



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Public Utility Commission

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September 7, 2021



BY EMAIL

PacifiCorp

datarequest@pacificorp.com

RE: Advice No. 21-018

At the public meeting on September 7, 2021, the Commission adopted Staff's recommendation in this matter docketed as ADV 1308. The Staff Report, LSN, and a receipted copy of the sheets in your advice filing are attached.

Nolan Moser

Chief Administrative Law Judge

Public Utility Commission of Oregon

(503) 378-3098

**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.

LESS THAN STATUTORY NOTICE APPLICATIONReceived
Filing Center
AUG 26 2021

This document may be electronically filed by sending it as an attachment to an electronic mail message addressed to the Commission's Filing Center at puc.filingcenter@state.or.us.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	UTILITY L.S.N. APPLICATION
<u>PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power</u>)	NO. <u>2286</u>
(UTILITY COMPANY))	(LEAVE BLANK)
TO WAIVE STATUTORY NOTICE.)	

NOTE: ATTACH EXHIBIT IF SPACE IS INSUFFICIENT.

1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE(S) ADDITION, DELETION, OR CHANGE. (SCHEDULE INCLUDES ALL RATES, TOLLS AND CHARGES FOR SERVICE AND ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS AFFECTING THE SAME)

The purpose of this filing is to request an extension of the waiver of the temporary service fees for customers and communities impacted by the devastating wildfires that started in early September 2020.

2. APPLICANT DESIRES TO CHANGE THE SCHEDULE(S) NOW ON FILE KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS: (INSERT SCHEDULE REFERENCE BY NUMBER, PAGE, AND ITEM)

Second Revision of Sheet No. R13-12 Rule 13 Line Extensions



3. THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE(S) SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS: (INSERT SCHEDULE REFERENCE BY NUMBER, PAGE AND ITEM)

Third Revision of Sheet No. R13-12 Rule 13 Line Extensions

4. REASONS FOR REQUESTING A WAIVER OF STATUTORY NOTICE:

The Company recently became aware of these ongoing issues when an employee in the field received a request for temporary service.

5. REQUESTED EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE NEW SCHEDULE(S) OR CHANGE(S): September 8, 2021

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE 	TITLE Vice President, Regulation	DATE 8/26/21
PUC USE ONLY		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> DENIED	EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED SCHEDULE(S) OR CHANGE 9/8/2021	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE 		DATE 9/7/2021

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS
LINE EXTENSIONS

V. Extension Exceptions (continued)

E. Temporary Service (continued)

In response to the 2020 wildfires, the Company may waive the costs of Temporary Service to facilitate service restoration at an affected property and to make Temporary Service available for displaced residential customers at a temporary location. Provided, however, the Applicant requests service no later than December 31, 2023. The Applicant remains responsible for electric service supplied under the appropriate rate schedule and any advances required for sharing previous Extensions.

(C)

VI. Relocation or Replacement of Facilities

A. Relocation of Facilities

If requested by an Applicant or Consumer, and adequate clearances can be maintained and adequate easements/rights-of-way can be obtained, the Company will: relocate distribution facilities; and/or, replace existing overhead distribution facilities with comparable underground (overhead to underground conversion, or conversion). If existing easements are insufficient for the new facilities, the Applicant is responsible for obtaining new easements. Substation facilities and transmission voltage facilities will be relocated at the discretion of the Company.

For conversions, the new underground system must not impair the use of the remaining overhead system. The Applicant or Consumer must elect either: to provide all trenching and back filling, imported backfill material, conduits, and equipment foundations that the Company requires for the Extension; or, to pay the Company to provide these items.

In addition, for both relocations and conversions, the Applicant must advance the following:

1. The estimated installed cost of the new facilities plus the estimated removal expense of the existing facilities, less
2. The estimated salvage value of the removed facilities.

This Advance is not refundable. The Company is not responsible for allocating costs and responsibilities among multiple Applicants.

B. Local Governments – Relocations

When Company facilities located in the franchise easement require relocating due to a public project, the relocation is done without charge to the local government Applicant.

C. Local Governments – Conversions

The conversion costs to a local government Applicant, as part of a public project which would necessitate the relocation of Company's facilities, consist of: the costs of all necessary excavating, road crossings, trenching, backfilling, raceways, ducts, vaults, transformer pads, and other devices peculiar to underground service. If the conversion is not part of a public project necessitating relocation of Company's facilities the overhead retirement costs are included in the conversion costs charged to the local government. The overhead retirement costs are: the original cost, less depreciation, less salvage value, plus removal costs of the existing overhead distribution facilities no longer used or useful by reason of the conversion.

Received
Filing Center
AUG 26 2021

(continued)