

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UE 434

In the Matter of

PACIFICORP, dba PACIFIC POWER,

2025 Transition Adjustment Mechanism.

MODIFIED
PROTECTIVE
ORDER

DISPOSITION: MOTION FOR MODIFIED PROTECTIVE ORDER GRANTED

On February 7, 2024, PacifiCorp, dba Pacific Power, filed a motion for a modified protective order in its 2025 Transition Adjustment Mechanism (TAM), requesting expedited consideration. PacifiCorp seeks additional protections beyond those provided in general protective order, Order No. 23-132, for highly commercially sensitive, non-public information related to its coal supply agreements, fueling strategy at its coal-fired generation facilities, and documents and records of affiliated coal mining companies.

PacifiCorp states that the 2021 TAM stipulation adopted by the Commission requires it to provide additional information regarding prudence of coal supply agreements through testimony in its initial TAM filing, which includes highly proprietary and commercially sensitive information. PacifiCorp argues that release of this non-public information could put it at a competitive disadvantage in negotiating coal supply agreements, which could lead to higher costs passed on to customers. PacifiCorp also states that its proposed modified protective order contains the same protections agreed to by the parties in PacifiCorp's 2023 and 2024 TAM proceedings.

Under the modified protective order requested by PacifiCorp, access to highly confidential information is restricted to Commission employees (including assigned DOJ attorneys), as well as regulatory staff for the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board and counsel for other parties to the docket who sign the consent to be bound section of Appendix B. Additionally, the modified protective order also establishes a process for additional individuals to seek access to highly confidential information on a case-by-case basis through Appendix C. PacifiCorp also states that because the 2025 TAM filing has not yet been made, there are no parties to the proceeding.

Under OAR 860-001-0080(3), a party may file a motion for a modified protective order that provides additional protection beyond the protection provided by a general protective order. Any such motion must include: 1) the parties and the exact nature of the information involved, 2) the legal basis for the claim the information is protected under ORCP 36(C)(1) or the Public Records Law, 3) the exact nature of the relief requested, 4) the specific reasons the relief is necessary, 5) a detailed description of the intermediate measures explored by the parties and why these measures are insufficient, 6) a certification that the requesting party conferred with the parties and whether those parties support the motion, and 7) a draft of the requested modified protective order.

I find that PacifiCorp's filing includes the elements required by OAR 860-001-0080(3) and that it has established a legal basis for additional protections under OAR 860-001-0080(3). The modified protective order will function alongside the general protective order, Order No. 23-132. As requested, I issue this protective order on an expedited basis pursuant to OAR 860-001-0080(3)(c). This expedited action does not foreclose a party from seeking *de novo* review of this modified protective order under OAR 860-001-0080(3)(d)&(e).

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that the modified protective order, attached as Appendix A, is adopted.

Made, entered, and effective on Feb 8, 2024.



Alison Lackey
Administrative Law Judge



MODIFIED PROTECTIVE ORDER

DOCKET NO. UE 434

Scope of this Order:

1. This order supplements the General Protective Order 23-132 in this proceeding and governs the acquisition and use of “Highly Protected Information” produced or used by any party to docket UE 434.

Designation of Protected Information and “Highly Protected Information”:

2. Any party may designate as Highly Protected Information any information the party reasonably determines:
 - (a) Falls within the scope of ORCP 36(C)(1) (a trade secret or other confidential research, development, or commercial information);
 - (b) Is not publicly available; and
 - (c) Is not adequately protected by the general protective order.
3. To designate information as Highly Protected Information, a party must place the following legend on the material:

HIGHLY PROTECTED INFORMATION
SUBJECT TO MODIFIED PROTECTIVE ORDER NO. 24-_____

The party should make reasonable efforts to designate as Highly Protected Information only the portions of the information that satisfies paragraph 2 of this Modified Protective Order.

4. For a filing containing Highly Protected Information, a Highly Protected version and a public version of the document must be created and filed with the Filing Center. The Highly Protected versions of documents shall be grouped together and should be clearly marked as Highly Confidential. The Commission’s Filing Center receives files electronically outside of the Huddle program. For discovery containing Highly Protected Information, the file should be uploaded to a Huddle file folder designated “Highly Protected.”
5. A party may designate as Highly Protected Information any information previously provided by giving written notice to the Commission and other parties. Parties in possession of newly designated Highly Protected Information must make reasonable efforts to ensure that all copies of the material containing the information bear the above legend if requested by the designating party.
6. A designating party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that information designated as Highly Protected Information continues to warrant protection under this

order. If designated information becomes publicly available or no longer falls within the scope of ORCP 36(C)(1), the designating party should make reasonable efforts to remove the protected designation and provide written notice to the Commission and other parties.

Challenge to Designation of Information as Highly Protected:

7. A party may informally challenge any designation of Highly Protected Information by notifying the designating party. Once notified, the designating party bears the burden of showing that the challenged information is covered by ORCP 36(C)(1) and that the “Highly Protected Information” designation is necessary.
8. If the dispute cannot be resolved informally, the challenging party may file a written objection with the ALJ. The objection need only identify the information in dispute and certify that reasonable efforts to achieve informal resolution have failed.
9. Within five business days of service of the objection, the designating party must either remove the challenged protected designation or file a written response. A written response must identify the factual and legal basis of how the challenged information is protected under the Oregon Public Records Act, ORS 192.311 *et seq*, or the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, ORS 646.461(4). Broad allegations unsubstantiated by specific facts are not sufficient. If the designating party does not timely respond to the objection, the Commission will remove the protected designation from the challenged information.
10. The challenging party may file a written reply to any response within five business days of service of an objection. The designating party may file a sur-reply within three business days of service of a response. The ALJ will make all reasonable efforts to resolve the matter within ten business days of service of the last filing.

Access to Highly Protected Information:

11. Only Qualified Persons may access Highly Protected Information designated by another party under this Modified Protective Order. Persons automatically bound by this protective order and qualified to access Highly Protected Information are:
 - (a) Commission employees; and
 - (b) Assistant Attorneys General assigned to represent the Commission.
12. Persons qualified to access Highly Protected Information upon a party signing the Signatory Page for Highly Protective Information, Appendix B, are:
 - (a) Counsel for the party;
 - (b) An employee of the Regulatory Division at the Oregon Citizens’ Utility Board.

A party must identify all these persons in section 2 of Appendix B when consenting to be bound by the order, and must update this list throughout the proceeding to ensure it accurately identifies Qualified Persons.

13. A party bound by the General Protective Order No. 23-132 may seek to qualify other persons to access certain specific Highly Protected Information by having those persons complete and sign Appendix C, and submitting that information to the designating party and the Commission. Within five business days of receiving a copy of Appendix C, the designating party must either provide the access to the requested information designated as Highly Protected Information or file an objection under paragraph 15.

Objection to Access to Protected Information:

14. All persons qualified to have access to Highly Protected Information will have access to Highly Protected Information unless the designating party objects as provided in this paragraph. As soon as the designating party becomes aware of reasons to restrict access to a Qualified Person, or objects to a person seeking qualification under Paragraph 13, the designating party must provide the person and his or her counsel notice stating the basis for the objection. The parties must promptly confer and attempt to resolve the dispute on an informal basis.
15. If the parties are unable to resolve the matter informally, the designating party must file a written objection with the ALJ. The requesting party may file a response to the motion within five business days of service of an objection. The ALJ will make all reasonable efforts to resolve the matter within ten business days of the last filing. Pending the ALJ's decision, the specific Highly Protected Information may not be disclosed to the person subject to the objection.
16. Access to Highly Protected Information will be provided to Qualified Persons through a secure cloud-based content management system in view only mode, which will not allow the document to be downloaded or printed; however, Qualified Persons will have access to the document and be able to revisit the document at their convenience throughout the proceeding. Qualified persons are not authorized to, and shall not make, screen shots or copies of any document designated as containing Highly Protected Information. Qualified persons reviewing the Highly Protected Information may make limited notes regarding the documents for reference purposes, and for inclusion in a filing consistent with paragraph 4. Such notes shall not constitute a verbatim or substantive transcript of the documents, and shall be considered Highly Protected Information subject to the terms of this protective order. If a limited, specific part of a document containing Highly Confidential Information is necessary for purposes of the proceeding, such as inclusion in comments, the party may request such a copy. In response to such a request, PacifiCorp will prepare a copy of the requested portion of the document and provide it to that party through a secure web portal.

Use of Protected Information:

17. All Qualified Persons must take reasonable precautions to keep Highly Protected Information secure. Qualified Persons may reproduce Highly Protected Information only to the extent necessary to participate in these proceedings and subject to the limitations described in paragraph 16. A Qualified Person may discuss Highly Protected Information obtained under this order only with other Qualified Persons who have obtained the same information under this order.
18. Without the written permission of the designating party, any person given access to Highly Protected Information under this order may not disclose Highly Protected Information for any purpose other than participating in these proceedings.
19. Nothing in this protective order precludes any party from independently seeking through discovery in any other administrative or judicial proceeding information or materials produced in this proceeding under this protective order.
20. Counsel of record may retain memoranda, pleadings, testimony, discovery, or other documents containing Highly Protected Information to the extent reasonably necessary to maintain a file of these proceedings or to comply with requirements imposed by another governmental agency or court order. Any other person retaining Highly Protected Information must destroy or return it to the designating party within 90 days after final resolution of these proceedings unless the designating party consents in writing to retention of the Highly Protected Information. This paragraph does not apply to the Commission or its Staff.

Duration of Protection:

21. The Commission will preserve the designation of information as Highly Protected Information for a period of five years from the date of the final order in these proceedings, unless extended by the Commission at the request of the designating party. The Commission will notify the designating party at least two weeks prior to the release of Highly Protected Information.

CONSENT TO BE BOUND AND SIGNATORY PAGE

DOCKET NO. UE 434

I. Consent to be Bound:

_____ (Party) agrees to be bound by the terms of this Modified Protective Order.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

II. Persons Qualified pursuant to Paragraph 13: Highly Protected Information

I have read the Modified Protective Order and agree to be bound by the terms of the order.

I certify that:

I understand that ORS 756.990(2) allows the Commission to impose monetary sanctions if a party subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission violates an order of the Commission.

The party I am associated with has a legitimate and non-competitive need for the Highly Confidential Information for this proceeding and not simply a general interest in the information.

By: Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

Employer: _____

Job Title: _____

By: Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

Employer: _____

Job Title: _____

III. Persons Seeking Qualification under Paragraph 13:

I have read the modified protective order, agree to be bound by the terms of the order, and provide the following information to seek access to certain specific information designated as Highly Confidential Information.

Signature:		Date:
Printed Name:		
Physical Address:		
Email Address:		
Employer:		
Associated Party:		
Job Title:		
If Not employee of party, description of practice and clients:		

<p>I seek access to the following specific information designated as Highly Protected Information for the following reasons:</p>	
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