

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: January 15, 2013

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE _____ Upon Commission Approval _____

DATE: December 26, 2012

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Paul Birkeland *PAB*

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer and Lori Koho *JE LK*

SUBJECT: PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC: (Docket No. UM 1384) Revises Meter Inspection and Testing Policy.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that Portland General Electric's (PGE or Company) proposed revisions to its Meter Inspection and Testing Policy, in Docket No. UM 1384, be approved to go into effect upon Commission approval.

DISCUSSION:

On November 19, 2012, PGE filed to revise its Electric Meter Testing and Inspection Policy. The need for these revisions was a topic of discussion during the 2011 annual report and certification, which was presented to Staff on June 13, 2012. The changes are to Section 5 of the policy, which specifies the method that PGE uses to calibrate watt-hour measurement equipment that is used to test the accuracy of customer billing meters.

PGE's current policy maintains three Transport Standards.¹ The Transport Standards are shipped to the manufacturer annually to be calibrated and documented to NIST (National Institute of Standards Technology) certified traceable standards. Each of the three is used to calibrate and test other standards (secondary or working) which are used by PGE meter technicians in the field to test and verify accuracy of billing meters.

¹ A meter standard is a piece of watt-hour measuring equipment that is used to test and calibrate other standards or billing meters.

In the revised policy, the three Transport Standards are replaced with a single Primary Standard, which will be stored and used in a temperature and humidity controlled environment. The calibration accuracy of the Primary Standard will be verified every six months to Standard Instruments that are traceable to NIST.

This Primary Standard will be used to certify, on an annual basis, Secondary or Working Watt-hour Standards. These Secondary or Working Standards are used to calibrate Portable Secondary Watt-hour Standards. The Portable Secondary Standards are made available to be exchanged for standards used in the field when calibration due notices are sent to their users.

The revised policy, like the existing policy, is in place to assure that the equipment that is used to test the accuracy of billing meters is correctly calibrated and traceable to the National Institute of Standards Technology.

PGE states, and Staff agrees, that the revised policy reflects the advancement of technology and incorporates new equipment for the testing of the Company's electric meters.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

PGE's proposed revisions in Docket No. 1384 be allowed to go into effect upon Commission approval.