# EP Data Request 27

In his direct testimony, Mr. William Griffith proposes recertifying customers for the Company’s low-income bill assistance program only every other year (as opposed to the current annual recertification). *See, Testimony of William R. Griffith, p. 7.* Please provide a thorough rationale for the Company’s proposal including, but not limited to, any cost-benefit analysis PacifiCorp might have performed supporting its proposal.

# Response to EP Data Request 27

The Company’s proposal is focused on decreasing the program’s administrative costs in order to provide more benefits to customers that are in need of assistance. As noted on page 7 of Mr. Griffith’s testimony, the current annual certification fee is $48 per household and results in a total annual cost to the program of $214,800. The administrative costs in two of PacifiCorp’s other jurisdictions that offer a low-income bill assistance program are considerably lower. California previously had a certification fee of $12 per household but has since moved to a self-certification process that is done every other year and thereby eliminates the $12 per household fee. In Utah, the annual administrative cost for the entire program in the past program year was $20,110.

The Company reviewed the current administrative costs for this program in Washington and determined that moving to a bi-annual recertification process will provide benefits to more customers in need. Under the current program, over a two-year period, approximately $429,600 will be spent certifying low-income customers. The average savings realized by participants in the past program year was $222. Based on this average annual discount, the savings in administrative costs would allow more than 900 additional customers to receive assistance.

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Applicant’s Response to Energy Project Data Request 27 (1p.) RME\_\_\_