

October 13, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Public Utility Commission of Oregon
201 High Street SE, Suite 100
Salem, OR 97301-3398

Attn: Filing Center

Re: Docket AR 674—PacifiCorp’s Comments on Staff’s Straw Proposal

PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power (PacifiCorp or the Company) provides these comments on the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) Staff’s draft small-scale renewables (SSR) rules (Draft Rules).

PacifiCorp appreciates the fast-track nature of the current rulemaking, which still contemplates formal amendments to the Commission’s SSR rules by the end of the year. PacifiCorp believes these efforts will greatly inform the ability of Oregon utilities to procure resources to comply with the SSR mandate.

To highlight several, PacifiCorp appreciates: (1) retaining the current treatment of the SSR mandate as a generating capacity standard, which does not require the retiring of renewable energy credits to demonstrate compliance; (2) allowing for generating resources that are Oregon renewable portfolio standard (RPS) “eligible,” as opposed to “RPS-approved,” to qualify as SSR resources; (3) concluding that community solar resources are SSR resources; (4) excluding storage resources and SSRs from aggregate electrical capacity (AEC); (5) clarifying that utilities should calculate SSR compliance in any year based on prior year AEC.

That said, PacifiCorp believes the Draft Rules could be strengthened in two respects. First, it would be beneficial to provide additional certainty around surplus interconnection opportunities for SSR compliance. PacifiCorp agrees with Staff’s conclusion that the SSR mandate “would count the full nameplate capacity of an SSR eligible resource that uses surplus interconnection or shares an interconnection agreement with other resources . . .”¹ So long as language similar to this was included in the Commission’s final rulemaking order, that would provide adequate certainty for SSR developers to move forward with surplus interconnection opportunities. This would also avoid creating any unnecessary complications with federal interconnection requirements that could result if the Commission chose to instead codify surplus interconnection language in Commission rules.

Second, the Commission should retain its current position on behind-the-meter resources (BTM), and decline to formally exclude these resources as SSR-eligible in Commission rules. While parties can always ask the Commission to waive this regulation, the better approach is to retain

¹ Draft Rules, at 1.

the Commission's discretion to determine, based on future facts and circumstances, whether BTMs should qualify as SSRs. Formally excluding BTMs as SSRs in Commission rules is outside the scope of the current fast-track proceeding (which sought to avoid addressing the BTM issue); a conclusion that PacifiCorp does not believe is supported by the law (as the law does not include any provisions that exclude generation resources that reduce load); not supported by the facts (as utilities including PacifiCorp purchase excess generation from BTM customers); and unnecessarily resolves an issue by rule that is better left to the Commission's discretion.

If the Commission retains this exclusion, it should similarly exclude these resources from the calculation of AEC. This would create symmetrical treatment between the numerator and denominator, and would prevent Oregon customers from incurring an additional 10 percent SSR obligation for each megawatt of NEM resources in a utility's generation portfolio.

PacifiCorp continues to appreciate the opportunity to provide additional comments on Staff's Draft Rules, and looks forward to additional discussion during the October 28 workshop.

If you have any questions about this filing, please contact Amira Thompson, State Regulatory Affairs Manager, at (503) 260-4420.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Meredith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "M".

Robert Meredith
Director, Regulation
Pacific Power