PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON STAFF REPORT

PUBLIC MEETING DATE: February 11, 2021

REGULAR ____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE ___ February 12, 2021

DATE: February 1, 2021

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Sabrinna Soldavini

THROUGH: Bryan Conway and John Crider SIGNED

SUBJECT: PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC:

(Docket No. ADV 1219/Advice No. 20-47) Updates Schedule 800, Service Maps.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) approve Portland General Electric's (PGE or Company) Advice No. 20-47, which updates its Schedule 800, Service Maps, effective with service rendered on and after February 12, 2021.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Commission should approve PGE's Advice No. 20-47, which updates its Schedule 800, Service Maps, adding informational language to notify customers that PGE offers shared and public geographic information system (GIS) data and maps at no cost for viewing, on a publicly shared website through ArcGIS online.

Applicable Law

ORS 757.205 requires public utilities to file schedules showing all rates, tolls, and charges for service that have been established and are in force at the time. Pursuant to ORS 757.210, the Commission may approve tariff changes if they are deemed to be fair, just, and reasonable. Filings that make 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 changes. ORS 757.220.

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ORS 756.010(8) defines "service" in its broadest and most inclusive sense and includes equipment and facilities related to providing the service or the product served.

OAR 860-022-0015 requires that new tariff filings include statements showing the new rates, the number of customers affected, the impact on annual revenue, and the reasons supporting the proposed tariff.

Analysis

Background

PGE's Schedule 800, Service Maps, describes the geospatial products available to PGE customers, third parties, and competitive operations. On December 21, 2020, PGE filed Advice No. 20-47, requesting updates to its Schedule 800, Service Maps.

As PGE notes in its application, the primary change is the inclusion of language intended to provide customers with the information that PGE is now offering shared and public GIS data and maps at no charge through ArcGIS online. The proposed changes also include clarifying language that the spatial data available under Schedule 800 is not designed to fulfill engineering, surveying, or legal needs and is for informational purposes only. Finally, PGE proposes updates to Schedule 800 to note that maps or data purchased from PGE under this Schedule may be updated by PGE, at no cost, up to three times within one year from the initial purchase.

Staff reviewed the Company's proposed changes and met with the Company to determine how PGE will utilize this online mapping feature moving forward. The Company informed Staff that it currently has no plans to further expand the number of product offerings. At present, there are four maps available for viewing on the ArcGIS Online site: Fire and Weather Warnings Viewer, Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Area. PGE Generation Limited Feeders, and Pole Search.²

As two of these offerings may be of particular interest to PGE customers during wildfires (Fire and Weather Warnings Viewer and PSPS Area), Staff also inquired about the regularity at which PGE will update these maps. PGE informed Staff that base PGE data (such as poles and feeder polygons) will be updated weekly, while other data may only be updated during significant events. The date of the most recent update by PGE can be seen on the website, though PGE notes that some maps include data layers provided and updated by other entities, such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and therefore PGE cannot control the regularity with which those data layers are updated.

¹ Staff notes that this applies to both the no charge online, and the for purchase geospatial data.

² The publicly available GIS data can be found at the following URL: https://arcg.is/0fvGTL.

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Effects of Filing

PGE's Advice No. 20-47 will not result in changes to current Schedule 800 rates, and therefore does not impact the Company's revenues. Additionally, the number of PGE customers affected by the proposed changes is unknown, as ordering and viewing maps is an optional service. Staff finds the proposed changes are in the interest of ratepayers and will not harm customers.

Conclusion

Based Staff's review of PGE's filing, Staff finds the proposed changes associated with the filing to be accurate and consistent with Commission Order. Staff further finds the proposed changes result in rates that are fair, just, and reasonable. Staff recommends PGE's updated Schedule 800 go into effect.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve PGE's Advice No. 20-47, which updates its Schedule 800, Service Maps, effective with service rendered on and after February 12, 2021.

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