

ISSUED: April 26, 2006

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 1129

In the Matter of)	
)	
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF)	NOTICE OF <i>EX PARTE</i>
OREGON)	COMMUNICATION
)	
Staff's Investigation Relating to Electric)	
Utility Purchases From Qualifying)	
Facilities.)	

On April 24, 2006, Commissioner Ray Baum received a telephone call from Mr. Mark Simmons, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development, State Director, Oregon. Mr. Simmons discussed issues regarding avoided costs calculations, expressing concern that Commission Staff did not object to filed avoided costs that are based on stale natural gas forecasts and the determination that utilities are resource sufficient despite ongoing utility acquisitions. Such issues are currently pending in the compliance phase of the above-captioned docket.

Mr. Simmons' telephone discussion constitutes an *ex parte* communication under OAR 860-012-0015. Accordingly, I am serving notice of Mr. Simmons' communication to all parties on the service list for Docket UM 1129. Parties have the right to rebut the communication within 10 days of this notice, with service to all parties of record.

Dated at Salem, Oregon, this 26th day of April 2006.

Traci A. G. Kirkpatrick
Administrative Law Judge