

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: September 7, 2021**

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE September 8, 2021

DATE: August 30, 2021

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Caroline Moore

THROUGH: Bryan Conway **SIGNED**

SUBJECT: PACIFIC POWER:
(Docket No. ADV 1308/Advice No. 21-018)
Requests to extend the exemption of Rule 13 Line Extensions Temporary Service costs for victims of 2020 wildfires until December 31, 2023.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) approve Pacific Power's (PacifiCorp or Company) Advice No. 21-012, which extends the temporary waiver of the costs of Temporary Service in Rule 13 for those affected by 2020 wildfires until December 31, 2023, on less than statutory notice, for service rendered on and after September 8, 2021.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Commission should approve PacifiCorp's Advice No. 21-018, which extends the temporary waiver of the costs of Temporary Service in Rule 13 for those affected by 2020 wildfires until December 31, 2023, on less than statutory notice.

Applicable Law

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. 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. See ORS 757.220; OAR 860-022-0020. The Commission may allow changes on less than 30 days' notice for good cause shown. ORS 757.220.

Analysis

Background

PacifiCorp's Tariff Rule 13, Section V, Extension Exceptions, Subsection E, Temporary Service provides that customers requesting temporary service to a service loop must pay a Temporary Service charge of \$164, and all customers that require more than a connection of a service loop are required to pay additional Temporary Service costs for the installation and removal of related equipment.

On October 6, 2020, the Commission approved Advice No. 20-012 to modify the language in Rule 13, Line Extensions, Section V, Extension Exceptions, Subsection E, Temporary Service, to include a temporary exemption to waive PacifiCorp's Temporary Service requirements through June 30, 2021, for customers and communities impacted by the devastating wildfires that started in early September 2020.

On August 26, 2021, the Company filed Advice No. 21-018 requesting to extend the temporary waiver until December 31, 2023. PacifiCorp provided the following reasons for this 2.5 year extension:

- Access to property is still restricted in some areas which has delayed rebuilding efforts. In some areas the Federal Emergency Management Agency is still not allowing access to property until additional work is done to allow property owners to safely access their land.
- Building materials have been in limited supply. Landowners are experiencing difficulty obtaining building supplies due to shortages and unusually high prices which has delayed rebuilding efforts.¹

PacifiCorp states that it would continue to treat the waived charges as an incremental cost associated with wildfire damage and restoration and proposes to record the waived charges in the deferral account requested in Docket No. UM 2116, subject to Commission approval.

¹ Page 2 of PacifiCorp's initial application filed on August 26, 2021.

Staff understands that the Company did not intend to let its temporary exemption expire at the end of June 2021 and that requests continue to come in. Granting the requested waiver will ensure access to this relief over the next 2.5 years of recovery efforts. Further, Staff understands that this exemption is to remain specific to victims of the 2020 wildfires. PacifiCorp is not requesting to expand eligibility to new or different customers. The Company is only modifying the timeline during which temporary service requests can be made.

Given the current gap in access to the exemption and the continued need to extend temporary service to affected customers, Staff finds that there is good cause to approve the requested extension on less than statutory notice.

Staff Analysis

Staff has reviewed the Company's filing and rationale, and finds that PacifiCorp's requested change to Rule 13, with less than statutory notice, is a fair and reasonable way to ensure that customers can continue to rebuild and meet basic housing needs without the additional impact of the Temporary Service charge and Temporary Service costs.

Conclusion

Staff is satisfied that the changes to the expiration date proposed in Rule 13, Section V, Extension Exceptions, Subsection E, Temporary Service are fair, just, and reasonable.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve PacifiCorp's Advice No. 21-018, which extends the temporary waiver of the costs of Temporary Service in Rule 13 for those affected by 2020 wildfires until December 31, 2023, on less than statutory notice, for service rendered on and after September 8, 2021.