

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the matter of the evaluation of the HELP Program	<u>Docket No. 03-035-01</u> Request of Light and Truth February 11, 2005
---	---

I request that the Commission schedule a calendaring meeting in the immediate future leading to a formal hearing on Docket 03-035-01, Evaluation of the HELP Program. The Quantec Report was published on January 27, 2005 and has been received. There is no reason for further delay.

The following is a status update.

Reports The RWBeck Report, the DPU Reports (multiple), the Light and Truth Report and now the Quantec Report are all unanimous and consistent in discovering no measurable, quantifiable data demonstrating benefits of the HELP Program to the Company or Ratepayers or demonstrating that the benefits exceed the costs.

Quantec Report This was to demonstrate attribution of the PacifiCorp HELP data but has not done so. None of the sampled factors addressed by Quantec are consistent with the full PacifiCorp data. One sample even described a 42% reduction in Arrears while the full PacifiCorp data shows a 4% increase. When asked about these discrepancies Quantec responded that explaining the differences were, “beyond the scope of our project.” There were at least three instances demonstrating a lack of objectivity and a decided bias toward recipients over ratepayers. These problems and others were pointed out by Light and Truth in questions to Quantec in the draft phase but the final report was not corrected.

Delays The parties that argued so strongly for delays for future study and to gain additional data have not, themselves, provided any additional support or data. Nor have they suggested any specifics on what the additional data might be or what the source of it might be.

Claims The initial claims which provided the very basis for the HELP implementation have never been demonstrated or proven by those making the claims, or by anyone else. Despite this absence of substantiation, the claims continue to be repeated over and over.

Cost The total cost that has been collected from ratepayers now exceeds \$8.3 million dollars (over \$1.7 million dollars are excess, beyond that disbursed to recipients) and we are well into the program’s fifth year.

Light and Truth will provide testimony documenting all the above, and more, as the process moves toward a hearing.

Dated this 11th day of February 2005

Paul F. Mecham
Light and Truth
paul_mecham@hotmail.com
801 467-3234