

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE PACIFICORP)
APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF CHANGES) **CASE NO. PAC-E-02-6**
TO THE RULES AND CHARGES FOR)
TEMPORARY SERVICE CONNECTION) **ORDER NO. 29168**
FACILITIES.)

On October 3, 2002, PacifiCorp filed an Application seeking approval of certain changes to its Electric Service Schedule Nos. 14 and 300 and Electric Service Regulation No. 12 concerning temporary service connection facilities. The Company requested that these proposed revisions become effective December 4, 2002. On October 29, 2002, the Commission issued a Notice of Application, Modified Procedure, and Comment Deadline in Order No. 29138. Commission Staff was the only party to file comments by the November 21, 2002 comment deadline. After reviewing the comments and record in this case, the Commission approves the Application as set out in greater detail below.

THE APPLICATION

PacifiCorp's Application proposed that it no longer supply temporary service connection facilities¹ in its Idaho service territory. This would close Schedule 14 to new service. In 2001, the Company received 334 requests for temporary power installations and 298 temporary power installations are currently in service.

The Company based its proposal on the fact that temporary service connection facilities are readily available at home improvement stores and can be obtained easily by customers or contractors as needed. Purchasing and warehousing temporary service facilities in order to have a supply available for lease creates unnecessary costs and an administrative burden for the Company. Moreover, the Company does not provide temporary service connection facilities in any other state in its service territory. Utah and Wyoming eliminated the requirement to provide temporary service facilities in the late 1990s. PacifiCorp indicated that neither Avista Utilities nor Idaho Power offer this service in the State of Idaho. The Company also noted that the State of Idaho Division of

¹ Temporary service connection facilities normally include a temporary power pole, a meter base, a main switch and breaker panel and a limited number of electrical outlets. Temporary service connection facilities are typically installed to provide electrical service at construction sites.

Building Safety imposed new requirements for suppliers of temporary service connection facilities on June 26, 2002, which would create additional costs for the Company.

The majority of the Company's customers who request temporary service facilities are contractors. PacifiCorp stated that the Company was in the process of communicating with Idaho contractors that it has worked with in the past to inform them of this Application. In some areas local contractors are already supplying their own temporary services, as PacifiCorp's do not meet their needs.

The Company also proposed to increase the \$45 charge for connection and disconnection of temporary service facilities to \$85 for single phase and \$115 for three-phase service. The Company estimated that the cost of connecting and disconnecting service ranges from \$81 to \$233, as anywhere from one to three hours of labor may be required. The Company argued that the existing charge for this service is considerably less than the cost of providing this service. PacifiCorp further asserted that this proposed charge is consistent with what the Company charges for this service in other jurisdictions.

STAFF COMMENTS

Staff's investigation confirmed that temporary service connection facilities are readily available at home improvement stores and can be obtained easily by customers or contractors as needed. Staff also confirmed that the Company does not provide temporary service connection facilities in any other state in its service territory. Staff also verified that neither Idaho Power nor Avista has provided temporary service connection facilities to contractors or customers for many years. Staff does not believe that there is any compelling reason for PacifiCorp to continue to be required to provide these readily available facilities.

Because PacifiCorp has provided temporary service connection facilities in the past, some of these facilities remain installed at construction sites. Staff proposed that PacifiCorp be required to allow customers and contractors who are currently using temporary facilities to continue doing so until construction of their project is complete. Once the projects are complete, the facilities would be returned to the Company and retired. Staff concurred with PacifiCorp's proposal that it not be required to provide facilities in response to any new requests.

Staff did not oppose the Company's proposal to increase the \$45 charge for connection and disconnection of temporary service facilities to \$85 for single-phase and \$115 for three-phase

service. Staff noted that Idaho Power and Avista both charge fees for the same service that are higher than PacifiCorp's current fee. Idaho Power charges a temporary service connection fee of \$120 for overhead service and \$140 for underground service. Avista charges a temporary service connection fee for residential customers of \$60 plus the cost of any additional required labor or materials that will not be used in the permanent service. Staff indicated that the estimated range of actual costs for connecting and disconnecting service cited by PacifiCorp is accurate. Furthermore, Staff found that an increase in the temporary service connection fee is warranted.

In sum, Staff recommended that the Commission approve PacifiCorp's request to close Schedule No. 14 to new service. Staff also recommends the Commission approve the Company's request to increase the charge for connection and disconnection of temporary service to \$85 for single-phase and \$115 for three-phase service.

COMMISSION FINDINGS

The Commission has reviewed and considered PacifiCorp's Application in Case No. PAC-E-02-6. The Commission has also considered Staff's analysis and recommendation in this matter. The Commission continues to find that the issues presented are suitable for processing under Modified Procedure, i.e., by written submission rather than by hearing. IDAPA 31.01.01.204.

In considering the filings of record, the Commission finds PacifiCorp's Application and proposed changes to its rules and charges for temporary service facilities to be reasonable. Based upon the evidence in the record, the Commission finds that temporary service connection facilities are readily available and need not be supplied by PacifiCorp. This finding is consistent with our treatment of Idaho Power Company and Avista Utilities, neither of which has offered this service in many years. Although we approve PacifiCorp's Application to close this service to new customers, we direct PacifiCorp to continue serving customers and contractors who are currently using temporary facilities until their respective construction projects are completed. Given the rates charged by other utilities for the same service, the Commission further finds the Company's proposal to increase the \$45 charge for connection and disconnection of temporary service facilities to \$85 for single-phase and \$115 for three-phase service to be reasonable.

Although the Commission has made considerable efforts to notify the building and electrical contractors most likely to be impacted by the Application, we note that no customer has objected to PacifiCorp's temporary service facilities proposal. More specifically, the Commission sent its Notice of Application to 54 building contractors identified by PacifiCorp with whom the

Company most often does business. A letter describing the proposed changes was also sent by the Company to more than 150 electrical contractors who do business in PacifiCorp's Idaho service territory. The Commission sent a copy of the Notice to these electrical contractors as well.

For the reasons described above, we find it appropriate to approve PacifiCorp's Application. We further find the requested December 4, 2002, effective date to be reasonable.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has jurisdiction over this matter and PacifiCorp, an electric utility, pursuant to the authority and power granted under Title 61 of the Idaho Code and the Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.000 *et seq.*

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that PacifiCorp's Application seeking approval of changes to its Electric Service Schedule Nos. 14 and 300 and Electric Service Regulation No. 12 be approved effective December 4, 2002.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that PacifiCorp submit tariff sheets consistent with this Order to the Commission.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in this Order may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date of this Order. Within seven (7) days after any person has petitioned for reconsideration, any other person may cross-petition for reconsideration. See *Idaho Code* § 61-626.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho, this 3rd
day of December 2002.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT




MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER



DENNIS S. HANSEN, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

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