

July 14, 2000

BENCH REQUESTS

Re: Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v.
PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power & Light,
Docket No. UE-991832

TO PARTIES OF RECORD:

The Commission issues the following bench request to Respondent, PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power & Light:

Bench Request No. 9

Section 12 of the Comprehensive Stipulation states that "[t]he customer charge shall be increased to \$4.25 effective with the first rate change . . ." In view of the proposed four month deferral between implementation of the first rate change and collection of that increase through customer billings, what will be the actual customer charge that appears on customers' bills beginning January 1, 2001?

Bench Request No. 10

Please reconcile the statement in Section 3 of the Comprehensive Stipulation that:

The Company shall not propose any increase in general base rates, other than as set forth in Section 2 above, to be effective earlier than January 1, 2006 with Section 11 of the agreement.

Bench Request No. 11

Against what benchmarks (*e.g.*, capital structure, cost of capital elements, overall return) will the Parties evaluate PacifiCorp's earnings during the "Post Rate-Plan Earnings Review" described in Section 3 of the Comprehensive Settlement? What period of operations will be considered during this review (*i.e.*, will the full Rate Plan Period be evaluated, or will review be limited to the last twelve months for which actual data then are available)?

In responding to this question, please consider and explain the significance of the statement in Section 1.b. of the Comprehensive Settlement that the rate plan

provides the Company with an opportunity to earn reasonable returns, on balance, over the Rate Plan Period. . . .

That is, do the Parties contemplate that PacifiCorp's *average earnings over the Rate Plan Period* will reflect returns on equity, or overall returns, that fall within some range of reasonableness, or is it expected that *each year's returns* will fall within some range of reasonableness?

Please respond no later than 1:30 p.m. Monday, July 17, 2000, with an original and fourteen copies.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. MOSS
Administrative Law Judge