BEFORE THE WASHINGTON

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| In the Matter of  PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT  COMPANY,  Petition For a Rate Increase Based on a Modified Commission Basis Report, Two-Year Rate Plan, and Decoupling Mechanism. | Docket UE-15\_\_\_\_  PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT COMPANY’S MOTION FOR STANDARD PROTECTIVE ORDER (**Expedited Treatment Requested**) |

# I. RELIEF REQUESTED

*1* In conjunction with the petition for a rate increase based upon a modified commission basis report, two-year rate plan, and decoupling mechanism filed by Pacific Power & Light Company (Pacific Power or Company), a division of PacifiCorp, on November 25, 2015, Pacific Power moves for the entry of the standard protective order by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) under WAC 480-07-420(1). Pacific Power seeks expedited treatment of this motion to ensure that its confidential information is covered by a standard protective order as promptly as possible. Pacific Power’s representatives in this proceeding are:

Confidential per WAC 480-07-160

**REDACTED VERSION**

**REDACTED VERSION**

**REDACTED VERSION**

Confidential per WAC 480-07-160

**REDACTED VERSION**

**REDACTED VERSION**

**REDACTED VERSION**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Matthew McVee  Assistant General Counsel  Pacific Power  825 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 1800  Portland, OR 97232  Phone: (503) 813-5585  [matthew.mcvee@pacificorp.com](mailto:matthew.mcvee@pacificorp.com) | Katherine McDowell  McDowell Rackner & Gibson, PC  419 SW 11th Avenue, Suite 400  Portland, OR 97205  Phone: (503) 595-3924  [katherine@mcd-law.com](mailto:katherine@mcd-law.com) |
| R. Bryce Dalley  Vice President, Regulation  Pacific Power  825 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 2000  Portland, OR 97232  Phone: (503) 813-6389  [bryce.dalley@pacificorp.com](mailto:bryce.dalley@pacificorp.com) | PacifiCorp Washington Dockets  825 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 2000  Portland, OR 97232  [WashingtonDockets@PacifiCorp.com](mailto:WashingtonDockets@PacifiCorp.com) |

# II. BACKGROUND AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT

*2* On November 25, 2015, Pacific Power filed a petition requesting authorization to increase its electric rates, adopt a two-year rate plan beginning on May 1, 2016, with a second increase effective May 1, 2017, and approve a decoupling mechanism. Pacific Power marked information contained on certain pages of its supporting testimony and exhibits as confidential. Under WAC 480-07-510(3), the Company provided workpapers in support of its filing, portions of which are also marked confidential. Pending entry of the Commission’s standard protective order, the Company designated this information as confidential under the Commission’s general rule on confidentiality, WAC 480-07-160, and under RCW 80.04.095.

*3* The information that Pacific Power marked “confidential” includes commercially sensitive information regarding the Company’s pricing strategy, fuel costs, contracts, reports, and other terms that could be misappropriated by parties for their commercial benefit and to the Company’s and its customers’ detriment. In discovery, parties to this proceeding may request other types of information that is commercially valuable to the Company or involves confidential information of customers, employees, business counter-parties, or other third-parties. Pacific Power minimized the amount of information it designated as confidential to promote the ability of the public to review the filing and participate in this case.

*4* The Commission has authority to grant Pacific Power’s motion under WAC 480-07-420(1), which allows the Commission to enter “a standard form of protective order to promote the free exchange of information when parties reasonably anticipate that discovery in a proceeding will call for the production of confidential information.” Under WAC 480-07-0423(3)(a), a protective order “is intended to protect information that might compromise a company’s ability to compete fairly or that otherwise might impose a business risk if disseminated” publicly. There is ample Commission precedent for the entry of protective orders in general rate cases, including the protective order the Commission entered in Pacific Power’s 2014 general rate case.[[1]](#footnote-1)

*5* The material Pacific Power seeks to protect in this case is the type of information that is intended to be eligible for confidential protections under WAC 480-07-423(3)(a). Public release of any of the confidential information could compromise the Company’s ability to compete fairly and impose a business risk to the Company. The result would be increased costs for Pacific Power and, ultimately, its customers.

# III. CONCLUSION

*6* For the reasons set forth above, Pacific Power respectfully requests that the Commission enter its standard form of protective order in this case.

|  |
| --- |
| Respectfully submitted this 25th day of November 2015.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Katherine McDowell  WSBA Number: 18560  McDowell, Rackner & Gibson PC  419 S.W. Eleventh Avenue, Suite 400  Portland, OR 97205  Telephone: (503) 595-3924  [Katherine@mcd-law.com](mailto:Katherine@mcd-law.com)  Matthew McVee  Assistant General Counsel  Pacific Power  825 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 1800  Portland, OR 97232  Telephone: (503) 813-5585  [matthew.mcvee@pacificorp.com](mailto:matthew.mcvee@pacificorp.com)  Attorneys for Pacific Power & Light Company |

1. *Washington Utils. & Trans. Comm. v. PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power & Light Company,* Docket UE-140762, Order 02 (May 14, 2014). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)