

Agenda Date: February 26, 2009
Item Number: A1

Docket: UE-090205
Company: PacifiCorp, d.b.a. Pacific Power & Light

Staff: Thomas Schooley, Regulatory Analyst
Roland Martin, Regulatory Analyst
Kathryn Breda, Regulatory Analyst

Recommendation

Issue a complaint and order suspending the tariffs filed in Docket UE-090205 and set the matter for hearing.

Background

On February 9, 2009, PacifiCorp (“PacifiCorp” or “the company”) filed a general rate case requesting additional revenues of \$38.5 million, about 15.1 percent. If approved as filed, the average residential customer using 1,300 kilowatt-hours of electricity would see an increase of \$13.77 per month.

The company indicates that the main reason for the proposed increase is driven by investment in new generating facilities and increases in net power supply costs.

PacifiCorp also seeks a declaration that its recently acquired Chehalis Generating Plant meets the greenhouse gas emissions performance standards for base load electric generation plants. If given a positive determination, it then seeks recovery of the deferred costs associated with this plant per RCW 80.80.060(6) and WAC 480-100-435.¹ PacifiCorp proposes to collect the deferred costs through its existing Schedule 96, the Hydro Deferral Surcharge, and to rename the schedule as the “Deferral Amortization Surcharge.” The company proposes no change to the present Schedule 96 rate.

PacifiCorp serves about 102,500 residential and 27,300 other customers in the Yakima and Walla Walla areas.

Discussion

Staff reviewed the application and associated work papers for compliance with WAC 480-07-140 and WAC 480-07-510. This filing is a major improvement over the filing of a year ago, but there is room for more detail in the work papers and more support for certain accounting adjustments. Staff needs additional time to thoroughly review the filing through the formal discovery process.

Conclusion

Staff recommends the tariff filing in Docket UE-090205 be suspended and set for hearing.

¹ PacifiCorp filed a “Notice of Deferred Accounting for Chehalis Generation Plant” on or about December 18, 2008. See Docket UE-082252.