

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of)	
)	DOCKET UE-152010
)	
PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT)	ORDER 01
COMPANY)	
)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION
For an Order Approving Order)	
Approving a Service Territory)	
Agreement Between Pacific Power &)	
Light Company and Benton Rural)	
Electric Association Under RCW)	
54.48.030)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On October 21, 2015, Pacific Power & Light Company (Pacific Power or Company) filed a petition with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) for an order approving service territory agreement under RCW 54.48.030 between Pacific Power and Benton Rural Electric Association (Benton).
- 2 Pacific Power is an investor owned utility supplying electric services to approximately 1.8 million customers in six states (Washington, California, Oregon, Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming). Pacific Power currently provides electric service to over 132,000 retail customers in the southeast area of Washington, including Yakima County.
- 3 Benton is a not-for-profit electric cooperative affiliated with Touchstone Energy Cooperative and operates exclusively in the State of Washington. Benton owns facilities for the transmission, distribution, and sale of electric energy and currently provides electric service to over 15,000 customers in various portions of Yakima County, Washington.
- 4 Under Washington Statute, RCW 54.48.030, a public utility is authorized to enter into agreements with “any one or more other public utility or one or more other cooperative for the designation of the boundaries of adjoining service areas.” Such agreements are subject to Commission approval pursuant to chapter RCW 54.48.030.

5 Pacific Power and Benton previously entered into a service area agreement that was
approved by the Commission in Docket UE-901058 on October 3, 1990.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

6 The new agreement between Pacific Power and Benton is substantially similar to the prior
agreement, essentially maintaining the existing service area boundaries. Having reviewed
the application and the service area agreement appended thereto, the Commission agrees
that the agreement to establish service area boundaries is consistent with the legislative
policy set forth in chapter 54.48 RCW. The objectives and purposes specified in RCW
54.85 would be reasonably achieved by approval of the service area agreement and the
continuation of this service area agreement is in the public interest.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State
of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, regulations,
practices, and accounts of public service companies, including electric companies.
- 8 (2) Pacific Power is an electric company and a public utility as defined in RCW
54.48.010(1) and subject to the Commission jurisdiction.
- 9 (3) Agreements for the designation of the boundaries of adjoining service areas are
subject to Commission approval pursuant to chapter RCW 54.48.030.
- 10 (4) The agreement between Pacific Power and Benton to establish service area
boundaries is consistent with the public interest and avoids the duplication of
facilities by multiple utilities and cooperatives.
- 11 (5) Nothing herein shall be construed to waive or otherwise impair the jurisdiction of
this Commission over the rates, services, accounts and practices of Pacific Power &
Light Company.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) That participation by Pacific Power & Light Company in the aforesaid service area agreement is approved pursuant to the provisions and requirements of RCW 54.48.030.
- 13 (2) The Commission has delegated authority to the Secretary to enter this Order under RCW 80.01.030 and WAC 480-07-905(5)(a).

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective November 13, 2015.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING
Executive Director and Secretary