

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON  
STAFF REPORT  
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: December 3, 2001**

**REGULAR** \_\_\_\_\_ **CONSENT**  X  **EFFECTIVE DATE**  December 5, 2001

**DATE:** November 21, 2001

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

**FROM:** Deborah Garcia

**SUBJECT:** PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC: (Advice No. 01-19) Updates the residential deposit amounts of Schedule 310 to reflect the final rates adopted in UE 115.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

I recommend that the Commission allow Portland General Electric Advice No. 01-19 to go into effect on December 5, 2001.

**DISCUSSION:**

Portland General Electric (PGE) filed Advice No. 01-19 on October 24, 2001. The filing proposes to amend Schedule 310 Deposits for Residential Service, Original Sheet No. 310-1, by changing the residential deposit amounts to reflect the final rates adopted in UE 115 and by eliminating some deposit sub-categories due to the small number of dwellings in each.

OAR 860-021-0200 (4) Establishing Credit for Residential Utility Service specifies, "...a deposit required under these rules will not exceed one-sixth the amount of reasonable estimated billing for 12 months at rates then in effect. This estimate shall be based upon the use of service at the premises during the prior 12 months or upon the type and size of the customer's equipment that will use the service..."

Currently, PGE residential deposit requirements are broken into the following categories: Single-Family Dwellings, Multiple-Family Dwellings, Mobile Homes, and Houseboats. Within each category are sub-categories that distinguish between dwellings that require different amounts of electricity based on the energy source that is used by the heating, hot water, and other equipment. The sub-categories range from a dwelling that is all electric to one that uses electricity only for lights, televisions, computers, and other small appliances.

To support the proposed changes in deposit requirements, PGE provided a comprehensive residential deposit study. The deposit study captures historical 2000 usage data adjusted to normal weather and provides average monthly usage and bill amounts for each sub-category of dwelling. Staff thoroughly reviewed the 2000 Deposit Study and agrees with the calculations.

The current deposit amounts were included in PGE's original UE 115 filing and erroneously went into effect with the UE 115 rates on October 1. The deposits proposed here are lower than the ones that went into effect on October 1. Like any other customer paying PGE a deposit to initiate service, a person who paid the higher amount since October 1 will earn interest (currently 6 percent a year) until credit is established and the deposit is refunded.

In addition to updating the deposit amounts, the mobile home and houseboat categories have been condensed into either "all electric" or a "combination" of energy sources due to the small number of dwellings in some of the other sub-categories.

Staff finds that the proposed revisions are reasonable and should be allowed to take effect.

**PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:**

Portland General Electric's proposed revisions to Schedule 310 Deposits for Residential Service, as stated in Advice 01-019, be allowed to go into effect on December 5, 2001.