

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of	DOCKET UE-180809
PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT COMPANY,	ORDER 01
Petitioner,	
For An Accounting Order Authorizing Deferral of Costs related to the Company's Electric Vehicle Pilot Program	ORDER GRANTING ACCOUNTING PETITION

BACKGROUND

- 1 On June 14, 2017, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) filed to Docket UE-160799 its Policy and Interpretive Statement Concerning Commission Regulation of Electric Vehicle Charging Services (Policy Statement), which clarified the Commission's jurisdiction and provided policy direction regarding the investor-owned electric utilities' role in the electrification of Washington's transportation system.
- 2 On September 6, 2018, in Docket UE-180757, Pacific Power filed with the Commission its proposed Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Pilot Program (EVSE Pilot Program). The proposed EVSE Pilot Program included education and outreach activities, grant funding for customer-driven transportation electrification projects, and a new Schedule 45 Public DC Fast Charger Optional Transitional Rate Tariff. The Commission took no action on the tariff revision at its October 11, 2018, open meeting, allowing Schedule 45 to go into effect by operation of law.
- 3 On September 24, 2018, in Docket UE-180809, Pacific Power & Light Company (Pacific Power or Company) filed with the Commission an accounting petition (Petition) seeking to defer the costs incurred through the EVSE Pilot Program for later ratemaking treatment. On January 22, 2019, Pacific Power filed an amended petition to change the proposed interest rate on the unamortized balance from the last authorized weighted average cost of capital to the quarterly rate published by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Pacific Power estimates the full cost to deploy its program at \$1.1 million.

- 4 Pacific Power's petition defines its EVSE Pilot Program with a reference to the program descriptions and other supporting materials filed under Docket UE-180757. In that docket, the Company proposes an EVSE portfolio comprised of three components: the Schedule 45 optional tariff; a Demonstration and Development Program; and an Education and Outreach Program. The Company's accounting petition is a request to defer the costs incurred in implementing these three specific efforts. Commission staff (Staff) suggests that, if Pacific Power decides to expand its portfolio of EVSE programs and wishes to defer the costs of those expanded offerings, the Company should file a petition to amend this order to include the costs of any newly proposed EVSE efforts.
- 5 Staff reviewed the Company's Petition and recommends that the Commission approve the request, allowing the Company to defer its EVSE Pilot Program expenses until the Company's next general rate case. Staff believes the Company's request to accrue interest on the unamortized balance at a rate equal to the quarterly rate published by FERC is appropriate.
- 6 Staff recommends that the Commission issue an order authorizing Pacific Power to defer the costs of the Company's EVSE pilot program as Regulatory Assets in Account 182.3, with interest accrued at a rate equal to the quarterly rate published by FERC in accordance with Section 35.19a of its regulations.

DISCUSSION

- 7 We agree with Staff's recommendation and grant Pacific Power's Petition as revised on January 22, 2019. We note that the Commission's approval of this accounting petition does not constitute a finding of prudence for these costs, nor does it imply preapproval of any costs incurred and deferred pursuant to this order. Answers to those questions will be determined through the Company's next general rate case.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8 (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.
- 9 (2) Pacific Power is an electric company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.

- 10 (3) WAC 480-07-370(1)(b), allows companies to file petitions, including the Petition Pacific Power filed in this docket.
- 11 (4) Staff has reviewed the Petition in Docket UE-180809.
- 12 (5) Staff finds that Pacific Power's Petition, as revised on January 22, 2019, is reasonable and should be granted.
- 13 (6) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled open meeting on January 31, 2019.
- 14 (7) After reviewing Pacific Power's Petition filed in Docket UE-180809 on September 24, 2018, and revised on January 22, 2019, and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission finds that the Petition should be granted.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 15 (1) Pacific Power & Light Company's Petition seeking authorization to defer costs related to its EVSE Pilot Program, as revised on January 22, 2019, is granted.
- 16 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Pacific Power & Light Company to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

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

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective January 31, 2019.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK L. JOHNSON, Executive Director and Secretary