

Docket Nos. UE-191024, UE-190750, UE-190929, UE-190981 and UE-180778 (Consolidated) - Vol. IV

WUTC v. PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power & Light Company

August 5, 2020



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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	Docket Nos. UE-191024,
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	UE-190750, UE-190929,
)	UE-190981 and UE-180778
Complainant,)	(Consolidated)
)	
vs.)	
)	
PACIFICORP d/b/a PACIFIC)	
POWER & LIGHT COMPANY,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

TELEPHONIC PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING, VOLUME IV

Pages 73-82

CHAIR DANNER, COMMISSIONER RENDAHL, AND COMMISSIONER
BALASBAS

August 5, 2020

6:00 P.M.

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop Southeast
Lacey, Washington 98503

REPORTED BY: TAYLER GARLINGHOUSE, CCR 3358

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A P P E A R A N C E S

COMMISSIONERS:

DAVID DANNER, Chair
ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner
JAY BALASBAS, Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT:

ANDREW ROBERTS
NINA SUETAKE
AJAY KUMAR

* * * * *

1 LACEY, WASHINGTON; AUGUST 5, 2020

2 6:00 P.M.

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5 P R O C E E D I N G S

6 CHAIR DANNER: Let's get started. Today is
7 August 5th, 2020, and this is a public comment hearing
8 of -- in the general rate case involving Pacific Power,
9 and that is Docket No. UE-191024.

10 My name is Dave Danner. I'm Chair of the
11 Commission. I'm joined by my colleagues, Commissioner
12 Ann Rendahl and Commissioner Jay Balasbas.

13 I'm going to turn it over to Andrew Roberts
14 from Commission Staff who will give us a summary of the
15 proceeding before us, and then he will also give us some
16 logistics for the conduct of this meeting.

17 So, Andrew, I'm turning it over to you now.

18 MR. ROBERTS: Okay. Thank you, Chairman
19 Danner.

20 Good evening. My name is Andrew Roberts.
21 I'm public involvement representative with the Utilities
22 and Transportation Commission. I'm going to be
23 moderating the -- the comment hearing this evening.

24 I'd like to start with a little background
25 information on the case. PacifiCorp filed a general

1 rate case to increase its rates and charges for electric
2 service effective January 1st, 2021. The settlement was
3 filed by UTC Staff and the Company on July 21st
4 proposing to increase annual electric revenues by 4.15
5 million or 1.18 percent, which includes crediting to
6 customers certain tax reform benefits.

7 This is a significant decrease compared to
8 the Company's original proposal. The Company originally
9 requested a 3.1 million revenue increase offset by the
10 return of 7.1 million in tax benefits, which would have
11 resulted a total revenue decrease of \$4 million.

12 Under the proposed agreement, a residential
13 electric customer would see a decrease of about .53
14 percent in 2021. Rates would then remain steady through
15 2023. An average residential customer using 1,200
16 kilowatt hours could see a decrease of about 55 cents a
17 month. The average monthly bill would be about \$103.81.
18 If approved, new rates would go into effect
19 January 1st, 2021.

20 You'll have the opportunity tonight to
21 provide your comments to the Commissioners pertaining to
22 the settlement details. The Commissioners act as judges
23 in formal filings like this and cannot answer questions.
24 If you have questions, please email me at
25 comments@utc.wa.gov or call 888-333-9882 and ask to

1 speak with Andrew Roberts.

2 If you want additional information about the
3 case including a fact sheet from Public Counsel or wish
4 to follow it, you can do that by going to
5 www.utc.wa.gov/191024.

6 Now a few meeting logistics to help the --
7 this hearing go smoothly. We ask that everyone please
8 mute their phones unless you are called upon to speak.
9 If you called in through Skype, you can mute your
10 connection by clicking on the microphone at the bottom
11 of the Skype screen. A slash will appear across the
12 microphone, and this will be the indicator that you have
13 successfully muted your connection. To unmute, simply
14 click the microphone and the flash will disappear.
15 Please remember to mute your connection again after you
16 are done speaking.

17 If you called in using your phone, use the
18 mute function on your phone or press star 6 on your
19 keypad to mute yourself. Press star 6 again to unmute
20 yourself to speak and press star 6 once more to mute
21 yourself when you are done speaking.

22 Before we go on the formal record, I'd like
23 to get the names of those who wish to speak this
24 evening. Is there anyone with the last names A through
25 G who wishes to speak? Is there anyone with the last

1 name that begins H through N who wishes to speak?
2 Anyone with the last name that begins O through T who
3 wishes to speak? Anyone with the last name U through Z
4 who wishes to speak? Do we have anyone on the line at
5 all tonight that wishes to speak to provide comment?

6 Okay. I will now turn it back over to Chair
7 Danner, Commissioner Rendahl, and Commissioner Balasbas.

8 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very
9 much. Looks like this is going to be a very short
10 public comment hearing. So, again, I'll do one more
11 call out. Is there anybody on the line who wishes to
12 participate tonight? All right. Hearing nothing, we
13 will -- let me turn to my colleagues.

14 Commissioner Balasbas or Commissioner
15 Rendahl, is there anything that you feel we need to deal
16 with before we adjourn the hearing tonight?

17 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: This is Commissioner
18 Rendahl, can you hear me?

19 CHAIR DANNER: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: The only thing I
21 would suggest is we make sure we have a date lined up
22 for the -- any written comments to come into the record.

23 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very
24 much for that suggestion.

25 Let me turn to Public Counsel. Public

1 Counsel, do you have a date in mind?

2 MS. SUETAKE: Do we have any public
3 comments, written -- filed written comments that were
4 submitted?

5 MR. ROBERTS: We do. I -- I haven't seen a
6 count recently, but it's probably somewhere around a
7 dozen, maybe a little less.

8 THE COURT REPORTER: And, I'm sorry, this is
9 the court reporter, who is speaking?

10 MS. SUETAKE: This is Nina Suetake from
11 Public Counsel.

12 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

13 CHAIR DANNER: Can you spell your name,
14 please?

15 MS. SUETAKE: Sure. That's -- my last name
16 is Suetake, that's S, as in Sam, u-e-t, as in Tom,
17 a-k-e. And my first name is Nina, N-i-n-a.

18 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you. So
19 given the volume of comments we've received, do you have
20 a date in mind that you would like to close the public
21 comment record?

22 MS. SUETAKE: It won't take us very long to
23 put that -- put that piece together for filing. It
24 probably -- I mean, a week would probably be good just
25 in case furloughs, but I don't know if you'd like to

1 keep the comment period open longer than that.

2 CHAIR DANNER: I want -- Commissioners, do
3 you have any thoughts? I'm thinking probably two weeks,
4 14 days.

5 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: We usually do it
6 after the -- the hearing itself so...

7 CHAIR DANNER: Okay.

8 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: We can always wait
9 until after the hearing, but maybe a few days after the
10 hearing.

11 CHAIR DANNER: Yeah, why don't we -- how
12 about we do it for seven days after the -- the hearing
13 date.

14 MS. SUETAKE: That's fine for Public
15 Counsel.

16 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Does that work
17 for the Company?

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Chair Danner, this
19 is --

20 Go ahead, Ajay.

21 MR. KUMAR: Thank you, Chair Danner. This
22 is Ajay Kumar on behalf of the Company. I think that
23 would work for the Company.

24 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Okay. So I think
25 that's what we'll do, then. Commissioners, anything

1 else before we close?

2 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Nothing from me,
3 thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: Nothing from me
5 either.

6 CHAIR DANNER: All right. And nothing from
7 me. So without further ado, I will adjourn the hearing
8 and thank you, everyone, for -- for joining. And
9 we'll -- we'll go forward from here. Thanks and have a
10 good evening.

11 (Adjourned at 6:10 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY OF THURSTON

I, Tayler Garlinghouse, a Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

Tayler Garlinghouse

Tayler Garlinghouse, CCR 3358

