

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING DATE: March 17, 2020**

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE _____ **Upon Commission Approval**

DATE: March 16, 2020

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: John Crider

THROUGH: Bryan Conway

SUBJECT: PACIFICORP:
(Docket No. ADV 1099)
Request a change to Tariff P.U.C. OR No. 36 to allow a temporary suspension of the Late Payment Charge.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission approve PacifiCorp's (PAC or Company) request for a modification to Tariff P.U.C. OR No. 36 to allow for temporary suspension of late charges for unpaid accounts.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Commission should approve the Company's request to modify Tariff P.U.C. OR No. 36 in order to allow discretionary suspension of late charges for unpaid accounts.

Applicable Rule or Law

ORS 757.205, OAR 860-022-0025, and OAR 860-022-0030 establish rules for tariff changes and updates to rates. PAC Tariff P.U.C. OR No. 36 sets forth all rates, tolls, charges, rules, and regulations applicable to electric service in Oregon for PacifiCorp.

Analysis

The language in Rule 10, Section D, Late Payment Charge, currently states the following with regard to charging a Late Payment Charge:

“A Late Payment Charge *will* be levied against unpaid accounts in accordance with Schedule 300” (*emphasis added*).

The Company would like the flexibility to suspend late payment charges on delinquent accounts in order to economically assist its customers in Oregon for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency. The Company proposes to replace “will” with “may” in the tariff, which then provides the company the flexibility needed to suspend assessing the Late Payment Charge during the current COVID-19 situation and future emergency situations, consistent with its discretion regarding the disconnection of service. In addition, this tariff change will align with the Late Payment Charge language used in the PacifiCorp’s other service territories.

The Company filed the request to be approved with less than statutory notice as required by ORS 757.220. The Company claims “good cause” due to the request being in response to the declared COVID-19 emergency. Staff agrees with the Company’s rationale for good cause.

Conclusion

Staff concludes that the Company's tariff modification request is warranted, is in the best interest of customers, and should be granted with less than statutory notice.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve PacifiCorp’s request for a modification to Tariff P.U.C. OR No. 36 to allow for temporary suspension of late charges for unpaid accounts