

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT
COMPANY

For an Order Approving a Change in
Depreciation rates Applicable to Electric
Property

DOCKET UE-180778

ORDER 03

GRANTING SUSPENSION; NOTICE
OF STATUS CONFERENCE

**(Set for September 4, 2019,
at 11 a.m.)**

BACKGROUND

- 1 On September 13, 2018, Pacific Power & Light Company (Pacific Power or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission in this docket a petition requesting approval of a proposed change to its depreciation rates applicable to electric property (Petition).
- 2 At the request of the Company, the Commission commenced an adjudicative proceeding and convened a prehearing conference on December 20, 2018, to establish a procedural schedule for the proceeding.
- 3 On February 20, 2019, the Company requested that the procedural schedule in this docket be suspended and held in abeyance until additional information is available through the Company's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) stakeholder process. The Company explained that its 2019 IRP filing deadline had been extended to August 1, 2019, and that its IRP analysis may have an effect on parties positions regarding the depreciation study pertinent to this case. The Company also represented that all other parties either join or do not oppose the request for suspension.¹

¹ See WAC 480-07-385(2)(b).

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

4 WAC 480-07-385(2)(b) states that the Commission will grant a request to suspend the procedural schedule “unless it is inconsistent with the public interest or the commission's administrative needs.”

5 We agree with the Company that the additional analysis it intends to perform in its IRP may have an effect on the positions of the parties in this proceeding and, under these circumstances, we do not find that suspending the procedural schedule in this matter is inconsistent with the public interest.

6 The Company requested an effective date of January 1, 2021. There is more than sufficient time for a pause or suspension of the procedural schedule. We, therefore, find that the suspension requested is reasonable and will not result in harm to the parties, the public interest, or the Commission’s administrative needs.

7 It is important that this proceeding not remain in an indeterminate state with no plan for proceeding. We find that it is necessary, therefore, to set a status conference to keep this proceeding on track, but the parties may bring a proposal for a new procedural schedule prior to that conference.

8 Accordingly, we find that it is not inconsistent with the public interest or the Commission’s administrative needs to grant the Company’s request. Additionally, because no party opposes the request, we find that the Company’s request should be granted.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

9 (1) The Commission is an agency of the state of Washington, vested by statute with authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including electric companies.

10 (2) Pacific Power is engaged in the business of providing electric services within the state of Washington and is a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.

11 (3) According to WAC 480-07-385(2)(b), the Commission will grant a request to suspend a procedural schedule when all parties either join or do not oppose the

request, unless granting the request would be inconsistent with the public interest or the Commission's administrative needs.

- 12 (4) No party opposes Pacific Power's request to suspend the procedural schedule in Docket UE-180778.
- 13 (5) Granting the request to suspend the procedural schedule in Docket UE-180778 is not inconsistent with the public interest or the Commission's administrative needs.
- 14 (6) We find, however, that it is necessary for the orderly administration of this proceeding to set a status conference for the purpose of addressing what procedural schedule may be necessary going forward.
- 15 (7) We will hold a status conference in this docket on September 4, 2019, at 11 a.m., in the Commission's Hearing Room, Second Floor, Richard Hemstad Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 16 (1) Pacific Power and Light Company's request to suspend the procedural schedule in Docket UE-180778 is granted.
- 17 (2) The Commission hereby gives notice that it will hold a status conference in Docket UE-180778 on September 4, 2019, at 11 a.m., in the Commission's Hearing Room, Second Floor, Richard Hemstad Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective February 22, 2019.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

ANDREW J. O'CONNELL
Administrative Law Judge