BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

UM 1631

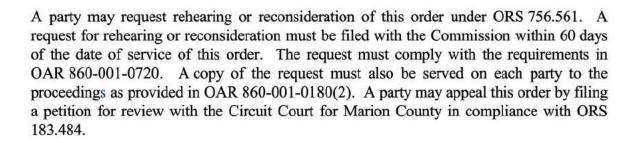|	
In the Matter of PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, Application for Partial Waiver of OAR 860-021-0410(4), Emergency Medical Certificate for Residential Customers.	ORDER

DISPOSITION: STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED

At its public meeting on May 5, 2020, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon adopted Staff's recommendation in this matter. The Staff Report with the recommendation is attached as Appendix A.

BY THE COMMISSION:

Nolan Moser
Chief Administrative Law Judge

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order under 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 in OAR 860-001-0720. A copy of the request must also be served on each party to the proceedings as provided in OAR 860-001-0180(2). A party may appeal this order by filing a petition for review with the Circuit Court for Marion County in compliance with ORS 183.484.

ITEM NO. CA5

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: May 5, 2020

REGULAR _____ **CONSENT** __X__ **EFFECTIVE DATE** _____**May 6, 2020**_____

DATE: April 27, 2020

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Mitchell Moore

THROUGH: Bryan Conway, Michael Dougherty, John Crider, and Matt Muldoon **SIGNED**

SUBJECT: <u>PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC</u>:
                (Docket No. UM 1631)
                Requests partial waiver of Rule relating to Emergency Medical
                Certificates.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) approve
Portland General Electric's (PGE or Company) partial waiver request of
OAR 860-021-0410(4) for a period of 60 days, with an effective date of May 6, 2020.

DISCUSSION:

<u>Issue</u>

Whether the Commission should approve PGE's request for a partial waiver of
OAR 860-021-0410(4), which concerns the duration of Emergency Certificates for
residential customers of the utility.

<u>Applicable Law</u>

OAR 860-021-0410(4) addresses the duration of an Emergency Medical Certificate for
residential customers. Subsection (4) of this rule states: "An emergency medical
certificate shall be valid only for the length of time the health endangerment is certified
to exist, but no longer than six months without renewal for certificates not specifying
chronic illnesses and no longer than twelve months for certificates specifying illnesses
identified as chronic by a "Qualified Medical Professional" as defined in this rule. At
least 15 days before the certificate's expiration date, an energy utility will give the

customer written notice of the date the certificate expires unless it is renewed with the utility before that day arrives."

OAR 860-021-0005 allows the Commission to grant waivers of Division 21 rules for good cause shown.

Analysis

Background
On April 1, 2020 PGE filed this application requesting a partial waiver to OAR 860-021-0410(4). The rule addresses the length of time that an Emergency Medical Certificate should remain in effect, and the length of time (15 days) required of the utility to give notice of expiration of the certificate. When a customer presents the Company with an Emergency Medical Certificate as described by the rule, the Company may not disconnect the customer's utility service for non-payment.

The Company proposes to extend the 15-day renewal timeframe of the certificate to six months. PGE will provide the customer written notice that the medical certificate is expiring and provide a six-month period for the customer to provide a renewed medical certificate.

The Company seeks this flexibility in order to be responsive to the changing economic and social conditions facing customers in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Company requests this waiver be in effect for an initial period of 60 days. The Company will monitor the situation and continually assess the need to seek any continuance of the waiver.

Conclusion

Staff reviewed the Company's filing and finds there is good cause to support the request due to the uncertainties and flux with the public health situation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve PGE's partial waiver request of OAR 860-021-0410(4) for a period of 60 days, with an effective date of May 6, 2020.