

ORDER NO. 00-158

ENTERED MAR 17 2000

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

UM 901

In the Matter of the Depreciation Study of)
Electric Properties of PORTLAND) ORDER
GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY.)

DISPOSITION: FINAL STIPULATION ADOPTED

On December 30, 1997, Portland General electric Company (PGE) filed a depreciation study of its electric service property. The study was one of the depreciation studies required by Order No. 91-186. In late 1998 PGE and Staff reached agreement on depreciation parameters acceptable to them. They agreed that the revised rates to emerge from the depreciation study would be implemented in PGE's UE 102 Customer Choice Rate Filing. In Interim Order No. 99-004 we accepted the stipulation and directed PGE to file a revised depreciation study. PGE filed the revised depreciation study in January 1999.

Subsequent events have undermined the basis for the 1998 stipulation. As a result of legislation and Order No. 99-033, there will be no general rate revisions implemented in the UE 102 Docket. PGE anticipates filing a general rate case this year. The depreciation study it filed in January 1999 is based on 1996 data, so it will be out of date when new depreciation parameters will be established in the rate case.

Staff and PGE met to discuss how to proceed in light of the changed circumstances.¹ They agreed on a new stipulation, and filed it on March 1, 2000. The stipulation provides that the depreciation studies filed in this docket meet the requirements of Commission Orders 91-186 and 99-004, and that the changes in amortization and depreciation methods approved in Order No. 99-004 should be deemed to be effective as of January 5, 1999, the date Order No. 99-004 was signed. The stipulation also provides that PGE will withdraw the depreciation studies filed in this proceeding and will file a new detailed depreciation study of its electric properties approximately three months before filing an application for a general rate revision.

¹ Notice of the scheduled meeting was sent to all parties in this Docket, but only PGE and Staff attended.

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Based on the evidence submitted, the Commission finds that the stipulation filed on March 1 is reasonable and should be adopted. The proposed processing of issues relating to PGE's depreciation rates will allow us to utilize up-to-date information when we process PGE's next general rate case. A copy of the stipulation is attached to this order as Appendix A.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The stipulation filed by PGE and the Commission's Staff on March 1, 2000, is adopted.
2. This docket is closed.

Made, entered, and effective _____.

Ron Eachus
Chairman

Roger Hamilton
Commissioner

Joan H. Smith
Commissioner

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order pursuant to ORS 756.561. A request for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed with the Commission within 60 days of the date of service of this order. The request must comply with the requirements of OAR 860-014-0095. A copy of any such request must also be served on each party to the proceeding as provided by OAR 860-013-0070. A party may appeal this order to a court pursuant to ORS 756.580.

Depr stip (final) pge