



Frequently Asked Questions

UE 374 – PacifiCorp Request for a General Rate Revision

GENERAL PUC & RATE CASE INFORMATION

What is the PUC?

The Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) is a state agency charged with ensuring that investor-owned electric, natural gas, and telephone utilities, as well as select water companies operating in Oregon provide their customers with safe, reliable and high quality service at just and reasonable rates. The PUC also enforces electric and natural gas safety standards and handles utility-related dispute resolution on behalf of Oregon residents.

What is a rate case?

Under Oregon law, a regulated utility may propose to change rates for service with the PUC at any time. This filing must clearly define the effects of the proposed change and justification for the proposed change. A general rate case, like UE 374, proposes a change to all rates.

Who participates in the rate case process?

PUC Staff participates as a party in rate case proceedings. The Oregon Citizen’s Utility Board (CUB), an established intervenor, acts on behalf of residential customers, while the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (AWEC) represents large energy users in Oregon. Other interested stakeholders may petition to intervene as a party.

What’s the rate case process?

The PUC will conduct an investigation into the filing to determine if any changes in rates are warranted by evaluating the components of the proposed revenue requirement – such as plant investments, operations and maintenance expenses, and the cost of capital. PUC Staff, PacifiCorp, CUB, AWEC, and other intervenors participate in discovery, file testimony, and present legal arguments. Additionally, in major rate cases such as UE 374, the PUC holds two types of public hearings:

1. **Evidentiary Hearings** – PacifiCorp, PUC staff and intervenors are permitted to provide testimony and cross-examine witnesses in the case.
2. **Public Comment Hearings** – Utility customers have the opportunity to comment on a proposed rate change before the Commissioners. View the next page for information on how to submit comments by email, phone, or mail.

The Commissioners will consider the parties’ arguments and the evidence submitted in the rate case to determine PacifiCorp’s prudent and reasonable costs of doing business. The Commissioners then set rates that recover reasonable costs in a way that is fair to the customers and the company.

PACIFICORP’S GENERAL RATE CASE

Documents filed in PacifiCorp’s rate case (Docket UE 374) may be viewed at:

<https://apps.puc.state.or.us/edockets/DocketNoLayout.asp?DocketID=22279&Child=action>

In general, what does PacifiCorp's rate filing include?

In its general rate case, PacifiCorp is asking for an overall rate increase of \$70.8 million or 5.4 percent effective January 1, 2021. PacifiCorp states that the primary reason for this filing is to recover the costs of ongoing new investments in the electrical system, providing safe, reliable electricity for customers and complying with regulatory mandates. This is the company's first rate case filing since 2013. As proposed, an average residential customer who uses 900 kilowatt-hours per month would see their bill increase by about \$6.98.

In addition to the general rate increase, PacifiCorp's annual power cost adjustment is pending before the commission. In that filing, the utility is forecasting a rate reduction of \$49.2 million for 2021. The short-term combined effect of the general rate case and power cost adjustment would be an overall increase in rates of \$21.6 million or 1.6 percent.

What are the key events in the schedule for PacifiCorp's General Rate Case (UE 374)?

- April 2, 2020 – Public Comment Hearing webinar from 6-8 p.m. Register in advance at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2389843904203354636>. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email containing details of how to join the webinar.
- April 13, 2020 - Public Comment Hearing conference call from 6-8 p.m. To participate, call 866-390-1828 (passcode: 2252868#).
- April 17, 2020 Staff Workshop
- September 9-10, 2020 Hearing
- November 3, 202 Oral Argument
- December 16, 2020 Commission Order (target)
- January 1, 2021 – Rate change effective date

How can I stay updated on the rate case?

Sign up to become an Interested Person at the open house events or by calling 503-378-6678.

How can I make comments on PacifiCorp's rate case?

Individuals unable to participate in the public comment hearings listed above, may submit comments to the Public Utility Commission of Oregon in the following ways:

- Email: PUC.PublicComments@state.or.us
- Call: 503-378-6600 or 800-522-2404 or
- Mail:
Oregon Public Utility Commission
Attn.: UE 374, Administrative Hearings Division
PO Box 1088
Salem, OR 97308-1088