

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 1713

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF
OREGON,

Investigation into Large Customer
Energy Efficiency Limitations.

RULING

DISPOSITION: DOCKET TO BE HELD IN ABEYANCE

Background

Energy Trust is charged with acquiring cost-effective energy efficiency for PGE and PacifiCorp. As early as next year, Energy Trust forecasts that it will be unable to acquire *all* cost-effective energy efficiency identified by PGE in its Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process. Energy Trust explains that there is more demand for energy efficiency projects for these customers than there are funds to provide program assistance due to a statutory funding limit. In testimony submitted in PGE's 2014 general rate case (Docket No. UE 283), several parties recognized the importance of acquiring all cost-effective energy efficiency and entered into a stipulation asking the Commission to open an investigation into the statutory limit on energy efficiency acquisition. The Commission approved the stipulation and opened this docket.

Staff and all of the other parties to this docket¹ attended a settlement conference on May 6, 2015 where they agreed it would be appropriate to discuss legislative proposals to address the issues underlying this docket before pursuing an administrative solution before the Commission. The parties agreed that this docket should be held in abeyance, until at least August 6, 2015.

On June 11, 2015, Staff filed a motion requesting that this docket be held in abeyance to allow the parties to have time to work together to develop a legislative proposal that would address the underlying issues in the docket. Staff requests expedited consideration of the motion. Staff represents that the expedited motion is supported by all of the parties. Staff promises to file a status report prior to August 6, 2015, that will indicate

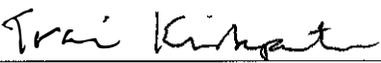
¹The other parties are Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB), Portland General Electric Co. (PGE), PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power (PacifiCorp), the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities (ICNU), the Energy Trust of Oregon (Energy Trust), and the Northwest Energy Coalition (NWEC).

whether the parties would like the docket to continue being held in abeyance or whether they would like a procedural schedule to be established for the remainder of this docket.

Ruling

To facilitate the discussion of a legislative solution to address the issues underlying this docket, I grant Staff's motion. Based on the representation that all parties support the motion, I grant the motion on an expedited basis. If an objection is filed within the permitted period of time, however, I reserve the right to address the objection. This docket is held in abeyance until August 6, 2015. I direct Staff to file a status report before the close of business on August 6, 2016 that indicates whether the parties would like the docket to continue being held in abeyance or whether they would like a procedural schedule to be established for the remainder of this docket.

Dated this 16th day of June, 2015, at Salem, Oregon.

 (PDR)

Traci A. G. Kirkpatrick
Administrative Law Judge