

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN) CASE NO. PAC-E-24-04
POWER’S APPLICATION FOR)
AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS RATES) NOTICE OF SUSPENSION
AND CHARGES IN IDAHO)
ORDER NO. 36350
)

On September 13, 2024, Commission Staff (“Staff”) moved for an order suspending for 60 days the January 1, 2025, proposed effective date for the rate increases proposed by Rocky Mountain Power, a division of PacifiCorp (“Company”) in this case. Staff argued that the slow pace of discovery and difficulty calendaring a technical hearing constituted good cause for the suspension.

On September 20, 2024, the Company answered Staff’s motion, challenging the assertion that good cause existed for a suspension. Specifically, despite acknowledging delays in some of its discovery responses, the Company cited the substantial number of production requests Staff propounded (nearly 2,000 in a month and a half if sub-requests are counted) and that the extensions it sought were to maintain accuracy and confidentiality of responses. Additionally, the Company asserted that it should not be financially penalized for the difficulty scheduling a technical hearing, alleging that each month of delay in implementing new rates beyond January 1, 2025, would cost the Company around \$2 million.

Staff and the Company presented their positions to the Commission at the Commission’s September 24, 2024, Decision Meeting.

Having reviewed the record, the Commission issues this interlocutory order suspending for good cause shown the January 1, 2025, effective date for the Company’s proposed rate increases. Additionally, if a final order addressing the Company’s request to increase rates does not issue on or before January 1, 2025, the Company is authorized to record a regulatory asset for later recovery in the amount of the revenue requirement increase the Commission ultimately grants as more fully described below.

COMMISSION FINDINGS AND DECISION

The Commission has authority to suspend the proposed effective date of any new rate. *See Idaho Code* § 61-622. After initially suspending a new rate for 5 months and 30 days, the

Commission may extend the suspension by an additional 60 days for good cause shown. *Id.* Any further suspension must be with the written consent of the party proposing the rate increase. *Id.*

In any general rate case, ample input from Staff and all other parties is crucial for the Commission to properly evaluate whether a proposed rate increase is just and reasonable. The size of the rate increase proposed in this case (an overall increase of almost 26 percent over two years), makes this input even more important.

Additionally, calendaring a technical hearing to evaluate the testimony and recommendations of the parties is important. Currently, there are three significant rate cases pending before the Commission in addition to other matters that demand this Commission's time and attention. If this case does proceed to a full technical hearing, we must ensure that the parties have adequate time to prepare for it while also leaving sufficient time for the Commission to deliberate and issue a final order before any proposed effective date for new rates. Consequently, we find that the combination of the slow progress of discovery combined with the difficulty in calendaring viable technical hearing date(s) constitutes good cause to suspend the January 1, 2025, effective date of the Company's proposed rate increases for a period of 60 days.

However, we are sensitive to the financial difficulty this suspension could impose on the Company. Consequently, we find it fair, just, and reasonable to authorize to Company to record as a regulatory asset the revenue requirement increase the Commission ultimately grants in this case. This asset will accrue from January 1, 2025, until new rates go into effect. The amount of this asset will be calculated as follows. First the Company shall determine the annual price increase for all net power cost ("NPC") and non-NPC items. Only the ten percent of the NPC items subject to the 90/10 sharing band in the ECAM will be deferred. The combined annual impact of both the deferred NPC and non-NPC items divided over the suspension period will be the regulatory asset balance.

If a final order authorizing new rates for the Company issues after January 1, 2025, the Company shall make a compliance filing calculating the amount of this regulatory asset within 30 days of the service date of the final order. No carrying charge is authorized for this regulatory asset. If a final order authorizing new rates for the Company issues on or before January 1, 2025, this authorization will be of no effect.

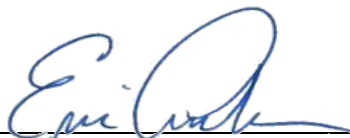
ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the January 1, 2025, effective date for the Company's proposed rate increases is suspended for 60 days.

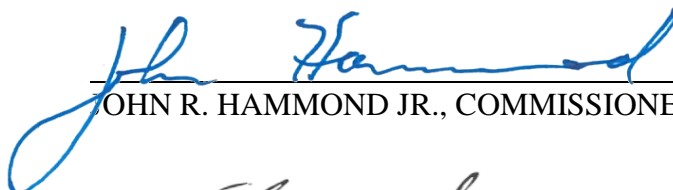
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Company is authorized to record as a regulatory asset the revenue requirement increase the Commission ultimately grants in this case from January 1, 2025, until new rates become effective in this case. The amount of this asset shall be calculated as described above. If a final order authorizing new rates for the Company issues on or before January 1, 2025, this authorization will be of no effect.

THIS IS AN INTERLOCUTORY ORDER, not a final and appealable Order of the Commission. The period of reconsideration will not begin until the final order is issued.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 9th day of October 2024.



ERIC ANDERSON, PRESIDENT

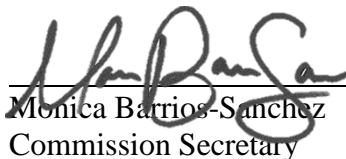


JOHN R. HAMMOND JR., COMMISSIONER



EDWARD LODGE, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Monica Barrios-Sanchez
Commission Secretary

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