

**Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission** Online Library Document**General Info**

Document Name: Regulatory staff and PacifiCorp propose five-year plan for electricity rates  
Description: Press release announcing stipulation filed by all parties in the PacifiCorp rate case

**Body**

**Editor's Note:** This news release outlines a settlement agreement signed by the staff members of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC). In formal proceedings, such as this case, commission staff function as an independent party. This proposed settlement is not final until reviewed and approved by the three-member commission. After consideration of the record of evidence presented by all witnesses, the three-member panel will issue a signed, written order informing the parties and public of its decision.

Electricity customers of PacifiCorp would have relatively stable rates for the next five years under a proposed settlement agreement filed today at the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC).

The proposed settlement, if approved by the commission, would replace the company's request made late last year to raise customer rates by more than 15.3 percent over a two-year period. Instead, the settlement proposes a rate plan that would hike electricity rates by 3 percent on Jan. 1, 2001 with another 3 percent increase one year later, followed by a 1 percent increase on Jan. 1, 2003. After that date, rates would be frozen until Jan. 1, 2006.

The proposed settlement is not final and must be approved by the three-member commission. The WUTC will hold a public forum on the proposed settlement to be announced at a later date. If members of the public would like to comment but are unable to attend the public meeting, they may write to the secretary of the WUTC at P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, Wash. 98504-7250. Comments also may be sent via e-mail to the following address: [comments@wutc.wa.gov](mailto:comments@wutc.wa.gov).

The proposed plan's first year increase could change based on the outcome of a separate review of PacifiCorp's energy-conservation and low-income weatherization program. The proposed settlement calls on the company to propose how to charge customers for its investments in energy efficiency, including low-income weatherization.

The company's conservation filing would be made later this summer after interested

RMS ✓

stakeholders are convened to discuss the specific characteristics of such a charge. PacifiCorps' original conservation proposal made last year estimated the cost of such a program to be about \$2.8 million or approximately 1.5 percent of base rates.

The first year's rate increase would be offset by two new credits that will appear on customers' bills starting Jan. 1, 2001. One credit would reflect savings resulting from the company's merger with ScottishPower and guaranteed to customers through commitments made during the merger process. The other credit is the customer share of the proceeds resulting from the sale of Centralia Coal Plant. The combined effect of the credits is to reduce the customer's electricity bill by more than 3 percent. The merger credit will appear on bills between January 2001 to December 2004. The Centralia credit will appear on bills through Dec. 2005.

"The rate plan, after taking into account the other credits that will be flowed through to customers, provides for relative rate stability for a period in excess of five years," states the settlement which has been signed by attorneys representing PacifiCorp, regulatory staff of the commission, the office of Public Counsel and organizations advocating for industrial and low-income customers.

PacifiCorp, headquartered in Portland, Ore., serves more than 117,000 electric customers in five Southcentral to Southeastern Washington counties: Yakima, Walla Walla, Kittitas, Garfield and Columbia, including the cities of Yakima, Toppenish, Sunnyside, Walla Walla and Dayton.

###

<b>Classification Info</b>
----------------------------

<b>Creation Info</b>
----------------------

<b>Maintenance Info</b>
-------------------------

*Tim Sweeney was the last to edit this document, on 06/21/2000.*