Docket UE-220376 - Vol. I

WUTC v. Pacificorp dba Pacific Power & Light Company

June 30, 2022



206.287.9066 | 800.846.6989

COURT REPORTING AND LEGAL VIDEO

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	BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION	1 2 3	A P P E A R A N C E S (Cont.) FOR ALLIANCE OF WESTERN ENERGY CONSUMERS: SOMMER J. MOSER
	WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND) DOCKET UE-220376 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	4	Davison Van Cleve 1750 Southwest Harbor Way Suite 450
) Complainant,)	5	Portland, Oregon 97201 971-710-1154
	vs. ')	6 7	sjm@dvclaw.com FOR THE ENERGY PROJECT:
	PACIFICORP, d/b/a PACIFIC) POWER & LIGHT COMPANY,)	8	SIMON FFITCH
	Respondent.)	9	Attorney at Law 321 High School Road Northeast Suite D3
	VIRTUAL PREHEARING CONFERENCE	11	Bainbridge Island, Washington 98110 206-669-8197
	VOLUME I	12	simon@ffitchlaw.com
	Pages 1-22 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANDREW J. O'CONNELL	13 14 15	FOR RENEWABLE NORTHWEST: MAX GREENE Renewable Northwest 421 Southwest Sixth Avenue
	Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission 621 Woodland Square Loop Southeast Lacey, Washington 98503	16 17	Suite 1400 Portland, Oregon 97204 503-223-4544 max@renewablenw.org
	(All participants appeared via videoconference.)	18 19 20 21	* * * *
	DATE TAKEN: JUNE 30, 2022 REPORTED BY: ROSE DETLOFF, RMR, CCR #21036100	22 23 24 25	
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	Page 2		Page 4
1	APPEARANCES	1	LACEY, WASHINGTON; JUNE 30, 2022
2 3		2	LACEY, WASHINGTON; JUNE 30, 2022 1:32 p.m.
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1 (Pages 1 to 4)

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1	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.	1	alleges has been violated by Pacificorp.
2	And for Pacificorp?	2	I have set a response deadline of July 12th,
3	MR. ROGALA: Thank you, Your Honor. Zack	3	2022, for these three motions and will therefore not be
4	Rogala, pronouns he/him, counsel for Pacificorp.	4	addressing these motions at this prehearing conference.
5	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.	5	We will, however, address petitions to intervene, a
6	For Public Counsel?	6	procedural schedule, and several other procedural
7	MS. PAISNER: Good afternoon. This is Ann	7	issues.
8	Paisner, and I'm here on behalf of Public Counsel, and	8	In regards to those motions, hearing from a
9	my pronouns are she/her. Thank you.	9	number of interested organizations, I am going to invite
10	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.	10	and allow those entities that were involved in Docket
11	And for AWEC?	11	UE-210289 (sic) to go ahead and file a response in both
12	MS. MOSER: Good afternoon. Sommer Moser on	12	dockets in response to Staff's motion to consolidate
13	behalf of AWEC, and my pronouns are she/her.	13	this docket with that one.
14	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.	14	And, for the record, I'm noting Renewable
15	I also notice a number of other attorneys that	15	Northwest and The Energy Project as two organizations
16	I'm familiar with that have joined us today, and before	16	that have noted interest.
17	we came on the record, I asked if there were going to be	17	Okay. I'd like to move forward now to the
18	any other appearances. I'd like to open up now for	18	petitions to intervene. Okay. One moment.
19	those attorneys if you would like to at least state that	19	Mr. Rogala, go ahead.
20	you're here.	20 21	MR. ROGALA: Thank you, Your Honor. I appreciate setting a date certain to respond to the
21	My understanding is that you have not yet	22	motion to consolidate.
22 23	decided to participate in this docket, but if you would	23	Pacificorp doesn't have a position on the
23 24	like to make an appearance for the record, I'll allow that.	24	motion yet. We see pros and cons both ways. But we'd
25	MR. FFITCH: Yes. Thank you, Your Honor.	25	like to reserve our right to respond to the motion until
	Page 6		Page 8
1	Simon ffitch on behalf of The Energy Project. We would	1	after Your Honor makes a decision on the dispositive
2	like to make an appearance for the record today. We are	2	motions. So we're wondering if we can make that request
3	reserving intervention until there's a decision on the	3	and make a decision on that issue.
4	consolidation motion.	4	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Let me think about
5	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.	5	that. Mr. Rogala, what's your thinking behind making
6	And for Renewable Northwest?	6	that request?
7	MR. GREENE: Yes. Thank you, Judge	7	MR. ROGALA: Yeah. Partly resources. Holiday weekend coming up. And, you know, in the event
8 9	O'Connell. This is Max Greene making an appearance for	0	
	Popowable Northwoot	0	
	Renewable Northwest.	9	that the Commission grants Pacificorp's motion to
10	Similar to Mr. ffitch, we do not currently plan	10	that the Commission grants Pacificorp's motion to dismiss, there's no docket to consolidate, so we
10 11	Similar to Mr. ffitch, we do not currently plan to intervene, but we'll make an appearance for purposes	10 11	that the Commission grants Pacificorp's motion to dismiss, there's no docket to consolidate, so we wouldn't need to go through that process.
10	Similar to Mr. ffitch, we do not currently plan	10 11 12	that the Commission grants Pacificorp's motion to dismiss, there's no docket to consolidate, so we wouldn't need to go through that process. But second, I think there's some good
10 11 12	Similar to Mr. ffitch, we do not currently plan to intervene, but we'll make an appearance for purposes of monitoring, and we reserve the right to seek	10 11	that the Commission grants Pacificorp's motion to dismiss, there's no docket to consolidate, so we wouldn't need to go through that process. But second, I think there's some good discussions between parties that might avoid the need
10 11 12 13	Similar to Mr. ffitch, we do not currently plan to intervene, but we'll make an appearance for purposes of monitoring, and we reserve the right to seek intervention should this docket be consolidated with the main CEIP docket.	10 11 12 13	that the Commission grants Pacificorp's motion to dismiss, there's no docket to consolidate, so we wouldn't need to go through that process. But second, I think there's some good discussions between parties that might avoid the need for us to brief the issue. So it could be the case that
10 11 12 13 14	Similar to Mr. ffitch, we do not currently plan to intervene, but we'll make an appearance for purposes of monitoring, and we reserve the right to seek intervention should this docket be consolidated with the	10 11 12 13 14	that the Commission grants Pacificorp's motion to dismiss, there's no docket to consolidate, so we wouldn't need to go through that process. But second, I think there's some good discussions between parties that might avoid the need
10 11 12 13 14 15	Similar to Mr. ffitch, we do not currently plan to intervene, but we'll make an appearance for purposes of monitoring, and we reserve the right to seek intervention should this docket be consolidated with the main CEIP docket. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you both.	10 11 12 13 14 15	that the Commission grants Pacificorp's motion to dismiss, there's no docket to consolidate, so we wouldn't need to go through that process. But second, I think there's some good discussions between parties that might avoid the need for us to brief the issue. So it could be the case that we agree to not consolidate or to consolidate and give
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2 (Pages 5 to 8)

	Page 9		Page 11
1	filed by the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers,	1	think you can rule on all three of them motion to
2	otherwise known as AWEC. I am unaware of any written	2	consolidate, motion to dismiss, motion to stay
3	objections to AWEC's petition.	3	penalties if the motion to dismiss is granted in full
4	Is there any objection to their intervention?	4	because that kind of renders the case moved, and then
5	MR. CALLAGHAN: None from Staff, Your Honor.	5	the motion to consolidate would just be another
6	MR. ROGALA: Not from Pacificorp, Your	6	outstanding decision that can kind of be a pro forma
7	Honor.	7	action.
8	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.	8	But if you decide to deny Pacificorp's motion
9	MS. PAISNER: No objection from Public	9	in whole or in part, then we'd like to have the deadline
10	Counsel.	10	to respond to the motion to consolidate in whole until
11	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you. So	11	after that decision. And we're open to whatever you
12	hearing no objection, that petition to intervene will be	12	think is reasonable for dates or a timeline for us to
13	granted, and I'll memorialize that in the prehearing	13	respond.
14	conference order.	14	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Sure. I appreciate that
15	Now, to address the question of whether I	15	clarification because that's accurate. If the
16	should extend the deadline for responses to the motion	16	Commission decides to grant your motion to dismiss, then
17	to consolidate, I will make a decision on that and	17	the question of whether to consolidate would be moot.
18	include it in the prehearing conference order that I	18	Ms. Paisner, with that clarity, does Public
19	will issue after this conference.	19	Counsel have a position?
20	I'd like to turn first to Staff after you've	20	MS. PAISNER: We do not object to the
21	had a couple minutes to think about it, since it is your	21	request to toll the deadline beyond the date of any
22	motion. What is your response to allowing some extra	22	decision on the other motions.
23	time after a decision on the motion to dismiss and the	23	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Ms. Moser for AWEC,
24	motion to stay penalties has been made?	24	do you have any position?
25	MR. CALLAGHAN: Staff has no objection to	25	MS. MOSER: We would support addressing the
	Page 10		
	Page 10		Page 12
1		1	
1 2	that. We think it makes sense.	1 2	motion to consolidate after the motion to dismiss has
2	that. We think it makes sense. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. And I want to hear	1 2 3	motion to consolidate after the motion to dismiss has been resolved.
	that. We think it makes sense. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. And I want to hear from Public Counsel as well.	2	motion to consolidate after the motion to dismiss has been resolved. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. I am going to
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2 3 4	that. We think it makes sense. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. And I want to hear from Public Counsel as well. MS. PAISNER: May I just ask a clarifying question? So I think the request is to extend the	2 3 4	motion to consolidate after the motion to dismiss has been resolved. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. I am going to modify the notice in this docket, then. And if there needs to be a decision made on the motion to consolidate
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3 (Pages 9 to 12)

	Page 13		Page 15
1	proceed in the event that the consolidation is	1	parties about the procedural schedule.
2	eventually granted, and I will at that point consider	2	I will turn it over to you, Mr. Callaghan, to
3	additional petitions to intervene.	3	address what the parties' thinking is.
4	MR. FFITCH: Thank you, Your Honor.	4	MR. CALLAGHAN: Thank you, Your Honor.
5	MR. GREENE: Thank you, Your Honor.	5	So as our discussion went forward on a
6	JUDGE O'CONNELL: So I want to move on to	6	procedural schedule, issues were raised related to in
7	the procedural schedule for this docket.	7	the CEIP docket.
8	Now, I understand that in the case that	8	Given that we have not set an adjudication in
9	Pacificorp's motion is granted, there's not going to be	9	that we haven't had a prehearing conference or an
10	a procedural schedule. But we're here today for the	10	open meeting in that docket that parties who may have
11	purposes of addressing procedural issues in this	11	wanted to intervene in that docket if we decided a
12	proceeding, and we are going to act in this conference	12	procedural schedule today that would be used in the
13	as if this proceeding is going to continue. And I	13	consolidated docket should the motion to consolidate be
14	intend to set a schedule as if this proceeding is going	14	granted, we're worried that those intervenors wouldn't
15	to continue pending the decision on Pacificorp's	15	have had an opportunity to weigh in on the procedural
16	motions.	16	schedule. It would have essentially been decided before
17	Have the parties been able to discuss with each	17	they had an opportunity to intervene.
18	other a procedural schedule?	18	Now, Mr. Greene did let us know that he
19	MR. CALLAGHAN: So unfortunately, I think	19	received the notice of this hearing, but still, we had
20	we've all been very busy. I did I was able to work	20	concerns. And given the likely timing of the responses
21	on the bare bones of a proposal over lunch, but I have	21	to the motion to consolidate, I don't think there was
22	not been able to share that with any of the other	22	any concern that continuing the prehearing conference in
23	parties. So I think if we could recess and just discuss	23	this case out until we have a ruling on the motion to
24	amongst ourselves, maybe we could come to an agreement	24	consolidate would cause any harm. But I'll just speak
25	on a proposed procedural schedule.	25	for Staff on that point.
	Page 14		Page 16
1	So Staff's proposal I was trying to make a	1	So our proposal is to continue this out until a
2	schedule that would work regardless of whether or not	2	date after the motion to consolidate is ruled on.
3	this was consolidated with the CEIP docket. So this	3	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you,
4	schedule would include a public comment hearing, you	4	Mr. Callaghan. And is that proposal I'm going to
5	know, in the CEIP docket, assuming that it's	5	call it a motion to continue this prehearing conference.
6	consolidated. But obviously, if it's not consolidated,	6	Is that motion supported by all the parties
7	it would not need a public comment hearing.	7	here to grant an intervention or otherwise involved in
8	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. I understand that	8	this case?
9	adds a little wrinkle.	9	MR. ROGALA: Yes, Your Honor.
10	Let me allow the parties to talk amongst	10	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. I heard from
11	yourselves off the record. I will step out of this Zoom	11	Pacificorp that they're in favor.
12	conference, and the parties can discuss a proposal for a	12	Ms. Moser, go ahead.
13	procedural schedule. If you come to one or if there's a	13	MS. MOSER: Apologies for interrupting. We
14	determination that you can't come to an agreement,	14	are also supporting that motion.
15	Mr. Callaghan, please notify me and I will step back in,	15	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.
16	okay?	16	And Ms. Paisner?
17	MR. CALLAGHAN: Yes. Thank you, Your Honor.	17	MS. PAISNER: Public Counsel supports that
18	JUDGE O'CONNELL: With that, I am going to	18	motion.
19	step off. We will be off the record and in recess	19	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. I see a lot of
20	temporarily. Thank you.	20	merit in your motion. I was actually thinking about
21	(A recess was taken from 1:48 p.m. to	21	this while we were away. My thoughts were that the
22	2:07 p.m.)	22	motion to consolidate has not been granted and they
23	JUDGE O'CONNELL: We're back on the record.	23	haven't been consolidated, and I have been willing to go
24	The time is approximately 2:05 p.m. in the afternoon,	24	forward to set a schedule as it pertains to this docket
25	and we just got back from a discussion between the	25	and the complaint.

4 (Pages 13 to 16)

	Page 17		Page 19
1		1	
1 2	But, Mr. Callaghan, you make a good observation that is backed up by the fact that Renewable Northwest	1 2	else we should address today? MR. FFITCH: Your Honor, Simon ffitch for
3	and The Energy Project are in this prehearing conference	3	The Energy Project. Just a quick clarification.
4	and have stated that they would be interested in joining	4	Earlier in the prehearing conference, you
- 5	if the docket is consolidated.	5	mentioned, I believe, the possibility for The Energy
6	So considering the circumstances surrounding	6	Project and Renewable Northwest to file responses to one
7	where we are at this point, I'm inclined to grant the	7	or more of the motions. I believe that was your
8	parties' motion to continue this conference until after	8	wording. So I wanted to get clarification on that.
9	we have a decision on the motion to consolidate, which	9	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Let me clarify. My notes
10	will be set at some point after the Commission decides	10	that I have indicate that I ruled that I'm going to
11	the motion to dismiss and the motion to stay penalties.	11	allow interested parties in Docket UE-210829 I
12	That will also continue our discussion for any other	12	believe that's the correct docket number. I'm seeing
13	procedural matters that would go forward in this docket.	13	some head nodding, so I think I have that right this
14	Okay. So having decided that, I'm going to	14	time.
15	grant that motion.	15	I'm going to allow the interested parties in
16	I'd like to hear from the parties about	16	that docket to file a response to the motion to
17	well, I want to hear from the parties if there's	17	consolidate.
18	anything else we need to discuss. I am of the mindset	18	MR. FFITCH: Thank you. All right.
19	that the rest of this discussion in this conference	19	JUDGE O'CONNELL: That will not pertain to
20	needs to wait.	20	the motion to dismiss or the motion to stay penalties.
21	But is there anything else that we need to	21	MR. FFITCH: All right. Thank you. That's
22	address today?	22	a helpful clarification because we had not intended to
23	MR. ROGALA: Your Honor, I have two quick	23	respond to the other motions. So thank you for the
24	points, if I can have some time. I appreciate it.	24	clarification.
25	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Please. Go ahead.	25	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Yes. Okay. I want to
	Page 18		
	Paye Io		Page 20
1		1	Page 20
1	MR. ROGALA: So first, more of just a	1	summarize the decisions that I've made today.
2	MR. ROGALA: So first, more of just a signposting. We would just like to reiterate our	2	summarize the decisions that I've made today. First is to grant the parties' motion to
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1	motion to dismiss and the motion to stay penalties.	
2	I'm going to deny Pacificorp's motion to have	
3	oral argument primarily because there's already ample	
4	opportunity for Pacificorp to address all of the	
5	arguments, and I find it much more helpful to have all	
6	of the arguments in black and white and be able to go	
7	over them and the legal support for them.	
8	Okay. Have I missed anything, or is there	
9	anything else that we need to discuss today? Okay.	
10	Mr. Rogala, is there anything?	
11	MR. ROGALA: I was just going to confirm	
12	that that covers it from Pacificorp's side. Thank you,	
13	Your Honor.	
14	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. So hearing nothing,	
15	we are going to I want to say we're going to be in	
16	recess on this prehearing conference until such time as	
17	we set a new one, if need be, considering all of the	
18	motions that need to be ruled upon.	
19	And for at least today, we will be adjourned.	
20	Thank you all.	
21	(Proceedings adjourned at 2:18 p.m.)	
22		
23		
24		
25		
	Page 22	
1		
1 2	CERTIFICATE	
3	STATE OF WASHINGTON	
4	COUNTY OF KING	
5		
6	I, Rose Detloff, a Certified Court Reporter in	
7	and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify that	
8	the foregoing transcript is true and accurate to the	
9	best of my knowledge, skill and ability.	
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	ROSE DETLOFF, CCR, RMR	
14	ROSE DETLOFF, CCR, RMR	
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14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	ROSE DETLOFF, CCR, RMR	
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