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October 4, 2021

SENT VIA WUTC WEB PORTAL

Amanda Maxwell
 Executive Director and Secretary
 Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
 P. O. Box 47250
 Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: *PacifiCorp, d/b/a Pacific Power & Light Company's 2021 Integrated Resource Plan,*
 Docket UE-200420

Dear Amanda Maxwell:

The Public Counsel Unit of the Washington State Attorney General's Office ("Public Counsel") respectfully submits these comments in response to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission's ("UTC" or "Commission") Notice of Opportunity to File Written Comments, issued on September 3, 2021. These comments address PacifiCorp's (the "Company") Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) filing. Public Counsel appreciates the opportunity to comment.

Public Counsel's Recommendation

Public Counsel generally recommends the Commission acknowledge PacifiCorp's 2021 Integrated Resource Plan, but wishes to bring concerns to the attention of the Commission.

In reviewing PacifiCorp's IRP, Public Counsel focused on the Company's compliance with the requirements of the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) and corresponding administrative rules and how the Company continues to engage with customers and other stakeholders through their public comments and responses to stakeholder questions. As described below, we have concerns about how the Company engaged with the public and IRP advisory group members.

Following the passage of CETA, the UTC undertook a number of rulemaking proceedings, including updates to the IRP rules.¹ These changes are reflected in WAC 480-100-620 through 630. These rules describe the content and development of IRPs, as well as the timing of drafts and updates. Importantly, they also describe the role of IRP planning advisory groups and the

¹ See *In re: Adopting Rules Relating to Clean Energy Implementation Plan and Compliance with CETA, and In re: Amending, Adopting, and Repealing WAC-480-100-238, Relating to Integrated Resource Planning*, Dockets UE-191023 and UE-190698 (*Consolidated*).

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rules regarding communication with those group members.² In particular, WAC 480-100-620 sets forth the content of an IRP and Clean Energy Action Plan. It also prescribes how a utility must address public comments and the utility's response to those comments.³ WAC 480-100-630 requires the utility to "demonstrate and document how it considered input from advisory group members in the development" of the IRP and IRP update. It also requires that the utility make presentation materials available to advisory groups at least three days prior to the meeting.⁴

As we noted in our comments on the Company's interim filing, PacifiCorp had a number of challenges related to their modeling in this IRP cycle, resulting in delays. Earlier in 2021, the Company was proactive in reaching out to stakeholders, including Public Counsel, to discuss what was happening with their IRP development and the challenges that had arisen in the modeling. However, the Company has struggled to comply with certain WAC requirements and on several occasions rescheduled day-long technical meetings with limited notice, making it difficult for advisory group members to fully participate in the process.

Public Counsel has concerns about PacifiCorp's compliance with the intention and requirements of WAC 480-100-630. IRP advisory groups play an important role in a company's development of its IRP. These advisory groups provide valuable feedback to the utility, including on specific issues of concern to consumers or community members throughout PacifiCorp's multi-state service territory. PacificCorp has failed to provide presentation materials to advisory group members at least three business days prior to meetings for six of the last seven public meetings, as required by WAC 480-100-630(2).⁵ Because the advisory group meeting materials are often dense and technical, it is important that they be available ahead of the meetings to allow adequate review. Providing advisory group members the opportunity to review materials before a meeting can result in a more engaged advisory group with better questions and feedback for the Company. Public Counsel is disappointed by the Company's failure to post meeting materials ahead of time as the rule requires.

Regarding scheduling, Public Counsel is concerned about frequent, last-minute rescheduling that occurred during this cycle. As an example, the Company originally scheduled a day-long meeting for August 12, which was moved to August 19. At 5pm on August 18, the meeting was shifted to August 20. At 4pm on August 19, the meeting was moved again to August 26. Certainly, Public Counsel understands and appreciates the Company's issues with its modeling software and its interest and intention to present complete information to its advisory group, but this frequent last-minute rescheduling made it difficult for advisory group members and public to attend these meetings. Public Counsel believes that the Company should consider carefully how

² WAC 480-100-630.

³ WAC 480-100-620(17).

⁴ WAC 480-100-630(2).

⁵ The meeting dates where meeting materials were not posted or distributed at least three business days prior to the meeting are Feb. 10–11, 2021; June 25, 2021; July 30, 2021; Aug. 6, 2021; Aug. 27, 2021; and Oct. 1, 2021.

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to improve their internal processes when scheduling and rescheduling these advisory group meetings.

On a positive note, Public Counsel reviewed the Company's Appendix C, which described the Company's public input process. This Appendix included a summary of comments, questions, and feedback the Company received by topic. The Appendix is fairly detailed, including citations to the feedback forms, which are publicly available on PacifiCorp's website. Public Counsel appreciates the level of detail and responsiveness to the comments that the Company provided.

Public Counsel appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments and looks forward to continued participation in PacifiCorp's planning processes. If you have any questions about this filing, please contact Stephanie Chase at (206) 521-3212 or via e-mail at Stephanie.Chase@ATG.WA.GOV.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Lisa W. Gafken*

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