



PERMANENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

PUC 4-2022

CHAPTER 860

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

FILED

05/24/2022 5:35 PM
ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE
& LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

FILING CAPTION: Wildfire Mitigation Rules Phase II Division 300 Public Safety Power Shutoffs

EFFECTIVE DATE: 05/24/2022

AGENCY APPROVED DATE: 05/10/2022

CONTACT: Diane Davis

971-375-5082

diane.davis@puc.oregon.gov

PO Box 1088

Salem, OR 97308

Filed By:

Diane Davis

Rules Coordinator

RULES:

860-300-0010, 860-300-0050, 860-300-0060, 860-300-0070

ADOPT: 860-300-0010

NOTICE FILED DATE: 02/25/2022

RULE SUMMARY: Defines terms used in Division 300

CHANGES TO RULE:

860-300-0010

Definitions for this Division

(1) "Communications" means media that communicate voice, data, text, or video over a distance using electrical, electronic, radio, microwave, or light wave transmissions. ¶

(2) "ESF-12" refers to Emergency Support Function-12 and indicates the Commission's role in supporting the State Office of Emergency Management for energy utilities issues during an emergency. ¶

(3) "Local Community" means any community of people living, or having rights or interests, in a distinct geographical area. ¶

(4) "Local Emergency Management" means city, county, and tribal emergency management entities. ¶

(5) "Near-term Wildfire Risk" means elements of wildfire risk that are expected to fluctuate on a daily or weekly basis. Examples include temperature, humidity, and wind. ¶

(6) "Public Utility" has the meaning given to an "electric company" in ORS 757.600. ¶

(7) "Public Safety Partners" means ESF-12, Local Emergency Management, and Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS). ¶

(8) "Public Safety Power Shutoff" or "PSPS" means a proactive de-energization of a portion of a Public Utility's electrical network, based on the forecasting of and measurement of extreme wildfire weather conditions. ¶

(9) "Tabletop Exercise" means an activity in which key personnel, assigned emergency management roles and responsibilities, are gathered to discuss, in a non-threatening environment, various simulated emergency situations. ¶

(10) "Utility-identified Critical Facilities" refers to the facilities the Public Utility identifies that, because of their function or importance, have the potential to threaten life safety or disrupt essential socioeconomic activities if their services are interrupted. Communications facilities and infrastructure are to be considered Critical Facilities. ¶

(11) "Wildfire Mitigation Plan" is the same as a "wildfire protection plan" and refers to the document filed with the Commission relating to an electric utility's risk-based plan designed to protect public safety, reduce the risk of

utility facilities causing wildfires, reduce risk to utility customers, and promote electric system resilience to wildfire damage.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 183, ORS 756, ORS 757, ORS 759

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 756.040, ORS 757.035, ORS 757.039, ORS 757.649, ORS 758.215, ORS 759.005, ORS 759.045

ADOPT: 860-300-0050

NOTICE FILED DATE: 02/25/2022

RULE SUMMARY: This rule details the minimum communication requirements surrounding a PSPS.

CHANGES TO RULE:

860-300-0050

Communication Requirements Prior, During, and After a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)

- (1) When a Public Utility determines that a PSPS is likely to occur, it must deliver notification of the PSPS to its Public Safety Partners, operators of utility-identified critical facilities, and adjacent local Public Safety Partners. ¶
- (a) To the extent practicable, the Public Utility must provide priority notification directly to Public Safety Partners, operators of utility-identified critical facilities, and adjacent local Public Safety Partners. ¶
- (b) In notifying Public Safety Partners and utility-identified critical facilities of PSPS events, including adjacent local Public Safety Partners, the utility will communicate the following information, at a minimum: ¶
- (A) The PSPS zone, which would include Geographic Information System shapefile(s) depicting current boundaries of the area subject to de-energization; ¶
- (B) Date and time PPS will be executed; ¶
- (C) Estimated duration of PPS; ¶
- (D) Number of customers impacted by PPS; ¶
- (E) When feasible, the Public Utility will support Local Emergency Management efforts to send out emergency alerts; ¶
- (F) At a minimum, status updates at 24-hour intervals until service has been restored; ¶
- (G) Notice of when re-energization efforts will begin and when re-energization is expected to be complete; and ¶
- (H) Information provided under this rule does not preclude the Public Utility from providing additional information about execution of the PPS to its Public Safety Partners. ¶
- (c) In notifying utility-identified critical facilities, the Public Utility will communicate the following information, at a minimum: ¶
- (A) Date and time PPS will be executed; ¶
- (B) Estimated duration of PPS; ¶
- (C) At a minimum, status updates at 24-hour intervals until service has been restored; ¶
- (D) Notice of when re-energization efforts will begin and when re-energization is expected to be complete; and ¶
- (E) In addition to the above requirements, utilities will also provide Geographical Information Files with as much specificity as possible to Operators of Communications facilities in the area of the anticipated PPS. ¶
- (d) ESF-12 will notify Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS) partners and Local Emergency Management in coordination with Oregon's Office of Emergency Management. ¶
- (2) When a Public Utility determines that a PPS is likely to occur, the Public Utility must provide advance notice of the PPS to customers via a PPS web-based interface on the Public Utility's website and other media platforms, and may communicate PPS information directly with customers consistent with this rule. ¶
- (a) In providing notice to customers about a PPS, the Public Utility will, at a minimum: ¶
- (A) Utilize multiple media platforms to maximize customer outreach, including but not limited to, social media, radio, television, and press releases; ¶
- (B) Consider the geographic and cultural demographics of affected areas, including but not limited to broadband access, languages prevalent within the utility's service territories, considerations for those who are vision or hearing impaired; and ¶
- (C) Display on its website homepage a prominent link to access current information about the PPS, consistent with OAR 860-300-0060, including a depiction of the boundary. The PPS information must be easily readable and accessible from mobile devices. ¶
- (b) The Public Utility may directly notify its customers through email communication or telephonic notification (e.g., text messaging and phone calls) when it will not impede Local Emergency Management alerts due to capacity limitations. If the Public Utility provides direct notification, the Public Utility will communicate the following information, at a minimum: ¶
- (A) A statement of impending PPS execution, including an explanation of what a PPS is and the risks that the PPS would be mitigating; ¶
- (B) Date and time PPS will be executed; ¶
- (C) Estimated duration of PPS; ¶
- (D) A 24-hour means of contact customers may use to ask questions or seek information; ¶
- (E) How to access details about the PPS via the Public Utility's website, including education and outreach materials disseminated in advance of the annual wildfire season; ¶

(F) After initial notification, the Public Utility will provide, at a minimum, status updates at 24-hour intervals until the conditions prompting the PSPS have ended; and ¶

(G) Notice of when re-energization efforts will begin and when re-energization is expected to be complete. ¶

(3) To the extent possible, the Public Utility will adhere to the following minimum notification prioritization and timeline in advance of a PSPS: ¶

(a) 48-72 hours in advance of anticipated de-energization, priority notification to Public Safety Partners, operators of utility-identified critical facilities, and adjacent local Public Safety Partners; ¶

(b) 24-48 hours in advance of anticipated de-energization, when safe: secondary notification to all other affected customers; and ¶

(c) 1-4 hours in advance of anticipated de-energization, if possible: notification to all affected customers. ¶

(4) The Public Utility's communications required under this rule do not replace emergency alerts initiated by local emergency response. ¶

(5) Nothing in this rule prohibits the Public Utility from providing additional information about execution of the PSPS to Public Safety Partners, utility-identified critical facilities, or customers.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 183, ORS 756, ORS 757

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 756.040, ORS 757.035

ADOPT: 860-300-0060

NOTICE FILED DATE: 02/25/2022

RULE SUMMARY: This rule summarizes the public electric utility's obligations during a PSPS event.

CHANGES TO RULE:

860-300-0060

Ongoing Informational Requirements for Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)

(1) The Public Utility will create a web-based interface that includes real-time, dynamic information on location, de-energization duration estimates, and re-energization estimates. The web-based interface will be hosted on the Public Utility's website and must be accessible during a PSPS event. The Public Utility will complete the web-based interface before March 31, 2024. ¶

(2) The Public Utility will make its considerations when evaluating the likelihood of a PSPS publicly available on its website. These considerations include, but are not limited to: strong wind events, other current weather conditions, primary triggers in high risk zones that could cause a fire, and any other elements that define an extreme fire hazard evaluated by the Public Utility. ¶

(3) The Public Utility will ensure that its website has the bandwidth capable of handling web traffic surges in the event of a Public Safety Power Shutoff. ¶

(4) The Public Utility will work to provide real-time geographic information pertaining to PSPS outages compatible with Public Safety Partner GIS platforms.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 183, ORS 756, ORS 757

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 756.040, ORS 757.020

ADOPT: 860-300-0070

NOTICE FILED DATE: 02/25/2022

RULE SUMMARY: This rule sets requirements for reporting of PSPS events by public electric utilities.

CHANGES TO RULE:

860-300-0070

Reporting Requirements for Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)

(1) The Public Utility is required to file annual reports on de-energization lessons learned, providing a narrative description of all PSPS events which occurred during the fire season. Reports must be filed no later than December 31st of each year. ¶

(2) Non-confidential versions of the reports required under this section must also be made available on the Public Utility's website.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 183, ORS 756, ORS 757

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 756.040, ORS 757.035