

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT**

PUBLIC MEETING DATE: September 8, 2020

REGULAR **CONSENT** **EFFECTIVE DATE** September 9, 2020

DATE: August 28, 2020

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Mitchell Moore and Curtis Dlouhy

THROUGH: Bryan Conway, John Crider, and Matt Muldoon **SIGNED**

SUBJECT: PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC:
(Docket No. ADV 1156/Advice No. 20-20)
Request to reinstate Pulse Output Metering in Schedule 300.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission approve Portland General Electric's (PGE or Company) filing that reinstates the Pulse Output Metering option in Schedule 300, with an effective date of September 9, 2020.

ISSUE:

Whether the Commission should approve PGE's proposed updates to Schedule 300, reinstating Pulse Output Metering with an effective date of September 9, 2020.

DISCUSSION:

Applicable Law

Under ORS 757.205(1):

Every public utility shall file with the Public Utility Commission, within a time to be fixed by the commission, schedules which shall be open to public inspection, showing all rates, tolls and charges which it has established and which are in force at the time for any service performed by it within the state, or for any service in connection therewith or performed by any public utility controlled or operated by it.

The Commission may approve tariff changes if they are deemed fair, just, and reasonable. ORS 757.210. Tariff revisions may be made by filing revised sheets with the information required under the Commission's administrative rules, including OAR 860-022-0025. OAR 860-022-0025(2) specifically requires that each energy utility changing existing tariffs or schedules must include in its filing a statement plainly indicating the increase, decrease, or other change made with the filing, the number of customers affected by the proposed change and the resulting change in annual revenue; and the reasons or grounds relied upon in support of the proposed change.

Filings that propose any change in rates, tolls, charges, rules, or regulations must be filed with the Commission at least 30 days before the effective date of the change. ORS 757.220; OAR 860-022-0015. Tariff filings to be effective on less than 30 days following notice of the change may be authorized with a waiver of less than statutory notice pursuant to ORS 757.220 and OAR 860-022-0020.

OAR 860-022-0030(1) further requires that for tariff or schedule filings proposing increased rates, the utility must for each separate schedule, identify the total number of customers affected, the total annual revenue derived under the existing schedule, and the amount of estimated revenue which will be derived from applying the proposed schedule, the average monthly use and resulting bills under both the existing rates and the proposed rates that will fairly represent the application of the proposed tariff or schedules, and the reasons or grounds relied upon in support of the proposed increase.

Analysis

Background

On July 22, 2020, PGE filed Advice No. 20-20, requesting an update to its Schedule 300, adding Pulse Output Metering to its Schedule 300. The Company states in its filing that it had inadvertently removed the service in its most recent general rate case, UE 335, when its meter rental option was removed.

Schedule 300 is PGE's listing of charges associated with its General Rules and Regulations. The purpose of this filing is to reinstate the Pulse Metering Output service to Schedule 300.

Pulse Output Metering is an upgraded service option provided to the customer by upgrading the revenue meters functionality to provide real-time information about energy use through relay outputs that represent energy measurements. Customers can use the meter output pulses as an input to load monitoring and load control equipment. These relay outputs are wired to an isolation point where the customer can connect

their energy management equipment or other devices to input the revenue meters energy pulses for monitoring and/or control capabilities.

With this filing, PGE offers two different pulse output meters with different equipment costs. The most commonly installed option is the standard meter with one or two outputs, for which PGE proposes a charge of \$350. The complex output meter option allows up to four outputs, and PGE proposes a charge of \$1,300. PGE provided work papers demonstrating the cost breakdown between the different options. The differential in the charge is the difference in the cost of the meter. Staff reviewed the Company's filing and redline changes to the Company's Schedule 300, and is satisfied that the changes are reasonable and reflect the Company's reasonable cost.

Effect on Ratepayers

This tariff adjustment will not decrease or increase customer retail electricity prices.

Conclusion

Staff reviewed the Company's filing and redline changes to the Company's Schedule 300. Staff is satisfied that the changes are reasonable, and reflect the Company's reasonable cost. This filing does not affect customer retail rates. Staff recommends the update to Schedule 300 be approved.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve PGE's proposed updates to Schedule 300, reinstating Pulse Output metering service with an effective date of September 9, 2020.