Department of Energy



Bonneville Power Administration P.O. Box 3621 Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

GENERAL COUNSEL

July 8, 2004

In reply refer to: LC-7

Hon. Kathryn A. Logan, ALJ Hon. Christina M. Smith, ALJ C/o Ms. Cheryl Walker Public Utility Commission of Oregon PO Box 2148 Salem, OR 97308-2148

Re: UM 1120 - Objections of the Bonneville Power Administration to Staff's Consolidated Issues List

Dear Ms. Walker:

Enclosed are an original and five copies of the "Objections of the Bonneville Power Administration to Staff's Consolidated Issues List," together with one additional copy and a return (postage prepaid) envelope. Please conform the "extra" copy and return it to me in the enclosed envelope.

Copies of this document are being served on all parties on the current service list established by the Commission in this proceeding. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey M. Kronick Of Attorneys for the Bonneville Power Administration

Enclosures

cc:

Service List

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

UM 1121

In the Matter of

OREGON ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPANY, LLC, et al.)	OBJECTIONS OF THE BONNEVILLE POWER
Application for Authorization to Acquire Portland)	ADMINISTRATION TO STAFF'S CONSOLIDATED
General Electric Company.)	ISSUES LIST

Hon. Kathryn A. Logan, ALJ Hon. Christina M. Smith, ALJ

INTRODUCTION

The Bonneville Power Administration ("Bonneville") raises the following objections to the consolidated "Issues List" submitted by Oregon Public Utility Commission Staff ("OPUC Staff") to the Administrative Law Judges in the instant proceeding on July 2, 2004, and received by Bonneville Power Administration on July 6, 2004.

BACKGROUND

By Order dated June 23, 2004, the presiding Administrative Law Judges issued a modified procedural schedule in the instant proceeding that indicated that a consolidated issues list would be due on or before June 25, 2004. Order at 2. Subsequently OPUC Staff submitted such an "Issues List," on June 25, 2004, under cover letter from Jason W. Jones, Esq. (Of Attorneys for OPUC Staff) together with a "Request for Extension of Time" stating - in relevant part -

The current consolidated issues list is basically the simple combination of each party's issues. As it currently exists, Staff believes the consolidated issues list is too large and of minimal value in assisting in the hearings process. As such, Staff respectfully requests that the filing date for a joint issues list be extended to July 2, 2004. At that time, Staff proposes to file a more concise proposed consolidated issues list. Staff proposes that other parties would be allowed to file written objections, if necessary, to the proposed consolidated issues list.

Staff believes that an extension and this proposed procedure will result in a more concise and useful issues list for this proceeding. Therefore, Staff respectfully requests an extension until July 2, 2004, to file a proposed issues list.

June 25, 2004 OPUC Staff Request for Extension of Time at 1. (Emphasis added.)

By order dated June 30, 2004, Judge Logan granted such request, extending the filing date until July 2, 2004. Subsequently, as noted above, OPUC staff filed the consolidated "Issues List" on July 2, 2004, serving copies on all intervenors by mail.

JULY 2, 2004 "CONSOLIDATED" STAFF ISSUES LIST

The four-page consolidated "Issues List" submitted by OPUC staff does indeed provide a more "concise" statement of issues; yet as concerns the Issues List submitted by Bonneville on May 12, 2004, in this proceeding, (a copy of which is attached as Attachment A and incorporated by reference herein) the first two of three issues raised by Bonneville are no longer expressed with any specificity or context in relation to the proposal advanced by Oregon Electric Utility Co. LLC in this case. Compare Attachment A with Question 16 on page three of the July 2, 2004, "consolidated" Staff Issue List. Bonneville's first two issues, relating to how Portland General Electric ("PGE") will discharge its pre-existing obligations for decommissioning and related costs of the Trojan Nuclear Plant are now subsumed within a single question that posits "Should the ongoing costs of decommissioning and restoration at Trojan be considered in this proceeding?" July 2, 2004 "Consolidated" Staff Issues List at Item 16, page 3. Bonneville's third "issue," relating to reliability of PGE's transmission under the terms of the proposed acquisition, is wholly absent from Staff's July 2, 2004 "Consolidated" Issues List, and does not

appear to be subsumed under any other of the total thirty issues contained in the July 2, 2004 "list."

OBJECTIONS

Although Bonneville appreciates the efforts of OPUC Staff to provide a more workable document for purposes of this proceeding; Bonneville objects to the re-characterization of its issues in the manner indicated above, and believes that sufficient "consolidation" of Bonneville's first issue can be demonstrated by merely omitting the "reference" and following text set forth after the first paragraph designated "BPA Issue 1" on the enclosed Attachment A, 1 and preserving Bonneville Issue 2 as set forth in its entirety in Attachment A. Bonneville further objects to the omission in its entirety of Bonneville's "BPA Issue 3," and requests that "Issue 3," as set forth in Bonneville's Issues List submittal of May 12, 2004 (Attachment A) also be included in the "consolidated" Issues List.

RELIEF REQUESTED

Bonneville requests that the presiding Administrative Law Judge(s) issue an order restoring Bonneville's issues to the "consolidated" Issues List in this proceeding as detailed above.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey M. Kronick Of Attorneys for the Bonneville Power Administration OSB # 85260

Dated: July 8, 2004

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¹ It should moreover be noted that the Eugene Water & Electric Board ("EWEB") has specifically adopted Bonneville's "Issue 1" in their own Issues List submittal in this proceeding, filed on May 13, 2004, stating – "EWEB adopts by reference BPA Issue No. 1 raised by the Bonneville Power Administration in its Issues List filed in this proceeding."

ATTACHMENT A

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

UM 1121

In the Matter of		
OREGON ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPANY, LLC, et al.))	Issues List of the Bonneville Power Administration
Application for Authorization to Acquire Portland General Electric Company.)	

<u>BPA Issue 1</u>: How will Portland General Electric ("PGE"), under the financial proposal outlined in initial Oregon Electric Utility Company, LLC testimony, under which current PGE capital will be used to pay debt service, and a \$100 million "revolver" line of credit obtained, guarantee the payment of PGE's pro rata share of Trojan Decommissioning costs.

Please reference the following excerpt from page 42 of PGE's most recent form 10-K filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission for fiscal year 2003.

In early 1993, PGE ceased commercial operation of Trojan and began the decommissioning process. The original Trojan decommissioning cost estimate was prepared by an engineering firm with subsequent updates by PGE, due primarily to the effects of inflation and the timing of certain activities. The net estimated liability for Trojan decommissioning costs as of December 31, 2003 was \$104 million, measured at estimated fair value. PGE collects \$14 million annually from customers through 2011, which amount is based on the decommissioning cost estimate. Amounts collected from customers are deposited in an external trust fund, which reimburses PGE for costs expended under the decommissioning plan. The decommissioning estimate includes amounts for equipment removal, embedded pipe remediation, surface decontamination, non-radiological decontamination, and on-site spent nuclear fuel storage (until permanent storage is provided by USDOE). Estimating the cost of decommissioning activities over a period extending to 2019 is inherently subjective and complex. Such estimates may vary because of changes in regulatory requirements, technology, labor and material costs, and waste burial. In addition, timing of actual activities may differ from that established in the decommissioning plan, which may also cause actual costs to vary from those estimated.

Management does not expect actual future decommissioning costs to change significantly from the current estimate. However, if actual costs significantly exceed the

previously estimated amount, funds collected through rates may not be adequate to cover actual decommissioning costs and may require that PGE utilize available cash and a credit facility to advance funds to the trust to cover any near term shortfall. Recovery of any such shortfall from customers would require OPUC approval.

<u>BPA Issue 2</u>: How will Portland General Electric ("PGE"), under the financial proposal outlined in initial Oregon Electric Utility Company, LLC testimony, under which current PGE capital will be used to pay debt service, and a \$100 million "revolver" line of credit obtained, guarantee the payment of PGE's pro rata share of Trojan site restoration costs as required under the terms of siting permits granted by the Oregon Department of Energy (Facility Siting Council)?

<u>BPA Issue 3</u>: How will Portland General Electric ("PGE"), under the financial proposal outlined in initial Oregon Electric Utility Company, LLC testimony, under which current PGE capital will be used to pay debt service, and a \$100 million "revolver" line of credit obtained, assure transmission reliability in the near term (5 years) both in terms of capital expenditures and maintenance?

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Geoffrey M. Kronick, certify that I have this day served the foregoing "Objections of the Bonneville Power Administration (to OPUC Staff's Consolidated Issues List) by delivering a copy via electronic mail, and/or by mailing a copy properly addressed with postage prepaid to all parties of record maintained on the current service list in this instant proceeding.

Dated July 8, 2004.

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