

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON  
STAFF REPORT  
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: September 25, 2001**

REGULAR  X  CONSENT       EFFECTIVE DATE                     October 1, 2001

**DATE:** September 18, 2001

**TO:** Phil Nyegaard through Lee Sparling and Jack Breen

**FROM:** Rebecca Hathhorn

**SUBJECT:** Portland General Electric Advice No. 01-017- Approval of a modification to Schedule 115 and PacifiCorp Advice 01-019 - Approval of a modification to Schedule 91, for Low-income Assistance in accordance with House Bill 3633

**SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Commission:

1. Allow Portland General Electric's (PGE) Advice No. 01-017 into effect on October 1, 2001.
2. Allow PacifiCorp's Advice No. 01-019 into effect on October 1, 2001.

**DISCUSSION:**

On August 31, 2001, PGE filed Advice No. 01-017 and PacifiCorp filed Advice No. 01-019. Both filings seek to modify current schedules (Schedule 115 for PGE and Schedule 91 for PacifiCorp) for low-income bill payment assistance as required by House Bill (HB) 3633, Section 3, amending ORS 757.612(7).

Originally, Senate Bill (SB) 1149 stated that the two electric companies should collect \$10 million for low-income bill payment assistance beginning on the date direct access is offered. Also, SB 1149 allowed for \$5 million per year to be collected from January 1, 2001 until the date direct access is offered. HB 3633 delayed the date for direct access but required the increase in collections for low-income bill payment assistance on October 1, 2001. SB 843 clarifies that collections should increase to \$10 million per year.

The current charge for both utilities is 18 cents per month for residential customers and .18 mills/kWh (.018 cents) for all other customers. The usage charge for nonresidential customers is capped at \$500 per month per site. The monthly charge will increase to

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35 cents per month for residential customers and .35 mills/kWh for all other customers. The cap of \$500 for nonresidential customers remains unchanged.

The funds collected for low-income bill payment assistance are forwarded monthly to Housing and Community Services (HCS), which administers and allocates the funds.

Attached for your information is a summary schedule of all PGE rate changes that will be effective on October 1, 2001. Aside from the low-income bill payment assistance, PGE's Energy Efficiency Adjustment (commonly known as SAVE) and changes as a result of the UE 115 Order No. 01-777 are summarized in Attachment A.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Staff has reviewed PGE's Advice No. 01-017 and PacifiCorp's Advice No. 01-019 and recommends that PGE's revised Schedule 115 and PacifiCorp's revised Schedule 91 be allowed to go in to effect on October 1, 2001.