

July 11, 2008

# VIA ELECTRONIC FILING AND OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Oregon Public Utility Commission 550 Capitol Street NE, Suite 215 Salem, OR 97301-2551

Attention: Vikie Bailey-Goggins

Administrator, Regulatory Operations

Re: **Docket DR 40** – Reply Brief of Pacific Power

PacifiCorp, d.b.a. Pacific Power, hereby submits an original plus five (5) copies of its Reply Brief in the above-referenced matter.

Questions on this filing may be directed to Joelle Steward, Regulatory Manager, at (503) 813-5542.

Sincerely,

Andrea L. Kelly

Vice President, Regulation

Enclosure

Cc: Service List for Docket DR-40

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2008, I caused to be served, via E-Mail and US Mail (to those parties who have not yet waived paper service), a true and correct copy of the foregoing document on the following named person(s) at his or her last-known address(es) indicated below.

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# BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

**DR 40** 

In the Matter of

HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL, INC., and HONEYWELL GLOBAL FINANCE, LLC.

and

PACIFICORP, dba PACIFIC POWER,

Petition for Declaratory Ruling

REPLY BRIEF OF PACIFIC POWER

Pursuant to OAR 860-014-0090 and the June 11, 2008 Prehearing Conference Memorandum and Ruling Order, PacifiCorp, d.b.a. Pacific Power ("Pacific Power" or "Company") submits its Reply Brief in the above-captioned matter.

## I. DISCUSSION

As noted in Pacific Power's Opening Brief, this proceeding involves a request for the Commission to provide clarity regarding the laws and regulations which apply to the transactions that arise from the business model selected by electric generators such as Honeywell International, Inc./Honeywell Global Finance, LLC ("Honeywell") to sell electricity to retail customers in Oregon. Clarification is essential to ensure Pacific Power's compliance with the governing authorities and to ensure protection and certainty for all participants, including customers.

The opening briefs of the parties demonstrate that different interpretations may be derived from the statutes and regulations at issue here. It is for this very reason that

Pacific Power joined with Honeywell to seek clarification in the most expeditious forum available, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon ("Commission"). Resorting to the courts or the Legislature would have taken much longer.

Although some have questioned the timing of the filing, Pacific Power submitted the filing as soon as facts were known and the filing could be prepared after consultation with some of the key parties. Pacific Power is not seeking to impede the development of renewable energy. The Company, in fact, sees solar as a beneficial part of Oregon's energy future, both immediate and long-term. The Company has regularly supported community-based solar projects with grants and technical assistance.

Pacific Power is also not challenging Oregon's net metering statute. In fact, Pacific Power has staff dedicated solely to ensuring that net metering projects happen in a timely way. During the pendency of this proceeding, Pacific Power has continued to make net metering arrangements with Oregon customers who clearly comply with the net metering statutes.

Finally, Pacific Power is not opposing Honeywell's business model. Pacific Power's interest in this matter, simply put, is to ensure that, if the Company is to be a participant in any business model that impacts its customers, the Company is not violating laws or rules in so doing.

The Company believes the Commission's policy has always been to encourage utilities to seek clarification of laws and regulations where they may be unclear. In fact, on May 13, 2008, Pacific Power and Honeywell met with Commission Staff and the Department of Justice and were encouraged to jointly file the Petition for Declaratory

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Ruling. Pacific Power requests that the Commission opine on all of the questions identified by the ALJ. This Reply Brief highlights a few of those questions.

# 1. Customer-generator

Most of the initial briefs focus exclusively on the customer being a "user" of the Honeywell facility. The Oregon Department of Transportation ("ODOT") reaches a conclusion on the application of the term "customer-generator" that is the opposite of the application offered by Commission Staff in Docket No. AR 515. ODOT's analysis effectively eliminates the "generator" portion of the term "customer-generator" created by the Legislature, effectively interpreting the term to have the same meaning as the word "customer." Since the Legislature could have used the latter term but expressly chose not to, Pacific Power requests the Commission opine on its statutory construction of the net metering statute. <sup>1</sup>

#### 2. Meter cost allocation

The opening briefs generally agree that the cost responsibility for the meters used to measure the output of Honeywell's facility would be between Honeywell and the customer. However, questions remain as to whether the costs of any net meter or direct access meter would be borne by the customer-generator or all customers under Honeywell's business model. The Commission is asked to provide clarification.

## 3. Nature of the Transactions

If the Commission concludes that the customer qualifies for net metering under Honeywell's business model, then it is important to define the nature of the transactions

When possible, the court must give effect "to every part and every word of a…statute unless there is some clear reason to the contrary, no portion of the fundamental law shall be treated as superfluous." *State ex rel. Gladden v. Lonergan*, 201 Or. 163, 177 (1954).

that are occurring. The briefs appear to be in agreement that the source of any energy to be net metered is the energy generated and provided by Honeywell through the self-styled purchase power agreement ("PPA"). The Commission is requested to clarify the extent of its jurisdiction over (1) the PPA and (2) the transaction through which the right to the energy passes from Honeywell to the customer-generator to Pacific Power to Pacific Power customers.<sup>2</sup>

# 4. Electricity Service Supplier

The opening briefs presented varying interpretations of the direct access statute and the electricity service supplier ("ESS") requirements, demonstrating the need for clarity as to how the direct access statute and regulations might apply to Honeywell.<sup>3</sup> The clarifications and waivers suggested by the opening briefs can only be provided by the Commission or the Legislature, and are not within the authority of an Oregon utility to unilaterally decide. Pacific Power requests that when the Commission clarifies the ESS provisions, it avoid inadvertently creating a significant loophole in the SB 1149 legislative scheme.

# 5. Requirement to serve 100 percent of load

If the Commission concludes that Honeywell is an ESS, regardless of any waivers of the law and regulations ordered by the Commission, the Commission will still need to address Pacific Power's previously-approved tariffs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> With respect to FERC's MidAmerican decision, the FERC stated that in billing periods where there is a net sale from a customer to a utility, and the customer is not a Qualifying Facility, then the customer would need to comply with the Federal Power Act. MidAmerican Energy Company, 94 FERC ¶61,340, 62263 (2001). The FERC repeated this conclusion in its Small Generator Interconnection Rulemaking. Standardization of Generator Interconnection Agreements and Procedures, 106 FERC ¶61,220 at 744-747 (2004). However, the FERC has never considered the issue of third-party ownership of an onsite generation facility, specifically where the third party sells the output to a customer to be used for net metering with the utility.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> ORS 757.600 through 757.691 and OAR 860, Division 38.

Pacific Power's direct access tariff, Rule 21, requires that an ESS serve 100 percent of a customer's load (Section I.C.). This tariff is intended to ensure that customer loads not be split and costs shifted to other customers. Such a cost shift would occur if loads were partitioned, allowing the ESS to serve the lower cost base portion of the customer's load, leaving the utility to serve the volatile and higher cost portion of the customer's load. Any decision on this issue should take into consideration protections from cost shifts for other customers and limit the decision to changes necessary for the facts presented in this proceeding.

## II. Conclusion

Given the different positions and points raised by the parties, it is possible to reach different conclusions on several key issues in this proceeding. This is why Pacific Power participated in the joint pleading and why it is imperative that the Commission issue a declaratory ruling to provide clarity as expeditiously as possible.

As the Commission drafts the language of its opinions on the issues, Pacific Power requests the Commission be cognizant that the stipulated facts involve a very knowledgeable, reputable and well-financed developer providing electric service to knowledgeable governmental entities with procurement expertise and contracting resources. However, the Commission's opinions might, if not carefully worded, inadvertently apply to less reputable and lesser capitalized entities seeking to sell electricity to non-residential and residential customers that have no experience and limited legal and contracting resources.

DATED: July 11, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

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