

Media Release



Oregon PUC Emphasizes Full Review Before PacifiCorp Rate Change

SALEM, Ore. – The Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) has denied PacifiCorp’s request for an interim rate increase while the Commission conducts a full review of the utility’s general rate case filing.

PacifiCorp is asking to raise overall customer revenues by \$170.7 million, or 8.6 percent, in its general rate case. As part of that filing, PacifiCorp sought a temporary 2.8 percent increase starting June 4, 2026, saying it was needed to address financial pressure and concerns about its credit ratings. If approved, the interim increase would have reduced the size of possible rate changes in 2027 and shifted the timing of those changes from April to July 2027.

After reviewing PacifiCorp’s filing for interim rates, the Commission did not find justification to approve the interim rate request. The Commission noted that PacifiCorp has taken several steps to improve its financial position, including actions approved by the PUC. Those steps include a sale-leaseback arrangement for the Boardman-to-Hemingway transmission project, changes to company’s capital structure, and an expanded line of credit.

Interim rates are rarely approved in Oregon. They are reserved for situations in which a utility shows it is unable to continue providing safe and reliable service during a general rate case review process, which typically takes about 10 months.

“We took this request seriously because the financial health of the utilities we regulate directly impacts safe and reliable service for customers,” said PUC Chair Letha Tawney. “Emergency rate increases require a very high bar, and PacifiCorp did not demonstrate need at this time. The Commission is willing to evaluate a renewed request, should circumstances change.”

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The Commission will investigate the general rate revision request under the standard 10-month suspension. This allows the Commission and stakeholders to review PacifiCorp's full request, including the proposed \$170.7 million revenue increase for capital investments, operating costs, and other expenses. The review will continue through 2026, with a final decision expected in March 2027.

PacifiCorp serves about 600,000 customers in Oregon.

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