December 28, 2023

### Via Electronic Filing

Public Utility Commission of Oregon Attention: Filing Center P.O. Box 1088 Salem, OR 97308-1088

Re: UM 2219 PGE's Application for Reauthorization to Defer Costs and Revenues Associated with the Energy Affordability Act

Filing Center:

Enclosed for filing is Portland General Electric Company's (PGE) Application for Reauthorization of the Deferral of Costs and Revenues Associated with the Energy Affordability Act pursuant to Commission Order No. 22-101.

A Notice regarding the filing of this application has been provided to the parties on the UE 416 and UM 2219 service lists.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions or require further information, please call me at (503) 464-7488. Please direct all formal correspondence, questions, or requests to the following e-mail address: pge.opuc.filings@pgn.com.

Sincerely,

/s/Jaki Ferchland

Jaki Ferchland Senior Manager, Revenue Requirement

JF/dm Enclosure

### BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

#### **OF OREGON**

#### **UM 2219**

In the Matter of

PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

Application for Reauthorization of Deferred Accounting of Costs and Revenues Associated with the Energy Affordability Act PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY'S APPLICATION FOR DEFERRAL REAUTHORIZATION

Pursuant to ORS 757.259, OAR 860-027-0300, House Bill (HB) 2475, PGE tariff Schedule 118, and the Oregon Public Utility Commission (Commission or OPUC) Order No. 22-101, Portland General Electric Company (PGE) requests authorization to continue to defer for later ratemaking treatment costs and revenues associated with the Energy Affordability Act. Schedule 118 is an automatic adjustment clause as defined in ORS 757.210. PGE requests that the reauthorization be effective January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

### I. <u>Deferral History</u>

On December 30, 2021, PGE requested OPUC approval to defer incremental O&M costs and revenues associated with the Energy Affordability Act. On March 24, 2022, the Commission authorized PGE's deferral request through Commission Order No. 22-101. On December 30, 2022 PGE filed an application to reauthorize the deferral from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 and a Commission decision is pending as of time of filing this Application. The continuance of this deferral will minimize the frequency of rate changes or the fluctuation of rate levels, and match appropriately the costs borne, and benefits received by customers.

### II. OAR 860-027-0300(3) Requirements

The following is provided pursuant to OAR 860-027-0300(3):

### A. Background Description

On May 24, 2021, the Governor of Oregon signed into law HB 2475, the Energy Affordability Act. The bill amended ORS 757.230 to allow the additional classification of service for "differential energy burdens on low-income customers and other economic, social equity or environmental justice factors that affect affordability for certain classes of utility customers." As a result of this law, PGE became able to provide an income-qualified discount to eligible residential customers and did so through the Income Qualified Bill Discount (IQBD) program.

On June 13, 2023, as a part of PGE's 2024 general rate case UE 416, OPUC Staff, the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB), and Community Action Partnership of Oregon (CAPO) all offered proposals for PGE's IQBD program in their opening testimony, including new discount structures and a low income needs assessment (LINA). On October 6, 2023, PGE, Staff, and Parties entered into a partial stipulation whereby PGE agreed to file a tariff that would expand the existing IQBD program with more tiers so as to include larger discounts for participants at lower income levels, as shown in Table 1 below, and agreed that PGE would complete a low income needs assessment (LINA) no later than June 30, 2024. The partial stipulation was later adopted by the Commission through Order No. 23-386.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> HB2475. <a href="https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2475/Enrolled">https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2475/Enrolled</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> UE 416, Sixth Partial Stipulation. apps.puc.state.or.us/orders/2023ords/23-386.pdf

Table 1 Updated IQBD Tier Structure

<u>Tier</u>	<b>Income Level</b>	<b>Discount</b>
0	0-5% SMI	60%
1	6-15% SMI	40%
2	16-30% SMI	25%
3	31-45% SMI	20%
4	46-60% SMI	15%

Amounts will be deferred pursuant to the terms of Schedule 118.

### B. Reasons for Deferral

PGE seeks reauthorization to defer costs and revenues associated with the Energy Affordability Act, including the updated discount tier structure and the LINA, from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024 (Deferral Period 2024). Without reauthorization, this deferral will expire on December 31, 2023. The continuance of this deferral will minimize the frequency of rate changes or the fluctuation of rate levels, and match appropriately the costs borne, and benefits received by customers.

### C. Proposed Accounting for Recording Amounts Deferred

PGE proposes to record the balancing account in FERC Account 182.3 (Other Regulatory Assets). Income-qualified payments (i.e., payments to support income-qualified energy discounts) will be debited to FERC Account 182.3 and credited to FERC Account 903 (Customer Records & Collection Expense). Energy Affordability Act amortization (i.e., revenues collected from PGE's customer) will be credited to FERC Account 182.3 and debited to FERC Account 903. Interest will accrue on the balance at the approved blended treasury rate.

D. Estimate of Amounts to be Recorded for the Next 12 months

PGE estimates the income-qualified energy discount amount to defer during 2024 to be

approximately \$46 million<sup>3</sup> and an additional \$600,000 in incremental administrative costs.

E. Notice

A copy of the Notice of Application for Deferral of Costs and Revenues Associated with

the Energy Affordability Act and a list of persons served with Notice are attached to this

Application as Attachment A.

III. The following is provided pursuant to OAR 860-027-0300(4):

a. Description of deferred account entries

Please see section (II)(a) and II(c) above.

b. The reason for continuing deferred accounting.

PGE seeks approval to continue the Energy Affordability Act Deferral pursuant

ORS 757.259, OAR 860-027-0300, House Bill (HB) 2475, PGE tariff Schedule 118, Commission

Order No. 22-101 and as described in (II)(b) above.

IV. **PGE Contacts** 

The authorized addresses to receive notices and communications in respect of this

Application are:

Kim Burton

Assistant General Counsel Portland General Electric 121 SW Salmon Street Portland, OR 97204

(573) 356-9688

kim.burton@pgn.com

**PGE-OPUC Filings** 

Rates & Regulatory Affairs Portland General Electric 121 SW Salmon Street Portland, OR 97204

(503) 464-8172

pge.opuc.filings@pgn.com

<sup>3</sup> This increase is due to the new, higher discount tiers being offered in 2024 as well as increased program enrollments.

In addition to the names and addresses above, the following are to receive notices and communications via the e-mail service list:

Tom Kenny, Associate Regulatory Analyst, Regulatory Affairs thomas.kenny@pgn.com

### V. Summary of Filing Conditions

### A. <u>Earnings Review</u>

Cost recovery associated with this deferral will not be subject to an earnings review since it would be subject to an automatic adjustment clause.

### B. Prudence Review

A prudence review should be performed by the Commission Staff as part of PGE's amortization filing.

### C. Sharing

No sharing mechanism applies to the Energy Affordability Act costs or revenues.

### D. Rate Spread/Rate Design

Applicable costs will be allocated to PGE's Schedule 7 customers using a per-customer average price and to non-residential customers, each schedule on an equal cents-per-kWh basis with a cap for large customers.

### E. Three percent test (ORS 757.259(6))

The amortization of the deferred costs will be subject to the three percent test in accordance with the ORS 757.259 (6), which limits aggregated deferral amortizations during a 12-month period to no more than three percent of the utility's gross revenues for the preceding year, unless authorized by the Commission under ORS 757.259(8).

### IV. Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, PGE requests approval to defer the costs and revenues associated with the Energy Affordability Act effective January 1, 2024.

DATED this 28th day of December 2023.

/s/ Jakí Ferchland

Jaki Ferchland Senior Manager, Revenue Requirement Portland General Electric Company 121 SW Salmon Street Portland OR 97204 (503) 464-7488 jacquelyn.ferchland@pgn.com

## **Attachment A**

## Notice of Application for Deferral of Costs and Revenues Associated with the Energy Affordability Act

### BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

#### **OF OREGON**

**UM 2219** 

In the Matter of

PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

Application for Reauthorization of Deferral of Costs and Revenues Associated with the Energy Affordability Act

NOTICE OF PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY APPLICATION FOR DEFERRAL REAUTHORIZATION

On December 28, 2023, Portland General Electric Company (PGE) filed an Application with the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (the Commission or OPUC) for an Order reauthorizing deferral of costs and revenues associated with the Energy Affordability Act.

Approval of PGE's Application as proposed will support the continued use of an automatic adjustment clause rate schedule and balancing account to reflect the incremental costs and revenues associated with the Energy Affordability Act.

Persons who wish to obtain a copy of PGE's application will be able to access it on the OPUC website.

Any person who wishes to submit written comments to the Commission on PGE's application must do so no later than January 24, 2024.

Dated this 28th day of December 2023.

/s/Jakí Ferchland

Jaki Ferchland Senior Manager, Revenue Requirement Portland General Electric Company 121 SW Salmon Street Portland OR 97204 (503) 464-7488 jacquelyn.ferchland@pgn.com

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have this day caused the **Notice of Application for the Deferral of**Costs and Revenues Associated with the Energy Affordability Act to be served by electronic mail to those parties on the attached service list for OPUC Docket Nos. UE 416 and UM 2219.

Dated at Portland, Oregon, this 28th day of December 2023.

/s/ Jakí Ferchland

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