

Portland General Electric Company

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October 4, 2010

Via Electronic Filing and U.S. Mail

Oregon Public Utility Commission Attention: Filing Center 550 Capitol Street NE, #215 PO Box 2148 Salem OR 97308-2148

Re: UE 221 - ANNUAL POWER COST VARIANCE (2009)

Attention Filing Center:

Enclosed for filing in the captioned docket are an original and five copies of:

- STIPULATION
- JOINT EXPLANATORY BRIEF

This is being filed by electronic mail with the Filing Center.

An extra copy of the cover letter is enclosed. Please date stamp the extra copy and return to me in the envelope provided. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS C. TINGEY Assistant General Counsel

DCT:smc Enclosures cc: UE 221 Service List

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day caused **ANNUAL POWER COST VARIANCE (2009) STIPULATION WITH EXPLANATORY BRIEF** to be served by electronic mail to those parties whose email addresses appear on the attached service list and by method specified, postage prepaid and properly addressed, to those parties on the attached service list who have not waived paper service from OPUC Docket No. UE 221.

Dated at Portland, Oregon, this 4th day of October, 2010.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE – PAGE 1

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

UE 221

PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC

In the Matter of

STIPULATION

Annual Power Cost Variance (2009)

This Stipulation ("Stipulation") is among Portland General Electric Company ("PGE"), Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon ("Staff"), the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon, and the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities (collectively, the "Parties").

I. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with its tariff Schedule 126, PGE filed its annual power cost variance mechanism update in this docket on July 1, 2010. Included with that filing were PGE's testimony and work papers regarding the 2009 power cost variance and earnings test results. This information included the data required by the minimum filing requirements agreed to for Power Cost Variance (PCV) dockets. PGE's filing showed that operation of the Power Cost Deadband in Schedule 126 results in no power cost variance refund or collection for 2009.

The Parties subsequently reviewed PGE's filing and work papers. The Parties also held a workshop and a settlement conference on August 24, 2010. As a result of those discussions, the Parties have reached agreement settling this docket as set forth below. The Parties request that the Commission issue an order adopting this Stipulation.

II. TERMS OF STIPULATION

1. This Stipulation settles all issues in this docket.

2. PGE's actual power costs for 2009 exceeded forecast power costs but fall within the Schedule 126 Positive Annual Power Cost Deadband. Operation of that deadband results in no charge to customers for the 2009 power cost variance. Some parties may have proposed adjustments to the power cost calculation or earnings test in this docket but such adjustments, if accepted, would not have altered the Schedule 126 rates. As such, the lack of issues being raised and decided in this docket is not to be construed as agreement to any or all of the aspects of the calculations done by PGE and is not precedent for future PCV dockets or any other case.

3. Schedule 126 rates should be set to zero effective January 1, 2011.

4. The Stipulating Parties recommend and request that the Commission approve this Stipulation as an appropriate and reasonable resolution of the issues in this docket.

5. The Stipulating Parties agree that this Stipulation is in the public interest and will result in rates that are fair, just, and reasonable.

6. The Stipulating Parties agree that this Stipulation represents a compromise in the positions of the Stipulating Parties. Without the written consent of all parties, evidence of conduct or statements, including but not limited to term sheets or other documents created solely for use in settlement conferences in this docket, are confidential and not admissible in the instant or any subsequent proceeding, unless independently discoverable or offered for other purposes allowed under ORS 40.190.

7. If the Commission rejects all or any material part of this Stipulation, or adds any material condition to any final order which is not contemplated by this Stipulation, each Stipulating Party disadvantaged by such action shall have the rights provided in OAR 860-014-

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0085 and OAR 860-014-0095, including the right to withdraw from the stipulation and to seek reconsideration of the Commission's order. Nothing in this paragraph provides any Stipulating Party the right to withdraw from this Stipulation as a result of the Commission's resolution of issues that this Stipulation does not resolve.

8. This Stipulation will be offered into the record in this proceeding as evidence pursuant to OAR § 860-14-0085. The Stipulating Parties agree to support this Stipulation throughout this proceeding and in any appeal, provide witnesses to sponsor this Stipulation at the hearing (if specifically required by the Commission), and recommend that the Commission issue an order adopting the settlements contained herein. The Stipulating Parties also agree to cooperate in drafting and submitting an explanatory brief or written testimony required by OAR § 860-14-0085(4).

9. By entering into this Stipulation, no Stipulating Party shall be deemed to have approved, admitted or consented to the facts, principles, methods or theories employed by any other Stipulating Party in arriving at the terms of this Stipulation, other than those specifically identified in the Stipulation. Except as provided in this Stipulation, no Stipulating Party shall be deemed to have agreed that any provision of this Stipulation is appropriate for resolving issues in any other proceeding.

10. This Stipulation may be signed in any number of counterparts, each of which will be an original for all purposes, but all of which taken together will constitute one and the same agreement.

PAGE 3 – UE 221 STIPULATION

DATED this $\frac{1^{24}}{1^{24}}$ day of September, 2010.

PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

> CITIZENS' UTILITY BOARD OF OREGON

DATED this day of September, 2010.

PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

CITIZENS' UTILITY BOARD OF OREGON

INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS OF NORTHWEST UTILITIES

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OF OREGON

INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS OF NORTHWEST UTILITIES

PAGE 4 – UE 221 STIPULATION

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PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

CITIZENS' UTILITY BOARD OF OREGON

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

UE 221

In the Matter of)	
PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY)))	JOINT EXPLANATORY BRIEF
Annual Power Cost Variance (2009))))	

This brief explains the Stipulation ("Stipulation") dated September _____, 2010, among Portland General Electric Company ("PGE"), Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon ("Staff"), the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities ("ICNU"), and the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon ("CUB") (collectively, the "Parties"). The Parties submit this brief pursuant to OAR § 860-014-0085(4).

Discussion

On July 1, 2010, PGE made its Annual Power Cost Variance Mechanism filing under tariff Schedule 126. That filing included testimony, work papers, and the information required by the minimum filing requirements previously agreed to regarding Schedule 126.

Schedule 126 is designed to recognize in rates in some years part of the difference between actual net variable power costs (as defined in the tariff) and the net variable power cost forecast pursuant to tariff Schedule 125. Schedule 126 defines how the Power Cost Variance is calculated, including deadbands that are applied to either a positive or negative power cost variance, and sharing of the variance outside the applicable deadband. The Power Cost Variance is also subject to an earnings test. With respect to the deadband, Schedule 126 states:

The Positive Annual Power Cost Deadband is an amount equal to 150 basis points of the Company's return on equity.

PGE Tariff Schedule page 126-2. This tariff provision incorporates the requirements contained on page 26-27 of Order 07-015, which established PGE's power cost adjustment mechanism.

PGE's filing in this docket explained how it calculated the Power Cost Variance for 2009. As calculated by PGE, the variance between forecast and actual power costs in 2009 was approximately \$16.7 million. Because this number is within the Schedule 126 Positive Annual Power Cost Deadband of \$29.4 million, the Power Cost Variance for 2009 is zero and neither the sharing percentages nor an earnings test are applicable. Thus, PGE concluded that there is no customer refund or collection associated with the 2009 Power Cost Variance.

Following PGE's filing in this docket, PGE shared requested information with the Parties and the Parties examined PGE's filing and work papers. A workshop and settlement conference was held on August 24, 2010.

The Parties have concluded that operation of the Schedule 126 Positive Annual Power Cost Deadband in this docket results in there being no collection for the 2009 power cost variance. Some Parties may have raised issues regarding the calculation of the Power Cost Variance or earnings test, but did not because such adjustments, even if adopted, would not have changed the final Schedule 126 rates. Stipulation ¶ 2. Accordingly, the Stipulation also provides that "the lack of issues being raised and decided in this docket is not to be construed as agreement to any or all aspects of the calculations done by PGE and is not precedent for future PCV dockets or any other cases." *Id*.

Under its terms, Schedule 126 rates are to be adjusted on January 1, 2011, to incorporate the outcome of this docket. Thus "Schedule 126 rates should be set to zero effective January 1, 2011." Stipulation ¶ 3.

The Stipulation settles all issues in this docket. Stipulation ¶ 1. The Parties agree that the Stipulation is in the public interest and will produce rates that are fair, just and reasonable. Stipulation ¶ 4. The Stipulation also contains a number of provisions typically contained in stipulations filed with the Commission. Stipulation ¶¶ 5-10.

Conclusion

The Stipulation is among Staff, CUB, ICNU, and PGE. Each of the Parties, representing their respective interests, agree that the settlement contained in the Stipulation results in fair, just and reasonable rates in this 2009 Annual Power Cost Variance Mechanism proceeding. The result is consistent with and supported by the record in this docket. For the reasons set forth above, the Parties request that the Commission approve the Stipulation.

DATED this $\underline{/}^{\pm}$ day of September, 2010.

PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY CITIZENS' UTILITY BOARD OF OREGON

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS OF NORTHWEST UTILITIES

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