

Agenda Date: July 28, 2011  
Item Number: A6

**Docket:** UE-111190  
Company: PacifiCorp, dba Pacific Power & Light Company

Staff: Michael Foisy, Regulatory Analyst  
Thomas Schooley, Accounting Manager

### **Recommendation**

Issue a complaint and order suspending the tariff revisions filed by PacifiCorp in Docket UE-111190, make available the discovery rules, issue the standard protective order, and set the matter for hearing.

### **Background**

On July 1, 2011, PacifiCorp, dba Pacific Power & Light Company, (PacifiCorp or company), filed an electric general rate case requesting additional revenues of \$12.9 million which is an increase in electric service revenues of about 4.3 percent. The tariffs bear an effective date of July 31, 2011.

If approved as filed, the average electric residential customer using 1,300 kilowatt-hours of electricity would see an increase of \$4.65 per month for the proposed base rate change.

The company indicates the requested increases are primarily driven by an increase in net power costs in the company's west control area. The increase in purchase power is largely due to expiring of low-cost long term wholesale contracts. Increased coal costs and decreased coal generation have also contributed to the increased power costs. Although there are no additional major resource additions, the company continues to invest in infrastructure such as generation and transmission maintenance and upgrades. For the test period, the company has also experienced a decline in revenue due to the economic downturn, increases in demand-side management programs and a wetter and cooler irrigation season.

PacifiCorp serves about 132,000 electric customers in Washington.

### **Discussion**

Staff reviewed the application and associated work papers for compliance with WAC 480-07-140, WAC 480-80-105 and WAC 480-07-510. Based on our initial review, it appears that the company's filing is in compliance. Additional time is needed for staff to thoroughly review the filing in order to recommend rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

The company's filings in these dockets involve a change in rate levels for electricity service. Therefore, in order to allow formal discovery to commence, staff recommends that the

commission's suspension order find that these dockets meet the criteria of WAC 480-07-400(2)(b)(i) and that discovery will be conducted pursuant to the commission's discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 – 425.

**Conclusion**

Staff recommends the commission issue a complaint and order suspending the tariff revisions filed by PacifiCorp in Docket UE-111190, make available the discovery rules, issue the standard protective order, and set the matter for hearing.