

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

PACIFICORP, d/b/a PACIFIC POWER &
LIGHT COMPANY,

For an Order Approving Its
Recommended Independent
Evaluator

DOCKET UE-210779

ORDER 01

APPROVING RECOMMENDED
INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR

BACKGROUND

1 PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power & Light Company (PacifiCorp or Company) is planning a 2022 All-Source Request for Proposal (2022 All Source RFP) in response to the Company's 2021 Integrated Resource Plan (2021 IRP), which was filed in UE-200420 on September 1, 2021, and includes the following resource need within four years:¹

- (a) 1,345 megawatts (MW) of new proxy supply-side generation resources and 600 MW of co-located energy storage resources; and
- (b) 274 MW of new proxy demand-side resources.²

2 The Company must recommend an independent evaluator (IE) for approval by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission).³

3 On September 10, 2021, the Company issued an IE request for proposal, with bids due on September 24. PacifiCorp then undertook an internal two-week bidder vetting and scoring process before submitting its IE recommendation to the Commission.⁴

4 On October 7, 2021, PacifiCorp filed a Petition for Approval of its Recommended Independent Evaluator (Petition for IE Approval).

¹ WAC 480-107-009(2).

² PacifiCorp's Petition for Approval of its Recommended Independent Evaluator (¶ 4) (PacifiCorp Petition) in Docket UE-210779 (October 7, 2021).

³ Per WAC 480-107-023(2).

⁴ PacifiCorp Petition ¶ 11.

5 PacifiCorp asked the Commission to approve its proposed IE at the November 12, 2021,
open meeting so the Company could proceed working to file its 2022 All Source RFP
with the Commission by December 30, 2021.⁵

6 Commission staff (Staff) has found no significant concerns with the utility's IE vetting
and selection process and sees no reason to object to the Company's recommended
selection of Bates White, LLC (Bates White).

7 Staff notes Bates White appears to embody several positive characteristics, including
direct experience serving as an IE for other Pacific Northwest utility RFPs. Additionally,
Bates White has familiarity incorporating equity criteria into procurement evaluations
that would position the firm well to advise PacifiCorp on its 2022 All Source RFP that
must comply with WA's Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA). Furthermore,
serving as Puget Sound Energy's IE on PSE's 2021 RFP, Bates White has developed
expertise applying new CETA procurement requirements.⁶

8 Staff therefore recommends that the Commission grant PacifiCorp's Petition for IE
Approval.

DISCUSSION

9 We agree with Staff and grant PacifiCorp's Petition for IE Approval. Stakeholder
outreach appears to confirm PacifiCorp's Petition for IE Approval is not controversial
and Bates White appears to be a logical choice to assist the Company comply with
CETA procurement requirements.

10 Stakeholders engaged to discuss the reasonableness of PacifiCorp's IE recommendation,
including Public Counsel, the Northwest Energy Coalition (NWECC), Renewable
Northwest, Sierra Club, the Northwest and Intermountain Power Producers Coalition, and
the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers. None of the stakeholders contacted opposed
PacifiCorp's choice for Bates White to serve as its IE.

11 NWECC did question whether Bates White had adequate resources (*e.g.*, staffing,
bandwidth) to serve as IE for both PacifiCorp and Puget Sound Energy simultaneously.

⁵ Id. ¶ 7 per WAC 480-107-017(1).

⁶ PacifiCorp Petition ¶ 16.

However, Staff's subsequent follow up with PacifiCorp confirmed Bates White should have the ability to manage multiple procurements at the same time.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 12 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including electric companies.
- 13 (2) PacifiCorp is an electric company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 14 (3) WAC 480-107-023(2) requires companies to petition the Commission for approval of a recommend IE.
- 15 (4) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 12, 2021.
- 16 (5) After reviewing PacifiCorp's Petition for IE Approval, and giving due consideration to all relevant matters, the Commission concludes that PacifiCorp's Petition for IE Approval should be granted.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 17 (1) PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power & Light Company's petition for approval of its recommended Independent Evaluator is granted.
- 18 (2) This Order shall not affect the Commission's authority over rates, services, accounts, valuations, estimates, or determination of costs, on any matters that may come before it.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective November 12, 2021.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

AMANDA MAXWELL
Executive Director and Secretary