

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
STAFF RESPONSE TO DATA REQUEST

DATE PREPARED: July 10, 2013	WITNESS: David Gomez
DOCKET: UE-130043	RESPONDER: David Gomez
REQUESTER: PacifiCorp	TELEPHONE: 360-664-1240

REQUEST NO. 1.21:

Referring to page 12, lines 4 - 7. Please cite which state policies are responsible for the “recent and substantial expansion” of power purchases from qualified facilities.

RESPONSE:

In February of 2005, Oregon Public Utility Commission Staff published the report, *Distributed Generation in Oregon: Overview, Regulatory Barriers and Recommendations.*² In the Introduction and Executive Summary, page 1 of the report, it states:

The Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) established in 2002 an objective to identify and remove regulatory barriers to the development of distributed generation.

The report’s definition of distributed generation includes; “...systems that use renewable energy resources to generate electricity without making use of any waste heat.”

The report identified some Oregon State PURPA policies among the regulatory barriers to the development of distributed generation. One of the report’s recommendations was that the OPUC should extend the contract length for Qualifying Facilities, increase the size eligible for standard purchase rates, establish standard purchase agreements for facilities eligible for standard rates, and review methods for valuing avoided costs when a utility is resource-sufficient. The OPUC adopted its Staff’s recommendations in Docket UM 1129, Order Nos. 05-584 (May 13, 2005); 06-538 (September 20, 2006) and 07-360 (August 20, 2007).³ As PacifiCorp’s service territory in California is small, it is Staff’s understanding that the California Public Utilities Commission has adopted policies consistent with OPUC policies governing the purchase of power from QF’s in California.

² Appendix B of the report includes tables showing the amount of capacity in MW from PURPA facilities (QF’s) selling to Oregon’s investor-owned utilities. For PacifiCorp, Appendix B identifies 60 MW of capacity. In this case, Company’s workpapers identify almost 200 MW of QF capacity under contract; an increase of over 300 percent.

³ See also Oregon Revised Statutes, Chapter 758 — Utility Rights of Way and Territory Allocation; Cogeneration, Section 758.515, Legislative Findings.