

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UE 196

In the Matter of)	
)	
PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC)	RULING
COMPANY,)	
)	
Application to Amortize the Boardman)	
Deferral.)	

**DISPOSITION: MOTION TO SUSPEND PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
DENIED**

On January 15, 2009, the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities (ICNU) and the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB) filed a joint application for reconsideration of the Commission's decision to re-open the record in the above-captioned docket. ICNU and CUB also filed a joint motion to suspend the schedule in this docket pending resolution of the application for reconsideration. The moving parties argue that further proceedings will be unnecessary if the Commission grants the application for reconsideration, and therefore the Commission should suspend the schedule to ensure that the parties do not unnecessarily spend time and money on discovery and preparing testimony. ICNU and CUB assert that there will be no harm from delaying these proceedings because the funds to be used to offset the Boardman deferral amortization amount are in interest-bearing accounts.

Portland General Electric Company (PGE) filed a response to the motion to suspend the procedural schedule on January 21, 2009. PGE notes that it has already spent a great deal of time and expense responding to data requests from the Commission Staff, gathering materials in response to the Commission's Bench Request, and preparing testimony. PGE states that it will be able to meet the January 30 deadline for submitting testimony and file a response to ICNU's and CUB's application for reconsideration, also due January 30.

ICNU's and CUB's motion to suspend the schedule in this docket is denied. ICNU first notified this Commission of its intent to request reconsideration of the decision to re-open the record during a prehearing conference on December 10, 2008. As noted during that conference, the schedule was intended to allow ICNU to file, and the Commission to resolve, any request for reconsideration before the January 30 deadline for submission of PGE's initial testimony. ICNU and CUB provide no

explanation for waiting until two weeks before that deadline to submit their application for reconsideration. Suspending the schedule in this docket is unnecessary because the Commission will issue an order resolving the application for reconsideration shortly after receiving PGE's response and well before intervenor testimony is due on February 27, 2009, and because PGE has stated that it will be able submit testimony and respond to the application for reconsideration by the January 30 deadline.

Furthermore, ICNU and CUB are incorrect that the funds to be used to offset the Boardman deferral amortization amount are in interest-bearing accounts. PGE proposes using \$20 million from the Trojan decommissioning trust to partially offset the deferral amount. Although this \$20 million is in an interest-bearing account, the amount to be used to offset the deferral amount is fixed at \$20 million. *See* Order No. 07-015, Docket No. UE 180. Thus, while the entire deferral amount is earning interest, only a portion of the funds to be used to offset the deferral amount are earning interest at a comparable rate.

Dated this 22nd day of January, 2009, at Salem, Oregon.

Sarah K. Wallace
Administrative Law Judge