

July 2, 2024



UM 2111/AR 659 Handbook Update Announcement

This announcement describes Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC or Commission) Staff's intention regarding comments on the updates circulated on June 15 by Idaho Power Company (Idaho Power, PacifiCorp dba Pacific Power (PacifiCorp), and Portland General Electric (PGE), collectively the Joint Utilities (JU).

Background

In Order 24-068 the Commission adopted new rules and amendments to existing Division 39 net metering (NEM) rules, and Division 82 interconnection rules associated with the first round of issues in the UM 2111 investigation into modernizing interconnection rules. Part of the order directed the JU to file updated utility interconnection handbooks.¹

On May 15 the JU circulated initial draft handbook updates. This was followed by a workshop on May 30, 2024 to discuss the updates, and how they met the requirements of Order 24-068. Following the workshop, the JU submitted revised handbook updates on June 14, 2024. These updates were the initial step in the update requirements included in OAR 860-082-0030(1)(b):

(b) Interconnection requirements handbook. Each public utility must post an interconnection requirements handbook on its public website. Prior to revising its handbook, a utility must provide public notice on its website and use best efforts to notify organizations representing interconnection customers as specified and periodically updated in the handbook. The utility must provide a minimum of 30 days for interested persons to comment, and the utility must respond within 30 days to any comments received and make its responses public.

Comments

Staff is currently reviewing the utility handbook updates and will send comments out by July 15 addressing any issues that Staff identifies. Staff's comments will be focused on the new requirements as laid out in the Commission order, and compliance with the new requirements as included in Divisions 39 and 82.

In order to address the new requirements expeditiously, Staff's comments will not address issues that were not settled through the initial phase of the UM 2111 investigation. For instance, Staff will not address issues around Cost Allocation Practices, a topic originally planned for Phase 2. The intent is to focus Staff's comments on decisions that have been made by the Commission, and not use the update to comment on the entirety of issues.

This does not imply Staff supports or opposes what is included, it simply means the topic has not been addressed yet.

Staff encourages stakeholders to follow the same approach and focus on the handbook's compliance with the recently revised Division 82 and Division 39 requirements, as opposed to highlighting other

¹ Order 24-068 page 3

areas of concerns that the UM 2111 will address in future phases. To the extent that parties comment on additional issues, Staff will consider them in scoping the next phase of UM 2111 and in the next handbook review process.

Staff also encourages stakeholders to circulate comments to the UM 2111 and AR 659 circulation lists, as well as interested parties, including those identified by the JU.

If you have questions about, please contact:

Ted Drennan
Utility Strategy & Integration Division
503-580-6380
ted.drennan@puc.oregon.gov
/s/ Ted Drennan

To receive meeting notices and agendas for this docket, send an email to puc.hearings@state.or.us, and ask to be added to the service list for Docket No. UM 2111. You will then receive emails with workshop details, when new documents have been added to the docket, or there is a change to the schedule.