

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UI 518

In the Matter of

PACIFICORP, d/b/a PACIFIC POWER,

Application for Approval of an Affiliated  
Interest Transaction with BNSF Rail  
Company.

MODIFIED PROTECTIVE ORDER

DISPOSITION: MOTION FOR MODIFIED PROTECTIVE ORDER GRANTED

On January 28, 2025, PacifiCorp filed a motion for a modified protective order in this docket. On February 7, 2025, PacifiCorp filed an amended motion for a modified protective order, requesting expedited consideration.

Under our rules, I am to provide expedited review of any motion for a modified protective order and may issue a modified protective order to facilitate the filing of protected information and discovery.<sup>1</sup> In providing expedited review and issuing a modified protective order, it does not preclude parties from filing responses to the motion for a modified protective order.<sup>2</sup> If a response is filed to the motion for a modified protective order, I am to conduct a *de novo* review of the terms of the modified protective order and issue a ruling explaining my determination.<sup>3</sup>

PacifiCorp states the modified protective order is needed to prevent public disclosure of highly confidential information, including trade secrets and non-public information that is highly proprietary and commercially sensitive, that it would like to provide to the Commission as part of its application in this docket. PacifiCorp explains that public disclosure of this information could harm PacifiCorp's competitive position in the negotiation of future coal transportation agreements.

I note that PacifiCorp's motion fails to comply with our rules by failing to include the required certification that the requesting party conferred with the other parties regarding the request for a modified protective order indicating whether the parties support the

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<sup>1</sup> OAR 860-001-0080(3)(c).

<sup>2</sup> OAR 860-001-0080(3)(d).

<sup>3</sup> OAR 860-001-0080(3)(e).

motion.<sup>4</sup> Although the motion notes conferring with Staff, it neglects to state Staff's position or discuss whether PacifiCorp conferred with the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB), an entity discussed in the proposed modified protective order, and its position on the motion.


Despite this deficiency, the amended motion for a modified protective order is granted. PacifiCorp should ensure that future motions for modified protective orders include the required conferral certification and state the positions of other parties and other entities or individuals reasonably expected to participate in a docket.

Although the motion is granted, any party or proposed intervenor may file a response to PacifiCorp's motion by 3:00 p.m. on February 19, 2025. If any responses are filed, PacifiCorp may file a reply by 3:00 p.m. on February 26, 2025.

**ORDER**

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

Made, entered, and effective on Feb 12, 2025.



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John Mellgren  
Administrative Law Judge

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<sup>4</sup> OAR 860-001-0080(3)(a)(F).

**MODIFIED PROTECTIVE ORDER**

DOCKET NO. UI 518

**Scope of this Order:**

1. This order supplements General Protective Order No. 23-132 and governs the acquisition and use of “Highly Protected Information” produced or used by any party to docket UE 439.

**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. 25-\_\_\_\_\_

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 that has been previously filed will be provided to Qualified Persons through Huddle or other secure cloud-based content management system. Certain Highly Protected Information that has not been filed and for which the Company requests special handling, may only 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 or an entire document containing Highly Protected Information is necessary for purposes of the proceeding, such as for use in testimony or a filing, 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 within forty-eight hours, exclusive of weekends and state holidays, 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. UI 518

**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 12: 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.

<b>Signature:</b>		<b>Date:</b>
<b>Printed Name:</b>		
<b>Physical Address:</b>		
<b>Email Address:</b>		
<b>Employer:</b>		
<b>Associated Party:</b>		
<b>Job Title:</b>		
<b>If Not employee of party, description of practice and clients:</b>		
<b>I seek access to the following specific information designated as Highly Protected Information for the following reasons:</b>		