining in this case. Defendant objects that this request is harassing
 and argumentative. Defendant objects that argument or reference to "accepting
 responsibility" is prejudicial and meant to inflame and manipulate the jury's emotions, and
 bears no relevance to any issue any Phase II jury will be asked to determine. Defendant
 recognizes the jury's June 9, 2023, verdict regarding Defendant's legal responsibility for the
 Labor Day Fires for what it is, the terms of which speak for themselves.

7 **<u>REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 15</u>**:

PacifiCorp does not accept responsibility for causing the Santiam Canyon Fire.

9 **<u>RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 15</u>**:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant 10 objects that this request is vague and ambiguous. Defendant is committed to the 11 communities it serves and to providing safe, reliable electrical service for the people of 12 Oregon. Defendant further objects that whether or not Defendant "accepts responsibility" is 13 irrelevant to the issues remaining in this case. Defendant objects that this request is harassing 14 and argumentative. Defendant objects that argument or reference to "accepting 15 16 responsibility" is prejudicial and meant to inflame and manipulate the jury's emotions, and bears no relevance to any issue any Phase II jury will be asked to determine. Defendant 17 recognizes the jury's June 9, 2023, verdict regarding Defendant's legal responsibility for the 18 19 Labor Day Fires for what it is, the terms of which speak for themselves.

20 **REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 16**:

21 PacifiCorp intends to try to pass the cost of the jury's verdict dated June 9, 2023, to

22 its Oregon customers.

23 **<u>RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 16</u>**:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant objects that this request is vague and ambiguous as to "intend," "try to," and "pass the cost." Defendant further objects that whether or not Defendant is permitted to seek any cost

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8

recovery relating to the Labor Day Fires is irrelevant to the issues in this case. If Plaintiffs 1 object to cost recovery, they're free to file objections before the Public Utility Commission. 2 Defendant objects that this request is harassing and argumentative. Defendant objects that 3 argument or reference to "passing costs" is prejudicial and meant to inflame and manipulate 4 the jury's emotions, and bears no responsibility to any issue any Phase II jury will be asked 5 to determine. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections, Defendant states that 6 reasonably inquiry has been made and that the information known or readily obtainable is 7 insufficient to enable the answering party to admit or deny; Defendant accordingly lacks 8 9 knowledge or information necessary to respond to this request and on that basis denies the same.

1 **<u>REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 17</u>**:

PacifiCorp has asked the Oregon Public Utilities Commission to authorize a modified
tariff for PacifiCorp's Oregon customers that would prevent James class members from

14 recovering special, noneconomic, punitive, incidental, indirect, and consequential damages

15 arising from any of the Labor Day 2020 Fires.

16 **RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 17**:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant 17 objects that this request is vague and ambiguous. Defendant objects that this issue is 18 19 irrelevant to the Phase II proceedings because the parties have stipulated to avoid reference to any of Defendant's post-fire regulatory filings in the Phase II trials relevant to propounding 20parties. Defendant objects that this request is harassing, argumentative, and prejudicial. 21 Defendant further objects that while Defendant has proposed certain amendments to its 22 tariffs, the Public Utility Commission has not determined whether to accept those 23 amendments, and their legal effect has not been determined by any Court. To that end, 24 reasonably inquiry has been made and the information known or readily obtainable is 25 insufficient to enable Defendant to admit or deny whether any tariff amendments, if 26

Page 16 - DEFENDANTS' RESPONSES AND OBJECTIONS TO PHASE II PLAINTIFFS' FIRST SET OF REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION

- 1 permitted by the Public Utility Commission, would have any effect as to James class
- 2 members; Defendant accordingly lacks knowledge or information necessary to respond to

3 this request and on that basis denies the same.

4 **<u>REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 18</u>**:

PacifiCorp has asked the Oregon Public Utilities Commission to authorize a modified
tariff for PacifiCorp's Oregon customers that would prevent fire victims from recovering
special, noneconomic, punitive, incidental, indirect, and consequential damages arising from
any of the Labor Day 2020 Fires.

9 **<u>RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 18</u>**:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant 10 objects that this request is vague and ambiguous. Defendant objects that this issue is 11 irrelevant to the Phase II proceedings because the parties have stipulated to avoid reference to 12 any of Defendant's post-fire regulatory filings in the Phase II trials relevant to propounding 13 parties. Defendant objects that this request is harassing, argumentative, and prejudicial. 14 Defendant further objects that while Defendant has proposed certain amendments to its 15 tariffs, the Public Utility Commission has not determined whether to accept those 16 amendments, and their legal effect has not been determined by any Court. To that end, 17 reasonably inquiry has been made and the information known or readily obtainable is 18 19 insufficient to enable Defendant to admit or deny whether any tariff amendments, if permitted by the Public Utility Commission, would have any effect as to James class 20members; Defendant accordingly lacks knowledge or information necessary to respond to 21 22 this request and on that basis denies the same.

23 **REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 19**:

The jury's verdict dated June 9, 2023, found PacifiCorp's negligence was a cause of harm to the entire class within the boundaries of the Echo Mountain Complex Fire, the Santiam Canyon Fire, the South Obenchain Fire, and the 242 Fire.

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1 RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 19:

2 Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant also objects that the jury's verdict with regards to the 242 Fire is irrelevant for Propounding 3 parties given that no Phase II Plaintiff for the January trial is seeking damages arising from 4 that fire. Defendant further objects that the specifics of the jury's verdict, including its 5 findings in regard to the entire class for the Echo Mountain Complex Fire, Santiam Canyon 6 Fire, and South Obenchain Fire, are irrelevant and go beyond the scope of the issues of the 7 8 Phase II trial. Defendant further objects that the verdict speaks for itself. Defendant further 9 objects to this request on the grounds that it seeks a legal conclusion. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections, Defendant admits that the terms of the jury's verdict dated 10 June 9, 2023 speak for themselves. Defendant reserves and does not waive its objections as 11 stated in its posttrial motions. 12

13 **REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 20**:

The jury's verdict dated June 9, 2023, found PacifiCorp's gross negligence was a cause of harm to the entire class within the boundaries of the Echo Mountain Complex Fire, the Santiam Canyon Fire, the South Obenchain Fire, and the 242 Fire.

17 **RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 20**:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant also 18 19 objects that the jury's verdict with regards to the 242 Fire is irrelevant given that no Phase II Plaintiff is seeking damages arising from that fire. Defendant further objects that the specifics 20of the jury's verdict, including its findings in regard to the entire class for the Echo Mountain 21 Complex Fire, Santiam Canyon Fire, and South Obenchain Fire, are irrelevant and go beyond 22 the scope of the issues of the Phase II trial. Defendant further objects that the verdict speaks 23 for itself. Defendant further objects to this request on the grounds that it seeks a legal 24 conclusion. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections, Defendant admits that 25 26

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the terms of the jury's verdict dated June 9, 2023, speak for themselves. Defendant reserves
 and does not waive its objections as stated in its posttrial motions.

3 **<u>REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 21</u>**:

The jury's verdict dated June 9, 2023, found PacifiCorp's conduct was reckless as to
the entire class within the boundaries of the Echo Mountain Complex Fire, the Santiam
Canyon Fire, the South Obenchain Fire, and the 242 Fire.

7 RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 21:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant also 8 9 objects that the jury's verdict with regards to the 242 Fire is irrelevant given that no Phase II Plaintiff is seeking damages arising from that fire. Defendant further objects that the specifics 10 of the jury's verdict, including its findings in regard to the entire class for the Echo Mountain 11 Complex Fire, Santiam Canyon Fire, and South Obenchain Fire, are irrelevant and go beyond 12 the scope of the issues of the Phase II trial. Defendant further objects that the verdict speaks 13 for itself. Defendant further objects to this request on the grounds that it seeks a legal 14 conclusion. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections, Defendant admits that 15 the terms of the jury's verdict dated June 9, 2023, speak for themselves . Defendant reserves 16 and does not waive its objections as stated in its posttrial motions. 17

18 **REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 22**:

The jury's verdict dated June 9, 2023, found PacifiCorp's conduct was willful as to
the entire class within the boundaries of the Echo Mountain Complex Fire, the Santiam
Canyon Fire, the South Obenchain Fire, and the 242 Fire.

22 **RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 22**:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant also objects that the jury's verdict with regards to the 242 Fire is irrelevant given that no Phase II Plaintiff is seeking damages arising from that fire. Defendant further objects that the specifics of the jury's verdict, including its findings in regard to the entire class for the Echo Mountain

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Complex Fire, Santiam Canyon Fire, and South Obenchain Fire, are irrelevant and go beyond
 the scope of the issues of the Phase II trial. Defendant further objects that the verdict speaks
 for itself. Defendant further objects to this request on the grounds that it seeks a legal
 conclusion. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections, Defendant admits that
 the terms of the jury's verdict dated June 9, 2023, speak for themselves. Defendant reserves
 and does not waive its objections as stated in its posttrial motions.

7 REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 23:

8 The jury's verdict dated June 9, 2023, found PacifiCorp's private nuisance was a 9 cause of harm to the entire class within the boundaries of the Echo Mountain Complex Fire, 10 the Santiam Canyon Fire, the South Obenchain Fire, and the 242 Fire.

11 **RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 23**:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant also 12 objects that the jury's verdict with regards to the 242 Fire is irrelevant given that no Phase II 13 14 Plaintiff is seeking damages arising from that fire. Defendant further objects that the specifics of the jury's verdict, including its findings in regard to the entire class for the Echo Mountain 15 Complex Fire, Santiam Canyon Fire, and South Obenchain Fire, are irrelevant and go beyond 16 the scope of the issues of the Phase II trial. Defendant further objects that the verdict speaks 17 for itself. Defendant further objects to this request on the grounds that it seeks a legal 18 19 conclusion. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections, Defendant admits that terms of the jury's verdict dated June 9, 2023, speak for themselves Defendant reserves and 20does not waive its objections as stated in its posttrial motions. 21

22 **REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 24**:

The jury's verdict dated June 9, 2023, found PacifiCorp's public nuisance was a
cause of harm to the entire class within the boundaries of the Echo Mountain Complex Fire,
the Santiam Canyon Fire, the South Obenchain Fire, and the 242 Fire.

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Page 20 - DEFENDANTS' RESPONSES AND OBJECTIONS TO PHASE II PLAINTIFFS' FIRST SET OF REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION

1 **RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 24**:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant also 2 objects that the jury's verdict with regards to the 242 Fire is irrelevant given that no Phase II 3 Plaintiff is seeking damages arising from that fire. Defendant further objects that the specifics 4 of the jury's verdict, including its findings in regard to the entire class for the Echo Mountain 5 Complex Fire, Santiam Canyon Fire, and South Obenchain Fire, are irrelevant and go beyond 6 the scope of the issues of the Phase II trial. Defendant further objects that the verdict speaks 7 8 for itself. Defendant further objects to this request on the grounds that it seeks a legal 9 conclusion. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections, Defendant admits that the terms of the jury's verdict dated June 9, 2023, speak for themselves. Defendant reserves 10 and does not waive its objections as stated in its posttrial motions. 11

12 **<u>REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 25</u>**:

13 The jury's verdict dated June 9, 2023, found PacifiCorp's trespass was a cause of 14 harm to the entire class within the boundaries of the Echo Mountain Complex Fire, the 15 Santiam Canyon Fire, the South Obenchain Fire, and the 242 Fire.

16 **<u>RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 25</u>**:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant also 17 objects that the jury's verdict with regards to the 242 Fire is irrelevant given that no Phase II 18 19 Plaintiff is seeking damages arising from that fire. Defendant further objects that the specifics of the jury's verdict, including its findings in regard to the entire class for the Echo Mountain 20Complex Fire, Santiam Canyon Fire, and South Obenchain Fire, are irrelevant and go beyond 21 the scope of the issues of the Phase II trial. Defendant further objects that the verdict speaks 22 for itself. Defendant further objects to this request on the grounds that it seeks a legal 23 conclusion. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections, Defendant admits that 24 the terms of the jury's verdict dated June 9, 2023, speak for themselves . Defendant reserves 25 and does not waive its objections as stated in its posttrial motions. 26

Page 21 - DEFENDANTS' RESPONSES AND OBJECTIONS TO PHASE II PLAINTIFFS' FIRST SET OF REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION

1 **<u>REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 26</u>**:

Between 2015 and 2019, PacifiCorp paid more than \$3 billion in dividends to PPW
Holdings LLC, which is a direct, wholly owned subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway Energy
Company.

5 **<u>RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 26</u>**:

6 Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant objects that the term "dividends" is vague and ambiguous. Defendant also objects that the 7 amount of dividends paid between 2015 and 2019, any reference to PPW Holdings LLC, and 8 9 any reference to Berkshire Hathaway Energy Company are all irrelevant and prejudicial, and go beyond the scope of the issues of the Phase II trial. Defendant objects that Plaintiffs have 10 already agreed not to present evidence of Defendant's financial condition and thus this 11 Request is moot. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections, Defendant admits 12 that PacifiCorp paid more than \$3 billion in total dividends to PPW Holdings LLC between 13 14 2015 and 2019.

15 **<u>REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 27</u>**:

PacifiCorp's net income in 2019 was at least \$771 million.

17 **RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 27**:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant objects that the terms "net income" and "at least" are vague and ambiguous. Defendant also objects that the amount of net income in 2019 is irrelevant and prejudicial, and goes beyond the scope of the issues of the Phase II trial. Defendant objects that Plaintiffs have already agreed not to present evidence of Defendant's financial condition and thus this Request is moot. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections, Defendant admits that PacifiCorp's net income in 2019 was approximately \$771 million.

25 **REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 28**:

26 PacifiCorp's net income in 2020 was at least \$739 million.

Page 22 - DEFENDANTS' RESPONSES AND OBJECTIONS TO PHASE II PLAINTIFFS' FIRST SET OF REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION

16

1 RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 28:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant objects that the terms "net income" and "at least" are vague and ambiguous. Defendant also objects that the amount of net income in 2020 is irrelevant and prejudicial, and goes beyond the scope of the issues of the Phase II trial. Defendant objects that Plaintiffs have already agreed not to present evidence of Defendant's financial condition and thus this Request is moot. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections, Defendant admits that PacifiCorp's net income in 2020 was approximately \$739 million.

9 **<u>REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 29</u>**:

PacifiCorp's net income in 2021 was at least \$888 million.

11 **<u>RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 29</u>**:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant objects that the terms "net income" and "at least" are vague and ambiguous. Defendant also objects that the amount of net income in 2021 is irrelevant and prejudicial, and goes beyond the scope of the issues of the Phase II trial. Defendant objects that Plaintiffs have already agreed not to present evidence of Defendant's financial condition and thus this Request is moot. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections, Defendant admits that PacifiCorp's net income in 2021 was approximately \$888 million.

19 **REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 30**:

20 PacifiCorp's net income in 2022 was at least \$920 million.

21 **RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSION NO. 30**:

Defendant restates its Preliminary Statement and General Objections. Defendant objects that the terms "net income" and "at least" are vague and ambiguous. Defendant also objects that the amount of net income in 2022 is irrelevant and prejudicial, and goes beyond the scope of the issues of the Phase II trial. Defendant objects that Plaintiffs have already agreed not to present evidence of Defendant's financial condition and thus this Request is

Page 23 - DEFENDANTS' RESPONSES AND OBJECTIONS TO PHASE II PLAINTIFFS' FIRST SET OF REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION

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		5 8	e e j ,
	2	PacifiCorp's net income in 2022 was appr	oximately \$920 million.
	3		
	4	DATED: December 13, 2023	STOEL RIVES LLP
Main 503.224.3380 Fax 503.220.2480	5		
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	25		Newport Beach, CA 92660 Telephone: (949) 229-6840
	26		

1 moot. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections, Defendant admits that

Page 24 - DEFENDANTS' RESPONSES AND OBJECTIONS TO PHASE II PLAINTIFFS' FIRST SET OF REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION

1	-AND-
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6	Attorneys for Defendants PacifiCorp and Pacific Power
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STOEL RIVES LLP 760 SW Ninth Avenue, Suite 3000, Portland, OR 97205 *Main 503.224.3380 Fax 503.220.2480*

1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE				
2	I hereby certify that I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing documents titled				
3	DEFENDANTS' RESPONSES AND OBJECTIONS TO PHASE II PLAINTIFFS' FIRST				
4	SET OF REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION on the following named person(s) on the date				
5	indicated below by				
6	\Box mailing with postage prepaid.	□ email. (courtesy copy only)			
7	\Box hand delivery.	email pursuant to agreement among parties/counsel dated October 29,			
8		2020, consenting to service via email. (<i>Plaintiffs James, et al. only</i>)			
9	□ overnight delivery.	Service via OJD eFile. (if registered)			
10					
11	If by mail or overnight delivery, a true copy of the above referenced document was served				
12	upon said persons, contained in a sealed envelope or package, addressed to said persons or at				
13	their last-known addresses indicated below.				
14					
14	Service	List Attached			
15		List Attached			
15 16	Service DATED: December 13, 2023				
15		<u>s/ Reilley D. Keating</u> REILLEY D. KEATING, OSB No. 073762 Of Attorneys for Defendants PacifiCorp and			
15 16 17		<u>s/ Reilley D. Keating</u> REILLEY D. KEATING, OSB No. 073762			
15 16 17 18		<u>s/ Reilley D. Keating</u> REILLEY D. KEATING, OSB No. 073762 Of Attorneys for Defendants PacifiCorp and			
15 16 17 18 19		<u>s/ Reilley D. Keating</u> REILLEY D. KEATING, OSB No. 073762 Of Attorneys for Defendants PacifiCorp and			
15 16 17 18 19 20		<u>s/ Reilley D. Keating</u> REILLEY D. KEATING, OSB No. 073762 Of Attorneys for Defendants PacifiCorp and			
 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 		<u>s/ Reilley D. Keating</u> REILLEY D. KEATING, OSB No. 073762 Of Attorneys for Defendants PacifiCorp and			
 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 		<u>s/ Reilley D. Keating</u> REILLEY D. KEATING, OSB No. 073762 Of Attorneys for Defendants PacifiCorp and			
 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 		<u>s/ Reilley D. Keating</u> REILLEY D. KEATING, OSB No. 073762 Of Attorneys for Defendants PacifiCorp and			

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Page 1 - CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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26	Sana Darbara, CA 75101			

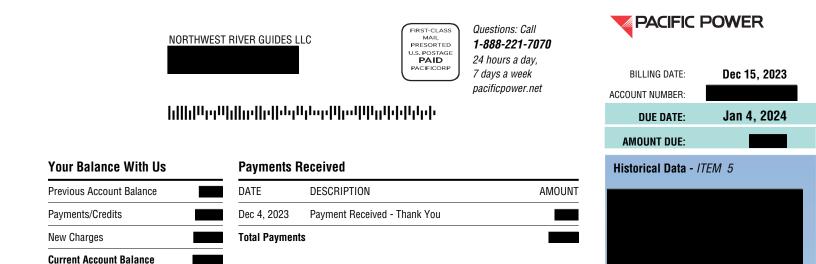
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- Zoë Seaman-Grant 2 Landon Webster
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- 4
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Page 2 -

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

EXHIBIT B



Note: You're helping the environment and yourself by participating in paperless billing - here's a \$0.50 credit.

Detailed Account Activity

ITEM 5 - ELECTRIC SERVICE

115 NE Wall St Mill City OR General Serivce...store Schedule 23 Service ID: 619000381-001

METER NUMBER	SERVICE PERIOD From	То	ELAPSED DAYS	METER READINGS Previous	S Current	METER MULTIPLIER	AMOUNT USED THIS MONTH
	Nov 9, 2023	Dec 13, 2023	34			1.0	
	Demand	Dec 13, 2023				1.0	

Next scheduled read date: 01-15. Date may vary due to scheduling or weather.

NEW CHARGES - 12/23	UNITS	COST PER UNIT	CHARGE
Basic Charge, 1P Sec Delivery			
Delivery Charge Secondary			
Supply Energy Sec 1ST 3000 Kwh			
System Benefits Charge			
Public Purpose			
Low Income Discount Recovery			
Low Income Assistance			
Paperless Bill Credit			
Total New Charges			

When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us to use the information from your check either to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction. When we use information from

INSERT THIS

EDGE FIRST

Write account number on check & mail to: Pacific Power, PO Box 26000, Portland, OR 97256-0001

RETAIN THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS.

RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT.



PACIFIC POWER PO BOX 26000 PORTLAND OR 97256-0001 ԱրժիկԱրժԱնիլիլությինըընդերինիուինԱրիրիով



Late Payment Charge for Oregon A late payment charge of 2.0% may be

Date Due:

AMOUNT DUE:



Jan 4, 2024

Bank Payment - Do Not Pay Please enter the amount enclosed. NORTHWEST RIVER GUIDES LLC

Automatic Withdrawal for Total Amount Due to occur on the payment due date Exhibit B Page 1 of 2

See reverse 🗲

Total kwh Avg. kwh per Day Cost per Day

PERIOD ENDING

Avg. Daily Temp.

DEC 2022

From all of us at Pacific Power, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

Your Average Daily kwh Usage by Month

DEC 2023

Looking for other ways to pay?

Visit PacificPower.net/Pay for all your options. You can choose to pay on your device using our mobile app, on our website, at a pay station in your community, or pay over the phone by calling 1-888-221-7070.



BILLING DATE: Dec 15, 2023 ACCOUNT NUMBER:

DUE DATE: **Jan 4, 2024** AMOUNT DUE:

your check to make an electronic fund transfer, funds may be withdrawn from your account as soon as we receive your payment and you will not receive your check back from your financial institution. If you would like to opt out of this program and continue processing your payment as a check transaction, please call 1-800-895-0561. If you have opted out previously, please disregard this message.

Manage your account with ease

Popular billing options include Auto Pay, Equal Pay and choice of due dates. You can even earn a credit each month when you sign up for paperless billing. See details and enroll at PacificPower.net/BillOptions

New Mailing Address or Phone?

ACCOUNT NUMBER:

Please print your new information below and check the box on the reverse side of this Payment Stub. Thank you.

LAST		FIRST	M.I.	
NEW STR	EET ADDRESS			
CITY				
ST	ZIP	TELEPHONE NUMBER	Exhibit B	This produc fiber from we indepen certified

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Page 2 of 2

PAGE 2 OF 2