

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

UM 990

In the Matter of Portland General                 )  
Electric Company's Request for Approval    )                 ORDER  
Of an Emergency Curtailment Plan          )

DISPOSITION: REVISED CURTAILMENT PLAN  
APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

On May 15, 2000, Portland General Electric (PGE) filed revised tariff sheets to add to its Rule M Curtailment Plan procedures for short-term system emergency curtailments. PGE's current Rule M was filed and approved by the Commission in 1993 to comply with the curtailment policies adopted by the Commission in Order No. 93-084, Docket UM-500. This application by PGE constitutes the first revisions to Rule M since that initial approval.

At its September 12, 2000, regular public meeting, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) adopted Staff's recommendation to approve PGE's filing to add the short-term system emergency curtailment plan to Rule M, subject to conditions. The Staff recommendation is attached to this order as Appendix A and incorporated by reference.

## DISCUSSION

PGE's Rule M Curtailment Plan identifies the process by which PGE would initiate and implement load curtailment. The Plan includes procedures required during a protracted regional electrical energy shortage to ensure uniform treatment of all regional customers. The Plan also addresses activities that can be activated for relatively short-term emergencies, such as those caused by extremely cold weather or the temporary loss of a major generating plant or transmission facility.

The Plan excludes facilities deemed necessary to the public health, safety, and welfare. These include critical feeders that serve hospitals, 911 centers, large sewer and water treatment plants, the Portland and Salem downtown core areas, facilities critical to electric system operation, police and fire stations and related computer and

communications centers, and radio, television news and emergency broadcast stations and transmitting facilities.

Generally, the Plan is activated only when declared necessary by state authorities. Under PGE's proposed revisions, PGE may initiate Stage 5 utility actions such as plant closures and blackouts during periods of system emergencies when necessary or prudent to protect the performance, integrity, reliability, or stability of PGE's electrical system or any electrical system with which it is interconnected. PGE will periodically provide operating procedures to the Commission that documents the Company's updates for curtailing loads under Stage 5.

The 15-minute notice period PGE receives from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) under the Willamette Valley/Southwest Washington Area (WILSWA) Voltage Stability Operating Procedure for addressing voltage instability is considered short notice, thus requiring substations be controlled remotely. If the emergency is of a longer duration, PGE will include the manually operated substations in the procedures. The Procedures also provide for 30-minute rolling curtailments, which ensure that no retail customer is without space or water heating for an extended period of time, thereby minimizing the impact of the curtailment.

## **OPINION**

### **Jurisdiction**

ORS 757.005 defines a public utility as anyone providing heat, light, water, or power service to the public in Oregon. PGE is a public utility subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.

### **Applicable Law**

ORS 757.710 requires that any person, as defined in ORS 758.400,<sup>1</sup> engaged in the sale or resale of electricity or natural or synthetic gas in Oregon shall present for approval by the Commission a plan for curtailment of electrical or gas load in the event of any predictable circumstance that may jeopardize prolonged continuity of service.

ORS 757.720 requires that the approval of the plan be based upon: (1) the consistency of the plan with the public health, safety and welfare; (2) the technical feasibility of implementing the plan; (3) the effectiveness with which the plan minimizes the impact of any curtailment; and (4) the consistency of the plan with Oregon energy

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<sup>1</sup> "Person" includes individuals, firms, partnerships, corporations, associations, cooperatives and municipalities, or their agent, lessee, trustee or referee.

policies. ORS 757.720(3) requires that the Commission consult with the administrator of the Office of Energy before approving a plan.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

1. PGE is a public utility subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon.
2. PGE's proposed Curtailment Plan meets the requirements of ORS 757.710(1).
3. PGE's Plan is consistent with the public health, safety, and welfare, and designed to ensure that basic human needs are given priority in the allocation of energy resources.
4. The Plan is consistent with Oregon energy policies stated in ORS 176.820, 192.501 to 192.505, 192.690, 469.010 to 469.225, 469.300 to 469.580, 469.533, 469.990, 757.710 and 757.720.
5. Implementation of the Plan is technically feasible and will minimize the impact of any curtailment made under the Plan.
6. The Commission consulted with the director of the Oregon Office of Energy before approving PGE's Plan.
7. The Plan should be approved with the conditions recommended by Staff.

### **ORDER**

IT IS ORDERED that the filing of Portland General Electric Company for approval of its revised Rule M Curtailment Plan is granted, subject to the conditions set forth on page 3 of Appendix A.

Made, entered and effective \_\_\_\_\_.

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**Ron Eachus**  
Chairman

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**Roger Hamilton**  
Commissioner

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**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 in 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(2). A party may appeal this order to a court pursuant to applicable law.