

**Docket No. UE-210402 - Vol. II**

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

**November 18, 2021**



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UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

VIRTUAL PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING

November 18, 2021

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

Docket No. UE-210402 - Vol. II

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Present:

David Danner, Chairman

Ann Rendahl, Commissioner

Jay Balasbas, Commissioner

Andrew Roberts, Commission staff

Ann Paisner, AAG Public Counsel

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Official Transcript of Interview

Court Certified Transcription

Transcribed by: Debra Riggs Torres, RPR

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2 November 18, 2021

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4 CHAIR DANNER: Today is Thursday, November 18, 2021. And  
5 this is a public hearing of the Utilities and Transportation  
6 Commission. And we're here this evening to deal with two  
7 consolidated cases, and those are PacifiCorp's Power Cost  
8 Only Rate Case, and that's Docket UE-210402 and its  
9 Limited-Issue Rate Filing, which is Docket UE-210532.

10 My name is Dave Danner. I'm chair of the commission, and  
11 I'm joined by my colleagues, Commissioner Ann Rendahl and  
12 Commissioner Jay Balasbas. And we are going to get ready to  
13 take public comment in this case.

14 Let me make a few comments, just to begin, to give a  
15 little background on the case. As I mentioned, there are  
16 two proceedings before us tonight. There's the Power Cost  
17 Only Rate Case, and this is a proceeding that updates costs  
18 associated with electric generation and the acquisition of  
19 energy from the market. It's a single-issue rate case that  
20 adjusts utility rates by updating only the power costs while  
21 the utility's other expenses and revenues remain at levels  
22 set during the company's last general rate case.

23 The second part of this evening is the Limited-Issue Rate  
24 Filing, and this is a narrowly focused rate case that  
25 adjusts specific aspects of the utility rates while leaving

1 other expenses and revenues and levels set during the last  
2 generate case.

3 The PCORC portion of this, as filed by the company,  
4 requests increased revenue of \$13.1 million, or about  
5 3.73 percent. The Limited-Issues Rate Filing would reduce  
6 revenue by \$616,000 and pass back about 2.1 million. And  
7 there has been a multiparty settlement reached in both of  
8 these cases. And if that settlement is approved by the  
9 commission, it would increase revenue to the company by  
10 11.7 million, and the Limited-Issue Rate Filing would  
11 increase the refund 2.8 million.

12 So, tonight, this is an opportunity for you to provide  
13 comments to the commissioners pertaining to the rate case.  
14 The commissioners act as judges in these formal proceedings,  
15 and so we cannot answer any questions from you. We will not  
16 take questions from you, but we will take comment from you.

17 And, in fact, if you do have questions, you can email  
18 comments@utc.wa.gov or call (888) 333-9882 and ask to speak  
19 with Andrew Roberts, and he will direct your question in the  
20 right -- to the right place.

21 I'm going to turn it over now to Andrew. Andrew Roberts  
22 is with Public Involvement Office at the UTC, and he's a  
23 public involvement representative, and he will discuss some  
24 of the logistics for our hearing tonight. Andrew?

25 MR. ROBERTS: Okay. Thank you, Chair Danner.

1           Again, this is Andrew Roberts with commission staff. A  
2           few points for this evening's hearing. We ask that  
3           everybody please mute your connection, unless you're called  
4           on to speak. If you called in through Teams, you can mute  
5           your connection by clicking on the microphone in the top  
6           right of the Teams window. You'll see a slash appear in the  
7           microphone. That indicates that your connection is muted.  
8           When you're called on to speak, you can click that  
9           microphone again to speak. And after you're done, please  
10          remember to mute your connection again.

11          If you called in on the phone, you can press star 6 to  
12          mute yourself. And the same process applies. When you're  
13          called on to speak, press star 6 to unmute yourself. And  
14          when you're done speaking, please press star 6 again.

15          Please wait to be called on for comment. Don't interrupt  
16          other speakers. If you have technical difficulties, we have  
17          two options. You can use the chat feature in Teams, or you  
18          can call me at (360) 664-1101. I'll give that number one  
19          more time, (360) 664-1101. And the chat feature in Teams  
20          should only be used to report technical difficulties.

21          With that, I will turn it back to Chair Danner.

22          CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very much.

23          So let me -- I'm going to go first to the sign-in sheet.  
24          Sandy Lloyd signed in to comment tonight. Sandy Lloyd, are  
25          you on the line tonight.

1 (No oral response)

2 CHAIR DANNER: All right. I will come back to Sandy  
3 Lloyd. Ernesto Aguilar, I see that you are on the  
4 participant list. Do you have comments that you wish to  
5 make tonight?

6 ERNESTO AGUILAR: No, sir.

7 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Well, let me turn back to Sandy  
8 Lloyd.

9 (No oral response)

10 CHAIR DANNER: Well, that is -- that is all I see, so let  
11 me put out a notice. Is there anyone on the call who  
12 has -- who would like -- anybody on the call tonight who  
13 would like to make comments before the commission?

14 (No oral response)

15 CHAIR DANNER: All right. I am not hearing any responses,  
16 but Ann Paisner, I see you are on video. Do you wish to  
17 comment tonight?

18 MS. PAISNER: Yes. Thank you, Chair Danner.

19 I just wanted to introduce myself, and my name's Ann  
20 Paisner. I'm an assistant attorney general in the Public  
21 Counsel Unit of the Attorney General's Office in the state  
22 of Washington. I just wanted to direct the public to our  
23 website, and our email is utility@atg.wa.gov. If anyone  
24 wants to submit a written comment to us, we're going to be  
25 submitting an exhibit that includes any written comments

1 that our office has received regarding these proceedings.  
2 And I believe it should be available -- or you should be  
3 able to submit those comments through the date of the second  
4 hearing, which is actually an issue I wanted to bring up and  
5 ask a question about, since we're combining these two  
6 hearings.

7 I would assume that the record would remain open through  
8 the second hearing in January, which is January 14th, but I  
9 wasn't entirely certain about that. But wanted to provide  
10 our email address and also our snail mail address, if anyone  
11 wants to submit a written comment, and that's Attorney  
12 General's Office, Public Counsel Unit, 800 Fifth Avenue,  
13 Suite 2000, Seattle, Washington, 98104. Thank you.

14 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very much. And, in  
15 fact, I will turn to Andrew, before we close, and make sure  
16 that people know where they can submit written comments  
17 through the end of this.

18 Let me turn to my colleagues, though. We have a hearing  
19 on the Limited-Issue Rate Filing on December 9th, and a  
20 hearing on the Power Cost Only Rate Case on January 14th.  
21 Is it your preference that we leave the record open for  
22 comment through the second hearing?

23 COMM. RENDAHL: Chair Danner, this is Commissioner  
24 Rendahl, and I believe the request in the limited-issue rate  
25 case settlement is to have rates go into effect by

1 January 1st, and so I don't know. It might be useful to  
2 have some discussion between the parties and the judge in  
3 that case about the date for comments.

4 CHAIR DANNER: Yeah. Ann Paisner, that is what I would  
5 propose is that we'll have Judge Howard convene the parties  
6 and they can work that out. But I think that because we  
7 have an effective date for part of this, that we can't  
8 take -- we can't take comment -- and there's no point in  
9 taking comment after we've reached a decision in one of  
10 them. So I would venture that we should set a date that's  
11 sooner, but I will leave that to Judge Howard and to all of  
12 you.

13 MS. PAISNER: Thank you, Chair Danner. I will reach out  
14 to the parties as well and communicate about that with Judge  
15 Howard as well. Thank you.

16 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you so much. I  
17 appreciate it.

18 Let me ask again, is there anyone on the call who wishes  
19 to comment on the proceedings before us tonight?

20 JESSE TORRES: I have a comment.

21 CHAIR DANNER: Yes, sir. Go ahead.

22 JESSE TORRES: My name is Jesse Torres from Yakima,  
23 Washington.

24 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. Sir, before you go any further --

25 JESSE TORRES: And I just wanted to make sure that we're



1 going to be talking about the potential -- or the  
2 increase -- proposed increase on electric rates coming up  
3 the next year, and I just want to make -- rates.

4 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Great. Let me swear you in, if  
5 you don't mind, sir.

6 And, first of all, again, let me ask your name.

7 JESSE TORRES: My name is Jesse Torres. I'm from Yakima,  
8 Washington.

9 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. And you're a PacifiCorp customer?

10 JESSE TORRES: Yes, I am.

11 CHAIR DANNER: All right. So would you raise your right  
12 hand, please. Do you swear --

13 JESSE TORRES: Okay.

14 CHAIR DANNER: Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole  
15 truth, and nothing but the truth?

16 JESSE TORRES: So help you God.

17 CHAIR DANNER: All right. You may go ahead and make your  
18 comments, then, sir.

19 JESSE TORRES: Okay. Well, I just wanted to say right off  
20 the top is I am against any increase of energy cost,  
21 especially when American consumers are going through some  
22 hyperinflation. And it's going to affect every part of our  
23 lives, from food to toilet paper. Okay?

24 All consumers are affected, especially the ones that are  
25 on fixed incomes, like seniors, the middle class, and small

1 businesses. And I think that the timing of this request is  
2 very poor timing on the part of Pacific Power, because the  
3 people are just trying to hold on with what they got, and  
4 this is just the beginning of a lot of things in regards to  
5 inflation. And I just hate to see these people suffer any  
6 more than they're suffering now because of increased energy  
7 rates. My comment.

8 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very much. I  
9 appreciate your calling in tonight and appreciate your  
10 comments.

11 Is there anyone else on the phone tonight who wishes to  
12 comment on the proceedings before us?

13 (No oral response)

14 CHAIR DANNER: All right. I am not hearing anyone else  
15 who wishes to comment, so thank you, Mr. Torres. I  
16 appreciate your being here.

17 JESSE TORRES: Yes.

18 CHAIR DANNER: At this point, Andrew Roberts, maybe you  
19 want to give some information about where we can -- where  
20 folks can submit written comments to be part of this record.

21 MR. ROBERTS: Sure.

22 CHAIR DANNER: Understanding that we have not yet set a  
23 deadline, but certainly for the next -- for the foreseeable  
24 future we will be accepting comments.

25 MR. ROBERTS: Sure. So we can accept comment online at

1 www.utc.wa.gov, for government. We can accept comment  
2 through email at comments@utc.wa.gov. Over the telephone at  
3 (888) 333-9882. And via traditional mail at P.O. Box 47250,  
4 Olympia, Washington, 98504.

5 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you very much.

6 And, again, the hearings in this case and the  
7 Limited-Issue Rate Filing, the hearing will be on  
8 December 9th. And so that is certainly -- we will be taking  
9 comments on this proceeding at least until then. The  
10 hearing on the Power Cost Only Rate Case is January 14th,  
11 but we have not yet established a deadline for taking  
12 comments after December 9th. So I will leave it at that.

13 Let me ask if there is anyone else on the line who wishes  
14 to comment on the proceedings before us?

15 (No oral response)

16 CHAIR DANNER: All right. I am not hearing anyone else.  
17 So unless there is anything else to come before the  
18 commission tonight, I'll turn to my colleagues or to public  
19 counsel?

20 (No oral response)

21 CHAIR DANNER: All right. In that case, I think we are  
22 done for this evening. So thank you, everyone, for  
23 participating, and we are adjourned.

24 (Conclusion of proceedings)

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

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I, the undersigned, do hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing recorded statements, hearings and/or interviews were transcribed under my direction as a certified court reporter; and that the transcript is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and ability, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor financially interested in its outcome.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 7th day of December, 2021.

Debra Riggs Torres  
s/ Debra Riggs Torres, RPR

