# - BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH -

In the Matter of the Application of Rocky Mountain Power for Approval of a Promotional Program Pursuant to R746-404

DOCKET NO. 14-035-146

ORDER

ISSUED: December 17, 2014

# BACKGROUND

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PacifiCorp, dba Rocky Mountain Power ("PacifiCorp"), filed an application on November 19, 2014, requesting approval of a promotional program pursuant to R746-404 ("Application"). The Application states the Commission's letter of September 4, 2012, in Docket No. 12-035-91, approved the addition of Special Condition 6 to Schedule 70, Renewable Energy Rider – Optional. The Application indicates, however, that PacifiCorp inadvertently failed to file the updated tariff in Docket No. 12-035-91 and now requests the Commission approve: (1) a retroactive effective date of September 4, 2012, for the tariff approved by the Commission on September 4, 2012, in Docket No. 12-035-91; and (2) authorization to indefinitely extend the promotional program offerings, as described in the previously approved tariff language.

In response to the Commission's November 21, 2014, notice of filing and comment period, the Division of Public Utilities ("Division") filed a memorandum on December 9, 2014, addressing the Application. The Division states the Commission issued a letter in Docket No. 12-035-91 on September 4, 2012, approving Special Condition 6, a promotional concessions campaign, to Schedule 70 Renewable Energy Rider. The Division explains the promotional concessions consist of thank you gifts ("promotional gifts"), valued at \$25 or less offered to customers who enroll in PacifiCorp's Blue Sky program. The total cost for the

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promotional gifts would not exceed \$10,000 annually through the end of calendar year 2014 to align with existing contracts with marketing/outreach vendors.

The Division asserts that because the promotional program has been in place since the Commission's approval on September 4, 2012, a retroactive effective date is unnecessary. Notwithstanding, the Division does not oppose a retroactive effective date.

Regarding PacifiCorp's request to indefinitely extend the promotional program offerings that were approved by the Commission through the end of calendar year 2014, the Division states it is not opposed to this request as long as it is shown by PacifiCorp in its annual report to be cost-effective. To that end, the Division recommends PacifiCorp include an annual summary report on the cost per participant of the Blue Sky promotional program with the Blue Sky Annual Report provided in March of each year.

Finally, the Division explains that as part of the promotional concession program, PacifiCorp may partner with nonprofit organizations that support renewable energy in order to promote Blue Sky participation. As explained by the Division, when a partner nonprofit's constituent enrolls in the Blue Sky program a small donation is provided to the nonprofit partner. The Division states PacifiCorp's filing promotes partnering with regional nonprofit organizations. Since the Utah Blue Sky program is funded by Utah Rocky Mountain Power customers, the Division recommends PacifiCorp partner with local nonprofit organizations where the donation would benefit the local Utah community. The Division states that partnering with regional nonprofit organizations does not provide the Division with confidence that the Blue Sky donation benefits the local community.

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#### **DISCUSSION, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

The Commission has reviewed PacifiCorp's Application and the Division's recommendations as described above. With respect to PacifiCorp's request for a retroactive effective date of September 4, 2012, for the tariff approved by the Commission on September 4, 2012, in Docket No. 12-035-91, the Commission agrees with the Division and finds that a retroactive effective date is unnecessary in light of the fact that the Commission has already approved the program and PacifiCorp has been implementing the program since that time.

Regarding PacifiCorp's request to continue the program indefinitely, we approve PacifiCorp's request subject to the condition recommended by the Division that PacifiCorp demonstrate continued cost-effectiveness of the program by providing an annual summary report on the cost per participant of the Blue Sky promotional program. This report shall be included with the Blue Sky Annual Report provided in March of each year.

Finally, with respect to the Division's recommended condition that PacifiCorp partner only with local rather than regional nonprofit organizations, the Commission agrees that programs funded by Utah customers should benefit the local community and encourages PacifiCorp to implement its program to benefit local organizations to the extent practicable. The Commission declines, however, at this time to specifically prescribe PacifiCorp's partnering relationships based on locale.

#### <u>ORDER</u>

Based on the foregoing, the Commission approves the revised tariffs sheets as filed by PacifiCorp in Docket No. 14-035-146 on November 19, 2014, with an effective date of December 19, 2014, subject to the conditions discussed above.

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# DATED at Salt Lake City, Utah, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2014.

/s/ Ron Allen, Chairman

/s/ David R. Clark, Commissioner

/s/ Thad LeVar, Commissioner

Attest:

<u>/s/ Gary L. Widerburg</u> Commission Secretary DW#262549

#### Notice of Opportunity for Agency Review or Rehearing

Pursuant to §§ 63G-4-301 and 54-7-15 of the Utah Code, an aggrieved party may request agency review or rehearing of this Order by filing a written request with the Commission within 30 days after the issuance of this Order. Responses to a request for agency review or rehearing must be filed within 15 days of the filing of the request for review or rehearing. If the Commission does not grant a request for review or rehearing within 20 days after the filing of the request, it is deemed denied. Judicial review of the Commission's final agency action may be obtained by filing a petition for review must comply with the requirements of §§ 63G-4-401 and 63G-4-403 of the Utah Code and Utah Rules of Appellate Procedure.

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# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I CERTIFY that on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2014, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served upon the following as indicated below:

By Electronic-Mail:

Data Request Response Center (<u>datarequest@pacificorp.com</u>) PacifiCorp

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By Hand-Delivery:

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Administrative Assistant