

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT
COMPANY,

Respondent.

DOCKET UE-190458

ORDER 05

GRANTING LEAVE TO FILE
SUPPLEMENTAL TESTIMONY

BACKGROUND

- 1 On May 26, 2015, the Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) issued the final order in Docket UE-140762 (Order 09), authorizing Pacific Power & Light Company (Pacific Power or Company) to implement a Power Cost Adjustment Mechanism (PCAM). The PCAM allows for positive or negative adjustments to the Company's rates to account for fluctuations in power costs outside of an authorized band for power-cost recovery in base rates. Under the Settlement Stipulation approved by Order 09, Pacific Power is required to file by June 1 of each year a request to confirm the power costs of the prior calendar year and authority to defer any costs that exceed established thresholds under the PCAM.
- 2 On June 3, 2019, Pacific Power submitted its 2018 PCAM filing, including direct testimony and exhibits, as well as supporting workpapers. On July 15, 2019, Commission staff (Staff) filed a letter with the Commission stating that the parties participating in the review of the PCAM filing had agreed to extend the review period to November 22, 2019. On October 24, 2019, the Commission issued Order 01 in this docket, suspending the PCAM filing. Also on October 24, 2019, the Commission directed Staff initiate a prudence investigation into the 2018 outage at the Colstrip Generating Station, which is co-owned by Pacific Power and other entities. The results of this investigation will affect Pacific Power's 2018 PCAM filing, particularly regarding costs incurred to acquire replacement power due to the 2018 outage.

3 On November 21, 2019, the Commission convened a prehearing conference at its
headquarters in Lacey, Washington, before Administrative Law Judge Nelli Doroshkin.¹
At the prehearing conference, the presiding officer explained that, should the Company
desire to file supplemental testimony on December 5, 2019, it must seek leave from the
Commission to do so. This direction was memorialized in the procedural schedule issued
by the presiding officer in Order 04, Prehearing Conference Order, on November 22,
2019.

4 On December 5, 2019, the Company filed with the Commission in this docket
supplemental testimony and a motion to allow supplemental testimony (Motion).² No
party filed a response to the Motion.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

5 In the aforementioned Staff investigation into the 2018 Colstrip outage in Docket
UE-190882, Pacific Power and the other parties to that proceeding jointly requested
modifications to the procedural schedule to, among other things, permit Pacific Power to
file supplemental testimony on December 5, 2019. On November 26, 2019, The
Commission granted the parties' joint request in that matter and issued a Notice Revising
Procedural Schedule and Notice of Hearing (now set for February 14, 2020, at 9:30
a.m.).³

6 Pacific Power's supplemental testimony permitted by the Commission in Docket
UE-190882 is the same as the supplemental testimony the Company now seeks
permission to file in this docket. All the parties agreed to the procedural revisions in
Docket UE-190882. Here, no party filed a response or otherwise indicated any opposition
the Motion.

¹ On December 17, 2019, the Commission issued a Notice of Substitution of Presiding Officer, which reassigned Administrative Law Judge Andrew J. O'Connell to this matter.

² Pacific Power's Motion is properly styled as a motion for leave to file supplemental testimony. *See* WAC 480-07-460(1)(a). The Commission liberally construes pleadings and motions to effect just results, and considers pleadings and motions based primarily on the relief requested instead of relying solely on the name of the document. WAC 480-07-395(4). The Commission, therefore, accepts the Company's filing as a motion for leave to file supplemental testimony.

³ *In re the Investigation of Avista Corp. d/b/a Avista Utils., Puget Sound Energy, and Pacific Power & Light Co. Regarding Prudency of Outage and Replacement Power Costs*, Docket UE-190882, Notice Revising Procedural Schedule and Notice of Hearing (Nov. 26, 2019).

7 The Company supports its request by explaining that:

Through discussions with Staff, Pacific Power determined that it would be the most helpful to parties in both dockets for Pacific Power to file supplemental testimony to provide a full narrative on the 2018 Colstrip Outage and addressing many of the issues that had been raised in the discovery process.

...

Pacific Power's testimony provides a narrative detailing the events leading up to the outage, the steps taken after the outage occurred, and the results of the subsequent inquiries conducted through the root cause analysis and by the Montana Department of Environment Quality. Not only does this filing support a more robust record for the Commission, it also supports Pacific Power's efforts to work collaboratively with the other parties in this docket. As a result Pacific Power requests that the Commission grant this motion.⁴

8 The Commission agrees with the Company that its supplemental testimony will provide a necessary, full narrative that will help inform the Commission regarding matters pertinent to this docket as well as Docket UE-190882. Specifically, this additional information will assist the Commission with understanding and evaluating the issues presented in this docket.

9 The Commission, therefore, finds good cause to grant Pacific Power leave to file supplemental testimony in this matter. Accordingly, the Commission determines that the Company's Motion should be granted.

⁴ Motion at 3, ¶¶3, 5.

ORDER

10 The Commission grants Pacific Power & Light Company leave to file its supplemental testimony, filed on December 5, 2019.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective December 30, 2019.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

/s/ *Andrew J. O'Connell*
ANDREW J. O'CONNELL
Administrative Law Judge

NOTICE TO PARTIES: This is an Interlocutory Order of the Commission. Administrative review may be available through a petition for review, filed within 10 days of the service of this Order pursuant to *WAC 480-07-810*.