Docket No. UE-210532 - Vol. I

WUTC v. Pacificorp

August 12, 2021



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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION	1 REMOTE APPEARANCES (Continued)
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, DOCKET NO. UE-210532	FOR ALLIANCE OF WESTERN ENERGY CONSUMERS (AWEC):
	Brent L. Coleman
Complainant,	5 Davison Van Cleve 1750 SW Harbor Way
V.	6 Suite 450 Portland, OR 97201 7 971 710 1157
PACIFICORP, d/b/a PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT COMPANY,	7 971.710.1157 blc@dvclaw.com
Respondent.	FOR THE ENERGY PROJECT:
VIDEOCONFERENCE EVIDENTIARY HEARING BEFORE	Yochanan Zakai 10 Shute Mihaly & Weinberger
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE	396 Hayes Street 11 San Francisco, California 94102 415.552.7272
MICHAEL HOWARD Volume I	12
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REPORTED BY: CRYSTAL R. McAULIFFE, RPR, CCR, #2121	23
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Page 5 Page 7 1 1 THE COURT: Great. Thank you. discuss the details of this after I do that. 2 2 So the schedule starts with the tariff And public counsel. MS. PAISNER: Good afternoon. Your Honor. filing on July 1st, 2021, tariff suspended and discovery 3 3 4 4 commenced July 28th, 2021; the prehearing conference on This is Ann Paisner, attorney general -- Assistant 5 Attorney General for public counsel. 5 August 12th, 2021; a workshop that is parties only, with 6 6 an exact date to be determined; a settlement conference, And also on the line with me today is Nina 7 7 Suetake, also Assistant Attorney General for public again, parties only, on September 13th, 2021; response 8 8 testimony being due on October 15th, 2021; and then we counsel. 9 9 have a noticed -- notices issued for public comment THE COURT: Thank you. 10 Could we have an appearance for AWEC? 10 hearings 30 days prior to the public comment hearing, 11 MR. COLEMAN: Good afternoon, Your Honor. 11 and a public comment hearing with a date to be 12 Brent Coleman of the law firm of Davison Van Cleve on 12 determined. Excuse me. And then rebuttal and 13 13 behalf of Alliance of Western Energy Consumers. cross-answering testimony both being due on 14 THE COURT: Thank you. 14 November 15th, 2021; a discovery cutoff of November 29th, 2021; and a deadline for filing 15 And could we have an appearance for the 15 16 16 cross-examination exhibits, witness lists, errata **Energy Project?** 17 MR. ZAKAI: Good afternoon, Your Honor. 17 sheets, and e-mailing cross-examination time estimates 18 Yochanan Zakai with the firm of Shute Mihaly & 18 to presiding LJ on December 7th, 2021. 19 Weinberger appearing on behalf of the Energy Project. 19 Then we have the hearing on December 9th, 20 THE COURT: Great. Thank you, all. 20 2021, at 9:30 a.m. And I would add that with the So turning next to the petitions for 21 clarification that would be immediately following our 21 22 22 regularly scheduled open meeting at the Commission on intervention. 23 23 Are there any petitions for intervention that day. 24 other than the ones that we have received in writing? 24 Then we have simultaneous post-hearing 25 Hearing none, let's proceed. 2.5 briefs on January 3rd, 2022. And we have a requested Page 6 Page 8 1 1 final order date on or before February 1st, 2022. We have received two petitions to intervene; one from the Energy Project and one from AWEC, the 2 This -- I can tell you at this moment that 2 3 3 I'll confirm that this schedule works for the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers. 4 4 I'm unaware of any written objections in Commission. It generally seems to work. I appreciate 5 5 these petitions. the parties working with one of the suggested hearing 6 Are there any objections anyone would like 6 dates I sent out in my -- a clarification will be after 7 7 the open meeting. to raise today? 8 8 MS. SCARSELLA: No objections from The one area of concern I might like to discuss with the parties today would be the deadline on 9 PacifiCorp. 9 10 MR. TEIMOURI: No objections from staff 10 December -- December 7th for exhibits and. That's only two days before the hearing. That is a pretty short 11 11 either. 12 MS. PAISNER: Also, no objection from public 12 time frame. Normally, we do seven days for that. And, 13 13 of course, I understand that our cost rate case is on counsel. December 3rd, so we have overlapping work loads here. 14 THE COURT: All right. Hearing no 14 15 15 objections, the petitions to intervene are granted. I did want to ask if the parties are able to 16 16 So the next main issue we wanted to address move this December 7th deadline up a couple days or to 17 17 today would be the procedural schedule. the proceeding week to give us more time to review these 18 Before I called today, I e-mailed the 18 materials. So could I get the parties' thoughts on 19 parties suggesting possible dates for the hearing and 19 that? 20 giving guidance for the schedule we might use in this 20 MS. SCARSELLA: Your Honor, Carla Scarsella 21 case. 21 for PacifiCorp. Subject to others' thoughts, we would 22 22 be happy to move up the date. I think the concern is Mr. Teimouri e-mailed me this morning and 23 23 that by the time we get to discovery on the final round indicted that the parties have agreed on a procedural 24 24 of testimony, there's a five-day best efforts turnaround schedule with a hearing set for December 9th. So I will 25 25 and folks would need to get the response and process proceed to read this into the record, and then we can

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that, and then determine whether it needs to be a cross-exhibit or not.

So I think if we move up that date, we also have to move up the discovery cutoff date and make sure that those are five -- sometime in between -- a five-business day in between to allow folks to get responses.

MR. TEIMOURI: Yeah. This is Dan Teimouri for staff, and I share those sentiments. I think we could -- if there is some time needed for the processing of exhibits on -- you know, on the part of ALD, then that would be fine to move it up, just to correspondently move up the discovery cutoff so that it is five days out, that should work.

THE COURT: Before we -- before we continue just for a moment, the court reporter indicated she's -- that I'm -- that I'm cutting in and out.

Is -- is the court reporter able to hear me all right now?

Are we doing okay with that? Okay.

MR. COLEMAN: Your Honor -- if I may, I also suffered sort of that in and out as you went through the discussions. Sorry. Brent Coleman on behalf of AWEC. And some of the dates that you -- I think I sort of heard partials of were different than the options that I

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THE COURT: Okay. Yeah, I'm just going off of the parties' schedule, so we can definitely come back to that in a few moments here.

So in terms of going back to the issue of moving up the discovery cutoff slightly and moving up the deadline for cross-examination exhibits and other materials, did public counsel like to -- would public counsel like to respond to that?

MS. PAISNER: Yes, please. Our concern is that moving the discovery cutoff date of November 29th, it -- it would make the only round of discovery between rebuttal and the discovery cutoff. That's why, as it is right now, there are exactly ten days.

So that on the discovery cutoff date parties who had an opportunity to file a second round of data requests that would potentially clarify responses to the first round, which has been something that we've done fairly often. So that's our concern with moving the discovery cutoff date of November 29th.

The -- the following date, December 7th, for filing cross-exam exhibits, witness lists, errata sheets, cross-estimates; that is also ten days exactly after November 29th. But we could be willing to move that one back so long as there are a full two -- five day rounds between rebuttal and the discovery cutoff.

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had on my screen. So perhaps I thought I had the most recent version that the parties circulated around.

So if I could ask your indulgence to sort of step back to the settlement conference deadline and move forward for a couple to make sure that I have them. I apologize.

THE COURT: No. That's fine. We'll -- we'll -- I'll go through this, and then we'll jump back into adjusting those couple points that we were talking about.

So the settlement conference, parties only, September 13th, 2021; response to testimony October 15th, 2021; and then the public comment hearing is essentially to be determined with a notice issued 30 days prior; and rebuttal and cross-answering testimony on November 15th.

Does that sound right to you, Mr. Coleman?
MR. COLEMAN: Those are -- that fills in the
holes that I had. And there's -- there's just one date
there that I was unexpected to hear. I guess, again, I
must have been looking at the wrong version that was
cycled. So I thought there was a little bit more time
on the settlement conference. But perhaps we could come
back to that in a moment. But these other issues are
probably a little bit more pressing. Thank you.

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THE COURT: Okay. So if I understand you right, it sounds like we could -- without affecting that -- the -- the opportunity for two rounds after rebuttal testimony we could move the cross-examination and other materials deadline from the 7th, let's say, up to either the 1st of December or the 6th.

What are people's thoughts on that?

I think just a couple extra days would be helpful for us, basically.

Are there any concerns with that?

MR. COLEMAN: Sorry, Your Honor, if I missed something. But then how would -- what would be the new discovery cutoff? Sorry if I missed that.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, that would be maintaining the discovery cutoff.

MR. COLEMAN: So there would be a potential for items that were -- went, you know, beyond DRs incoming cannot be used as exhibits, potentially.

THE COURT: Okay. How about we set it for the 6th? Cross-examination submission on December 6th. I think that would give us adequate time; right?

MR. COLEMAN: Yes, sir. I'm for -- all for giving ALD as much time as they feel they need. I mean, you know, I kind of see both sides; right? We want as much discovery as feasible while giving ALD enough time

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Page 13 1 1 to be comfortable with the exhibits. 2 2 I think we'll maintain our position that 3 3 we're fine moving it up a few days if that would -- just 4 to keep everything in terms of the response time 4

MS. SCARSELLA: PacifiCorp agrees with that. THE COURT: Okay. And just to clarify, earlier, Ms. Scarsella, you are referring to a shortening of the response period for discovery responses. I didn't see that in the proposed schedule from the parties, so was that as of the filing of the response testimony?

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matching with the chain.

THE COURT: Uh-huh.

MS. SCARSELLA: So, yeah, I -- forgive me, Your Honor. I believe discovery is going to be discussed once we decide -- I think it is going to -we're going to bring that up as a separate matter once we settle on the schedule.

So I -- I recommend that maybe with your indulgence we need to discuss the schedule first, and then we can discuss discovery.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, for the moment, I'm going to take these issues on the December 7th deadline under advisement. I'm going to consider moving it up a day or a few days. And I'll certainly consider what --

that everyone is -- is unwilling to make a move to bump that just a little bit, you know, I can accept it.

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But it was just -- again, that's the rationale behind our thinking is just trying to get as much due diligence as we can with respect to the case to allow the most productive settlement conference participation as possible.

THE COURT: And I can understand that. I think -- we normally include language to the effect that the parties can alter that date with written notice to the Commission. So I'll make sure that I include language to that effect in the order. But we can -- we can use the parties agreed date for now. If the parties want to move that later -- later on, that's -- that's certainly within their prerogative.

MR. COLEMAN: I appreciate that, Your Honor. Again, I'm not going -- I'm not going to box up the burden that came to get to where we are, because it was rather significant and there was a lot of flurry.

So I would certainly be happy to take the 13th. And to the extent that if, you know, we need to address that offline, I can do so with the parties. So I appreciate that. Thank you.

THE COURT: All right. Were there any other concerns about the procedural schedule before we address

Page 14

what everyone has advanced today. So that was my main concern that I saw with the schedule. Otherwise, I think it's going to work for the Commission.

MR. TEIMOURI: Your Honor, if I could bring up one point, just to address AWEC.

I do believe you had the correct date there, December 13th. But I just want to confirm with all the parties while we're live that that was the correct date for the settlement conference that we all understood this morning.

MS. SCARSELLA: That was my understanding. MS. PAISNER: That was my understanding as well.

MR. COLEMAN: Yeah, I apologize. I was looking at sort of the full attachment documents that we had circulated around as opposed to the -- the movement from a prior date to September 13th in the text of an e-mail got overlooked in the flurry of exchanges that has gone on before today. And our -- our thoughts on that is just -- just for what it's worth is just to allow for a -- as much of a meaningful participation and development of issues prior to that -- to that date.

I'm not really sure if a slight delay on that would necessarily need to affect any of the other testimonial deadlines. So -- but I guess to the extent Page 16

the issue of discovery that Ms. Scarsella raised? MR. ZAKAI: Your Honor, Yoshi Zakai for The Energy Project. If I could just briefly express a preference that if we are going to move the cross-examination exhibit date that one day to December 6th would be our preference. Thank you.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

Does -- I see public counsel has their hand

MS. SCARSELLA: I apologize. I think that's left over from earlier. But I would also request that that date only be moved up to the 6th so that we wouldn't have to have data request responses pending before we would be able to offer them into the record. That would be our request. Thank you.

THE COURT: Okay. So, again, I anticipate the schedule will work for the Commission. But I will take these different issues under advisement and we will be issuing an order soon.

Did PacifiCorp want to raise issues around discovery?

MS. SCARSELLA: Yes, Your Honor. PacifiCorp is proposing, regarding discovery in this proceeding, that up until the filing of response testimony on September 15th that the company use ten days -- ten

Page 17

business days or seven business days best efforts to respond.

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And then upon the filing of response testimony on October 15th, that five business days be used as response time for discovery. We -- we make this request for several reasons.

You know, in the initial phase of any proceeding, sets of discovery can be long and have multi- -- multiple subparts. It could require voluminous data to be collected and produced in response. After all, it is parties conducting their investigation of our initial filing. I don't want to put the company in a position where we are seeking extensions from parties or that we're being late all the time on discovery.

Another issue we -- for that -- for that initial ten days, seven days best effort is that becomes a workload issue for our folks. We have people working in six jurisdictions. And I understand that, you know, we're responsible for all our filings, including our filings in Washington, but it does become a workload issue for the folks responding to discovery.

And then finally, as I expressed to parties already, given the expedited nature of this filing, if there are questions about the filing or follow-ups to

could just be five days best efforts as it is for the P. Corp, which is filed a month earlier and is a much smaller filing.

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MS. SCARSELLA: May I, Your Honor? THE COURT: Certainly.

MS. SCARSELLA: Well, for the P. Corp., to be clear, up until the filing of response testimony, it's ten days. And then upon filing of response testimony, it becomes five business days best efforts.

THE COURT: That is my recollection as well.

Any other points from the parties?

MS. PAISNER: If I may, again, this is Ann Paisner. This is a much larger filing than the P. Corp. There are -- the P. Corp has fewer and shorter testimony documents and fewer exhibits, fewer work papers. There's just more here to wade through.

A five-day turnaround would be very helpful for us to actually sufficiently address the issues here. That would be our request.

MS. SCARSELLA: May I respond, Your Honor? THE COURT: Certainly.

MS. SCARSELLA: Well, I -- I first would like to note this is an offshoot. This proceeding is an offshoot of our 2019 federal case. A large part of the information that was filed here was pulled from that

Page 18

discovery, I encourage everyone to reach out to me and -- where I can facilitate meetings with witnesses and the respective experts for the parties to discuss questions on the filings or respond to clarifications on data request responses, I think that will ultimately be the best way to streamline the discovery process; especially when we're on a -- a shortened time frame such as this proceeding.

So that's why we're -- we ask that ten business days, seven days best -- seven business days best efforts. And then five days best efforts, business days, best efforts upon the filing of response testimony. But I believe others have different opinions.

THE COURT: Thank you. I did want to clarify with you, whether the -- after the filing response testimony it would be based on best efforts for the five day and you just indicated that.

Would any of the other parties like to respond to this?

MS. PAISNER: This is Ann for public counsel. I suppose I would want some clarification, because I -- seven days best efforts and then five days best efforts, if you already have the caveat of best efforts, I wonder if it is a bit redundant and if it

case.

As according to the settlement agreement that was approved by the Commission, parties agreed that a handful of projects that weren't in service as of May 1st, 2020 -- 2020, would be part of this filing so parties would have time to review.

So we're talking about a handful of projects. The majority of information, you know -- you know, is largely the same as what was in our general rate case. We filed this on -- on July 1st, about six weeks ago. We met with parties before the filing to give them an -- to provide an overview of the filing, as well as to answer any preliminary questions.

And I note, discovery has already started. Staff reached out. They -- they started discovery and we're -- we've started.

So I would think where the P. Corp is new -where no one has seen that before -- this represents projects that most parties have received -- received a preview if they were involved in our 2019 general rate case.

So it's a very limited scope. And, again, the company is ready, willing, and able to meet with any parties to help answer questions about the initial filing and to meet with the parties once they receive

5 (Pages 17 to 20)

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	Page 21		Page 23
1	discovery, plus to help short-circuit any discovery	1	to me as soon as possible. My e-mail is
2	follow-ups that may be required.	2	michael.howard@utc.wa.gov.
3	So we we would continue to recommend ten	3	Also, if anyone would like to add names and
4	business days to start with seven days best efforts.	4	e-mail addresses of other representatives or support
5	THE COURT: Okay. Would any of the other	5	staff who should receive electronic producing copies of
6	parties like to address this issue?	6	all documents filed, please e-mail that to me as well.
7	Mr. Zakai.	7	For errata sheets, I see that we have
8	MR. ZAKAI: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you.	8	already addressed the issue of errata sheets, actually,
9	We would support public counsel's request.	9	in the parties' proposed schedule. So I will skip that.
10	Thank you.	10	Is there anything else that we should
11	MR. TEIMOURI: Your Honor, so while, you	11	address today before we adjourn?
12	know, staff would obviously appreciate more time to	12	All right. Hearing none hearing no
13	conduct discovery, we have worked through this with the	13	questions or concerns, we'll issue an order shortly
14	company previously and understand their position. We're	14	containing the procedural schedule and other guidelines
15	not going to argue for more time for a discovery	15	for the disposition of this case. We are adjourned.
16	turnaround for shorter time, but, you know, I think we	16	Thank you.
17	can accept what was being proposed by the company with	17	
18	the five-day with the caveat that we go to a five-day	18	(The proceedings adjourned at 1:58 p.m.)
19	after responsive testimony.	19	
20	THE COURT: I'm going to take these issues	20	
21	under advisement. I think because, in any event, we	21	
22	have the best-efforts qualification, the difference	22	
23	between seven days best efforts and five days best	23	
24	efforts for a certain period of the case I don't think	24	
25	is going to make or break any parties' preparation. But	25	
	Page 22		Page 24
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1	I'm going to think about the issue a little bit further	1	Page 24
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	I'm going to think about the issue a little bit further and it will be addressed in the order. MS. SCARSELLA: Thank you, Your Honor. THE COURT: Yes. Were there any other concerns or questions or issues on discovery before we continue? MS. SCARSELLA: The company has nothing further. THE COURT: Hearing none, we will continue. We just have a few more housekeeping matters on the issue of a protective order. I will remind the parties, as they are likely already aware, that we have entered a protective order in this docket. The Commission also uses electronic filing documents for formal filings. We are continuing to suspend the requirements for paper copies of filed documents in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and that will be addressed in the order following this pre-hearing conference. And also, the Commission's rules provide for electronic service of documents. The Commission will serve the parties electronically and the parties will	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	STATE OF WASHINGTON)) ss. COUNTY OF KITSAP I, CRYSTAL R. McAULIFFE, a Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript of the videoconference prehearing conference on AUGUST 12, 2021, is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 24th day of August, 2021.

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