

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

UM 2183

In the Matter of

PACIFICORP dba PACIFIC POWER,

Application for Authority to Implement a
Decommissioning Cost Recovery
Adjustment and Coal Removal Mechanism.

ORDER

**DISPOSITION: MOTION TO DESIGNATE PROCEEDING AS ELIGIBLE FOR
ISSUE FUNDS GRANTED**

On July 19, 2021, the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (AWEC), and the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB), filed a joint motion to designate this proceeding as eligible for an Issue Fund Grant. No party responded to the joint motion.

The Fourth Amended Intervenor Funding Agreement (IFA) approved by the Commission in Order No. 18-017, defines "Eligible Proceedings for Issue Funds" as a proceeding before the Commission to review:

1. A general rate case request,
2. The proposed acquisition or merger of one of the Participating Public Utilities,
3. An Integrated Resource Plan,
4. An annual power cost request (such as PGE's Annual Update Tariff or PacifiCorp's TAM) or a purchase gas adjustment request, or
5. Any other proceeding so designated by the Commission that directly affects one or more of the Participating Utilities and is anticipated to have a substantial impact on utility rates or service, a significant impact on utility customers or the operations of the utility, is likely to result in a significant change in regulatory policy or raises novel questions of law.

PacifiCorp is directly affected by this docket and is a participating utility. This docket involves PacifiCorp's application for authority to implement a decommissioning cost recovery adjustment and coal removal mechanism. AWEC and CUB state this proceeding will likely have a substantial impact of PacifiCorp's rates and customers. AWEC and CUB claim, if approved as filed, PacifiCorp's application will result in a \$34.9 million rate increase, equivalent to 2.8 percent. AWEC and CUB also claim this

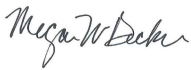
proceeding implicates important, complex legal and policy questions because, under the 2020 Interjurisdictional Allocation Protocol, the amount of decommissioning costs the Commission approves for recovery in this case will represent Oregon's total decommissioning cost responsibility for the coal plants at issue, regardless of the actual decommissioning costs incurred for these plant. AWEC and CUB state approval of a cost estimate that is too high will result in customers over-paying for decommissioning costs, while approval of a cost estimate that is too low will result in PacifiCorp under-recovering decommissioning costs from Oregon ratepayers. Therefore, AWEC and CUB claim it is imperative parties have necessary resources to develop robust record to determine the most accurate estimate possible of decommissioning costs.

We agree that this proceeding qualifies as an eligible proceeding because this docket is anticipated to have a substantial impact on utility rates or service. Accordingly, the joint motion should be granted, and this docket should be certified as an eligible proceeding.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that this proceeding is designated as a proceeding eligible for Issue Funds.


Made, entered, and effective Sep 15 2021 .



Megan W. Decker
Chair



Letha Tawney
Commissioner



Mark R. Thompson
Commissioner



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 Court of Appeals in compliance with ORS 183.480 through 183.484.