Service Date: July 28, 2021

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

DOCKET UE-210532

Complainant,

ORDER 01

v.

PACIFICORP d/b/a PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT COMPANY,

Respondent.

COMPLAINT AND ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS

BACKGROUND

- On July 1, 2021, PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power & Light Company (PacifiCorp or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective tariff WN U-76, as listed in the appendix attached to this Order. PacifiCorp characterizes its filing as a Limited-Issue Rate Filing (LIRF). In PacifiCorp's last general rate case (GRC), the Commission approved a full settlement, subject to conditions, which required the Company to file a LIRF in 2021.¹
- Specifically, PacifiCorp requests a prudency review of specified major capital additions placed in service after May 1, 2020, and included in rates approved in its last GRC, and proposes a resulting decrease in electric rates of \$616,600 as well as a refund of approximately \$2.1 million to customers. The revised tariffs have a proposed effective date of January 1, 2022.

¹ WUTC v. PacifiCorp dba Pacific Power & Light Co., Docket UE-191024 et. al., Final Order 09/07/12 at ¶ 58-62 (December 14, 2020).

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

PacifiCorp's requested tariff revisions might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public, and PacifiCorp has not demonstrated at this point that the revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. Pursuant to RCW 80.04.130(1), the Commission, therefore, suspends the tariff filing and will hold public hearings, if necessary, to determine whether the proposed rates are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, regulations, and practices of public service companies, including electric companies.
- 5 (2) PacifiCorp is an electric company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 6 (3) The tariff revisions filed with the Commission by PacifiCorp on July 1, 2021, pursuant to the terms of a full settlement in its last GRC would modify the charges and rates for service provided by PacifiCorp and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- PacifiCorp has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
- In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 80.04.130, the Commission believes it is necessary to investigate PacifiCorp's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of PacifiCorp's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of PacifiCorp's operations.
- 9 (6) The Commission finds that this docket meets the criteria of WAC 480-07-400(2)(b)(i) and that the parties may conduct discovery pursuant to the Commission's discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 425.
- As required by RCW 80.04.130(4), PacifiCorp bears the burden to prove that the proposed tariff revisions are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

PacifiCorp may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) The tariff revisions filed with the Commission by PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power & Light Company on July 1, 2021, are suspended.
- 13 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 14 (3) PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power & Light Company must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period unless authorized by the Commission.
- The Commission will institute an investigation of PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power & Light Company's books, accounts, practices, activities, property, and operations as described above.
- 16 (5) The parties may conduct discovery pursuant to the Commission's discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400-425.

PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power & Light Company shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation to the extent required in Chapter 80.20 RCW.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective July 28, 2021.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chair

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner

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JAY M. BALASBAS, Commissioner

Appendix WN U-76

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