

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	
TRANSPORTATION)	
COMMISSION,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	DOCKET UE-061546
)	
PACIFICORP D/B/A PACIFIC)	
POWER & LIGHT COMPANY,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
)	
.....)	
)	DOCKET UE-060817
In the Matter of the Petition of)	
)	ORDER 04 ¹
PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT)	
COMPANY)	GRANTING MOTION FOR
)	CONSOLIDATION
For an Accounting Order Approving)	
Deferral of Certain Costs Related to)	NOTICE ALLOWING PETITIONS
the MidAmerican Energy Holdings)	TO INTERVENE
Company Transition.)	(To be filed by February 20, 2007)
)	
.....)	

MEMORANDUM

1 Docket UE-061546 is a general rate proceeding concerning revised tariff sheets filed on October 3, 2006, by PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power & Light Company (PacifiCorp). The Commission suspended operation of the tariffs by Order 01 entered on October 10, 2006, and set the matter for hearing.

¹ No prior orders have been entered in Docket UE-060817. However, for the sake of consistency, this order is denominated as Order 04 in both Docket UE-060817 and Docket UE-061546. Future order numbers will follow seriatim.

- 2 Docket UE-060817 was initiated by PacifiCorp's Petition for Accounting Order (Petition) filed on May 19, 2006. According to paragraph 4 of the Petition, PacifiCorp seeks "an accounting order authorizing capitalization of the [merger related] transition costs through March 2007," followed by an amortization period beginning April 1, 2007, or "at the implementation of the next general rate case." Among other things, these "transition costs" relate to severance payments PacifiCorp made to departing employees, and the cost of new software, all occasioned by the recent acquisition of PacifiCorp by MidAmerican Holdings Company. The Commission has not yet set the Petition for hearing.
- 3 On January 30, 2007, Commission Staff and PacifiCorp filed jointly a Motion for Consolidation seeking a Commission order consolidating the accounting petition docket into the current rate case docket for purposes of hearing and decision.
- 4 Docket UE-061546 is the "next general rate case" referred to in PacifiCorp's accounting petition in Docket UE-060817. In the general rate case, PacifiCorp is proposing an accounting adjustment that reflects in the Company's proposed rates the accounting treatment for transition costs that the Company seeks in its Petition. Various parties to the general rate case have conducted discovery on this proposed adjustment, according to the joint Motion.
- 5 No one opposed the joint Motion for Consolidation within the five business days allowed under the Commission's procedural rules for filing written responses. *WAC 480-07-375(4)*.
- 6 The Commission has discretion to consolidate dockets for hearing and/or disposition. *WAC 480-07-320*. Dockets UE-061546 and UE-060817 have common issues of fact regarding the treatment of "transition costs." Consolidation will promote efficiency, by bringing before the Commission in one proceeding all accounting issues related to these transition costs. Consolidation will not cause delay, because these issues have been the subject of discovery in the rate case docket. The only pending petition for intervention in Docket UE-060817 is by the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities, which is already an intervenor in Docket UE-061546.
- 7 The Commission finds good cause to consolidate these dockets and set the matters pending in Docket UE-060817 for hearing. By notice given below, the Commission

provides an opportunity during which interested persons may file timely petitions to intervene now that the matters in Docket UE-060817 are set for hearing.² WAC 480-07-55.

ORDER

8 THE COMMISSION ORDERS that the joint Motion for Consolidation is granted and Docket UE-060817 is consolidated with Docket UE-06146 for purposes of hearing.

NOTICE

9 **The Commission gives notice that anyone who desires to appear and participate as a party concerning the matters pending in Docket UE-060817 must file a written petition to intervene in accordance with the requirements of WAC 480-07-355 no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 20, 2007.**

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective February 9, 2007.

WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DENNIS J. MOSS
Administrative Law Judge

² ICNU will be a party to the consolidated proceeding without taking any further action.