BEFORE THE WASHINGTON

## UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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| WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,  Complainant,  v.  PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT COMPANY,  Respondent.  . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .  In the Matter of the Petition of  PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT COMPANY,  For an Order Approving Deferral of Costs Related to Colstrip Outage  . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .  In the Matter of the Petition of  PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT COMPANY,  For an Order Approving Deferral of Costs Related to Declining Hydro Generation  . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  ) | DOCKETS UE-140762 and  UE-140617 (*consolidated*)  ORDER 05  DOCKET UE-131384 *(consolidated)*  ORDER 01  DOCKET UE-140094 *(consolidated)*  ORDER 01  ORDER GRANTING PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT COMPANY’S MOTION AND CONSOLIDATING DOCKETS UE-131384 AND UE-140094 WITH DOCKETS UE-140762 AND UE-140617[[1]](#footnote-1) |

1. **PROCEEDINGS.**  On May 1, 2014, Pacific Power & Light Company (PacifiCorp or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-75, designated as Docket UE-140762. The purpose of the filing is to increase rates and charges for electric service provided to customers in the state of Washington (General Rate Case). The Company requests an electric rate increase of $27.2 million, or 8.5 percent. In addition, the Company seeks amortization over one year of $4.9 million, or 1.5 percent, related to deferrals for an outage at Unit 4 of the Colstrip generating plant, low hydro conditions, and depreciation.
2. On April 14, 2014, PacifiCorp filed with the Commission a new tariff - Schedule 90 entitled “Hydro Investment Adjustment”, designated as Docket UE-140617. The purpose of this schedule is to recover costs associated with the Merwin Fish Collector project (Merwin Project). The proposed tariff would result in an overall increase of 0.5 percent, or $.60 per month, to the average customer using 1,300 kilowatt-hours per month. As an alternative to allowing the separate tariff rider to go into effect by operation of law, PacifiCorp included in its filing an accounting petition for authorization to defer the revenue requirement associated with the Merwin Project. In Order 01 in Docket UE-140617, the Commission suspended the tariff, authorized the deferral, and consolidated the matter for consideration in the context of the Company’s pending General Rate Case in Docket UE-140762.
3. On July 26, 2013, PacifiCorp filed with the Commission a Petition for an order authorizing the Company to defer from the date of the Petition forward its costs for repair and replacement purchase power for an outage at the 740-megawatt unit 4 of the Colstrip generating plant located in Colstrip, Montana, designated as Docket UE-131384 (Colstrip Deferral). PacifiCorp seeks deferral of these costs to track and preserve them for later incorporation into rates.
4. On January 17, 2014, PacifiCorp filed with the Commission a Petition for an order authorizing the Company to defer from the date of the petition forward its increased power costs caused by declines in hydro generation, due to abnormally dry weather conditions, designated as Docket UE-140094 (Hydro Deferral). PacifiCorp seeks deferral of these costs to track and preserve them for later ratemaking treatment.
5. **MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE.** On June 13, 2014, PacifiCorp filed a motion to consolidate Dockets UE-131384 and UE-140094 with Dockets UE-140762 and UE-1409617 (consolidated) for purposes of hearing and determination. PacifiCorp asserts that consolidating the Colstrip and Hydro deferrals with the 2014 General Rate Case will promote regulatory efficiency by resolving related factual and legal issues in one proceeding.
6. On June 18, 2014, Commission Staff filed a letter indicating that it does not object to PacifiCorp’s request.
7. On June 19, 2014, Public Counsel and Boise White Paper, L.L.C. each filed letters indicating that they also do not object to PacifiCorp’s request.
8. Pursuant to WAC 480-07-320, the Commission may consolidate two or more proceedings in which the facts or principles of law are related. The Commission agrees that the facts and principles of law are related, and consolidation would promote judicial economy and administrative efficiency. It is appropriate that PacifiCorp’s request is granted, and Dockets UE-131384 and UE-140094 are consolidated for hearing and determination with Dockets UE-140762 and UE-140617.

**ORDER**

1. THE COMMISSION ORDERS That Pacific Power & Light Company’s Motion to Consolidate is granted and Dockets UE-131384 and UE-140094 are consolidated with previously consolidated dockets UE-140762 and UE-140617 for hearing and determination pursuant to WAC 480-07-320. All four dockets are consolidated under Docket UE-140762.

Dated at Olympia, Washington, and effective June 24, 2014.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DENNIS J. MOSS

Administrative Law Judge

1. Docket UE-140762 is the “lead” docket for purposes of numbering subsequent orders in all four proceedings and for maintenance of the Commission’s records. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)