

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

LC 66

In the Matter of

PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC  
COMPANY,

2016 Integrated Resource Plan.

**NOTICE OF  
PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING**

The Public Utility Commission of Oregon will hold a public comment hearing on Portland General Electric Company's (PGE) 2016 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). The IRP presents PGE's current thinking on how it plans to meet the future energy needs of its customers and comply with regulatory requirements, including those set forth in Oregon's Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Plan (Senate Bill 1547).

The Commission at times schedules public outreach meetings in proceedings that generate a great deal of public interest. Given the number of comments the Commission has received in this docket to this point, and the wide range of interested parties who have submitted those comments, the Commission believes it would be appropriate to add a public comment hearing to the schedule.

At the public comment hearing, members of the public will be given the opportunity to present comments on PGE's IRP. The hearing will be a listening session similar to a legislative hearing, during which the public may speak before the PUC Commissioners. The public comment hearing will be held as follows:

**DATE:** May 15, 2017

**TIME:** 6:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** The Portland Building  
Auditorium  
1120 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204

For more information, please read the attachment that provides answers to frequently asked questions about the PUC's review of energy utility IRPs. A copy of PGE's 2016 IRP may be accessed at [http://www.puc.state.or.us/Pages/2016PGE\\_IRP.aspx](http://www.puc.state.or.us/Pages/2016PGE_IRP.aspx).

The PUC will make every effort to provide an opportunity for all members of the public who wish to offer comments. Depending upon the number of speakers, the PUC may impose time limits on presentations to ensure that all attendees have this opportunity.

Persons not able to attend the public comment hearing may provide comments to the Commission by mail at: Attn.: LC 66, Administrative Hearings Division, Public Utility Commission of Oregon, PO Box 1088, Salem, OR 97308-1088; via e-mail to [pucpubliccomments@state.or.us](mailto:pucpubliccomments@state.or.us); or by telephone to: Consumer Services Division 503-378-6600 or 1-800-522-2404.

If you have questions, please contact JP Batmale, the Senior Utility Analyst assigned to this docket at: 503-378-5942 or [jp.batmale@state.or.us](mailto:jp.batmale@state.or.us).

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017, at Salem, Oregon.

**Lisa D. Hardie**

**Stephen M. Bloom**

**Megan W. Decker**

Chair

Commissioner

Commissioner

**IF YOU HAVE A DISABILITY AND NEED ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EVENT, PLEASE LET US KNOW  
(503) 378-6678, Oregon Relay Service: 7-1-1, or e-mail [puc.hearings@state.or.us](mailto:puc.hearings@state.or.us)**

## INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANS - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The following provides answers to some of the frequently asked questions about the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (PUC) and its review of Integrated Resource Plans filed by energy utilities.

### What is the PUC?

The PUC is a state agency charged with ensuring that privately-owned utilities operating in Oregon provide their customers with safe, reliable, and high quality service at just and reasonable rates. As part of this regulatory oversight, the Commission requires all energy utilities to file a long-term resource plan, called an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), every two years. The PUC first established this IRP process in 1989.

### What is an IRP?

An IRP presents a utility's current thinking on how it plans to meet the future energy and capacity needs of its customers. The IRP will include the utility's estimate of those future energy needs, its analysis of the resources available to meet those needs, and the activities required to secure those resources.

### What is the goal of an IRP?

An IRP, and the process used to develop it, help ensure that a utility engages in prudent resource planning. The IRP process requires a utility to consider all known resources to meet future energy needs. These include not only traditional "supply-side" resources, such as generation and market purchases, but also "demand-side" resources, such as energy efficiency, conservation, and load management. Thus, the goal of the IRP is to identify the mix of all available resources that provides an adequate and reliable supply of energy at the least cost and risk to the utility and its customers.

### What is the role of stakeholders and the public in the IRP process?

When drafting an IRP, the utility must conduct outreach to engage stakeholders and the public. Such participation must include opportunities to contribute information and ideas, as well as the ability to make relevant inquiries of the utility when formulating its resource plan.

Once an IRP is finalized, the utility files it with the PUC for review. The PUC will then initiate a six-month review period, during which the utility, the PUC Staff, stakeholders, and the public may provide additional comments on the IRP and make recommendations to the PUC. Unlike many PUC proceedings, the IRP process is not a formal, judicial type proceeding, but rather an informal, legislative type process that allows for broader public participation.

### What is the PUC's role in the IRP process?

The PUC will review the final IRP, as well as all comments, and decide whether to “acknowledge” the IRP. “Acknowledgement” simply means that the PUC finds the IRP to be reasonable, based on all the information presented.

PUC acknowledgement does not alter the basic roles of the PUC and the utility in the regulatory process. The utility retains full responsibility for making resource decisions and accepting the risk of those decisions. Thus, the utility retains its autonomy while having the benefit of information and opinion contributed by the PUC, stakeholders, and the public.

After an IRP is acknowledged, the utility can choose to pursue its planned action items and acquire the identified resources. For certain resource acquisitions, the utility must use a competitive bidding process to help encourage development of low-cost resources.

PUC acknowledgment also does not constitute pre-approval of any proposed resource action. Once a new resource is required, the utility may initiate a rate proceeding to recover the costs associated with the resource. At that time, the utility will be required to demonstrate that its acquisition of the resource was prudent and in the public interest. It may point to prior acknowledgment of an IRP identifying that resource to support its decision but this is no guarantee of favorable rate-making treatment.

### Does the PUC consider environmental factors when reviewing an IRP?

Yes, in two primary respects. As noted, the goal of the IRP process is to help ensure the utility acquires resources that are the least cost and risk option. This requires an analysis of risks and benefits associated with potential resources. As part of this examination, the PUC requires the utility to examine all environmental compliance costs associated with resource options. To ensure that an IRP is consistent with the public interest, the PUC also requires the utility to examine state and federal energy policies, which often include environmental considerations.

### Where can I find out more about IRPs and PGE's 2016 IRP filing?

For more information, please visit the following links available on the PUC's website at [www.puc.state.or.us](http://www.puc.state.or.us):

PUC IRP Guidelines: <http://apps.puc.state.or.us/orders/2007ords/07-002.pdf>

PGE's 2016 IRP: [http://www.puc.state.or.us/Pages/2016PGE\\_IRP.aspx](http://www.puc.state.or.us/Pages/2016PGE_IRP.aspx)

Filings and Schedule for PGE's IRP:

<http://apps.puc.state.or.us/edockets/docket.asp?DocketID=20423>