

**WUTC v. PacifiCorp / In the Matter of Alliance of
Western Energy Consumers**

Docket No. UE-230172 and UE-210852 - Vol. III

November 20, 2023



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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
vs.)	DOCKET NO. UE-230172
)	UE-210852
PACIFICORP d/b/a PACIFIC POWER &)	
LIGHT COMPANY,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
)	

IN THE MATTER OF ALLIANCE OF WESTERN ENERGY
PUBLIC HEARING - VIA ZOOM

VOLUME III (PAGES 51-60)

CHAIR DAVID DANNER PRESIDING
November 20, 2023

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, Washington 98504

TRANSCRIBED BY: ELIZABETH PATTERSON HARVEY,
FAPR, RPR, WA CCR 2731

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A P P E A R A N C E S :

FOR THE COMMISSION:

Commission Chair David W. Danner
Commissioner Milt Doumit
Commissioner Ann Rendahl

FOR PUBLIC COUNSEL:

Ann Paisner
ann.paisner@atg.wa.gov
Attorney General of Washington
800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000
Seattle, Washington 98104
206.464.7740

ALSO PRESENT:

Corey Dahl - Public Counsel Unit Staff
Aubrey Newton - LiUNA
Andrew Roberts - Commission Staff

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1 November 20, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

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4 CHAIR DANNER: Good evening, everyone.

5 Tonight -- or today is Monday, November 20, 2023, and

6 this is a public comment hearing of the Washington

7 Utilities and Transportation Commission in Docket

8 UE-230172.

9 I'm Dave Danner. I'm chair of the

10 commission. I'm joined by my colleagues, Commissioner

11 Ann Rendahl and Commissioner Milt Doumit.

12 On March 17, 2023, PacifiCorp, doing business

13 as Pacific Power and Light Company, filed with the

14 commission a request that we approve a two-year rate plan

15 under which the company would increase its revenue by

16 approximately 26.8 million in the first year, which would

17 be effective March 1, 2024, and approximately 27.9

18 million in the second year. These increases, the company

19 says, are due to capital investments and increased power

20 costs, among other things.

21 Under the company's proposal, the average

22 residential customer using 1,200 kilowatt hours per month

23 would see a rate increase of \$12.11 in the first year,

24 followed by an increase of \$9.34 in the second year on

25 top of that first-year rate increase.

1 The company's proposal includes a number of
2 particulars, such as a proposal for an increase of \$2.25
3 in the basic charge for single family dwellings and the
4 elimination of inclining blocks or tiered rate structures
5 in favor of a seasonal rate.

6 The commission will hold an evidentiary
7 hearing in this case beginning at 9:00 a.m. on December
8 11, and continuing through December 12.

9 The commission at that time will also
10 consider a petition for an accounting order in another
11 docket, and that's Docket UE-210852, which has been
12 consolidated with this case. In that petition, the
13 Alliance for Western Energy Consumers, or AWEC, requests
14 the commission enter an order requiring PacifiCorp to
15 defer from the date of the petition the revenue generated
16 by the company's increased sale of fly ash from its Jim
17 Bridger coal plant in Wyoming.

18 In preparation for the hearing, for the
19 evidentiary hearing, the commission is currently
20 reviewing written testimony in this case presented by the
21 company as well as testimony from several intervening
22 parties, including Walmart, the Sierra Club, the Alliance
23 of Western Energy Consumers, the Northwest Energy
24 Coalition, and The Energy Project.

25 The commission regulatory staff also provides

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1 testimony as an independent party in this case.

2 And the attorney general's office of public
3 counsel represents the interests of the public in our
4 proceedings and has provided extensive testimony in this
5 docket.

6 Tonight, the commission is meeting to hear
7 from members of the public who are not formal parties to
8 this case about their views on the company's proposed
9 rate increases. Your comments tonight will be made part
10 of the record in this proceeding and will be considered
11 by the commissioners when we decide whether to grant,
12 reject, or modify the company's request.

13 To be clear, the commission's purpose tonight
14 is to listen. Know that we will not engage in debate or
15 dialogue with commenters tonight, nor will we take
16 questions.

17 As I mentioned, the interests of the public,
18 including residential and small business customers of
19 Pacific Power, are represented by the Public Counsel Unit
20 within the Office of the Attorney General. And Corey
21 Dahl (phonetic) of the office of public counsel is in
22 attendance tonight and can help with any questions you
23 have.

24 So I will turn it back to Andrew. The
25 commission is accepting written comments in this docket,

1 I expect at least through the date of the public -- or of
2 the evidentiary hearing, but perhaps you can put up on
3 the screen the address at which -- to which folks can
4 file comments.

5 ANDREW ROBERTS: I can do that. Did you want
6 me to cover the meeting ground rules this evening,
7 or...?

8 CHAIR DANNER: I think we can dispense with
9 those if -- so far I'm -- I don't have a sign-in sheet,
10 but it looks like we don't have a large crowd tonight.

11 ANDREW ROBERTS: There was one individual on
12 the sign-in sheet, Maureen Chandler (phonetic). I'm not
13 sure if she is here this evening.

14 CHAIR DANNER: Maureen Chandler, are you on
15 the line? All right, I'm not --

16 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Chair Danner, I do see
17 a phone number. Maybe if she has instructions on how to
18 unmute herself, unless that's a phone number for somebody
19 that's already on the call.

20 CHAIR DANNER: That 503 phone number, that
21 might be PacifiCorp.

22 All right. Let me ask if there is anyone on
23 the call tonight who wishes to comment in this docket or
24 make comments to the commission tonight.

25 ANDREW ROBERTS: So to unmute on the phone,

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1 you would need to press star 6.

2 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Is there anyone on
3 the call tonight who wishes to comment in this docket?

4 Aubrey Newton from LiUNA (phonetic), I see
5 you're on the call tonight. Do you wish to comment, or
6 do you just wish to observe?

7 AUBREY NEWTON: Thank you, Commissioner. We
8 are just here to observe this evening. Thank you.

9 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. It may be a short
10 meeting.

11 Okay. All right. I think if there is no one
12 here to testify tonight, Commissioners, we will leave --
13 all right. So Andrew has put up the information for
14 commenting. Do we wish to set a deadline tonight,
15 Commissioners, for -- a deadline for comments?

16 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: That is the usual
17 process. And --

18 (Overlapping speech).

19 ANN PAISNER: Hi, this Ann Paisner for public
20 counsel.

21 (Audio interruption).

22 CHAIR DANNER: Whoever is speaking, can you
23 mute your phone?

24 All right. Thank you.

25 So Ann Paisner, we have an evidentiary hearing

1 on the 11th and 12th. Do you have a recommendation for a
2 deadline for written comments?

3 (Audio interruption).

4 ANN PAISNER: I believe that we are given
5 five days following the conclusion of the hearing, since
6 that's when the record closes. So if that is happening
7 on --

8 CHAIR DANNER: Hang on a second.

9 ANN PAISNER: Usually we get the date for
10 filing at -- we get the --

11 CHAIR DANNER: At the evidentiary hearing?

12 ANN PAISNER: -- exhibit number at the
13 evidentiary hearing.

14 CHAIR DANNER: All right.

15 ANN PAISNER: And we set a date for the
16 filing. But it's typically five to ten days after the
17 record closes.

18 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Then we can -- at
19 this point, then, we will just make clear that we will be
20 accepting comments at least through December 12. And we
21 can determine at the evidentiary hearing when the
22 deadline is. Commissioners, if that's okay with you?

23 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: That's fine. Thank
24 you.

25 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Yes.

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1 CHAIR DANNER: All right. I think that's it,
2 then. We have no further business to come before the
3 commission tonight. So a short meeting, and --

4 ANDREW ROBERTS: There is a new number signed
5 in. If you're here tonight to provide comment, you can
6 press star 6 to unmute yourself if you're participating
7 via the phone.

8 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Apparently not.
9 So unless there is anything else,
10 Commissioners, I'm going to adjourn this meeting.

11 Thank you, everyone. I appreciate your time
12 tonight, and we will see you certainly on December 11th.
13 All right. Our meeting is adjourned.

14 (Proceedings concluded at 6:09 p.m.)

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STATE OF WASHINGTON)
)
COUNTY OF KING)

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 Washington Certified Court Reporter; and that the transcript is true and accurate to the best of my ability; that I am not an employee or relative 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 21st day of December, 2023.




Elizabeth Patterson Harvey, WA CCR 2731