



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Committee of Consumer Services

To: The Public Service Commission of Utah

From: The Committee of Consumer Services
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The Division of Public Utilities
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Date: March 31, 2009

Subject: PacifiCorp's 2008 IRP, Docket No. 09-2035-01; PacifiCorp's proposed schedule for filing 2008 IRP with state commissions.

Background

On June 11, 2008, PacifiCorp (Company) filed a letter with the Utah Commission indicating that it planned to file the 2008 IRP by March 31, 2008, and that the biannual filing date for future IRPs be permanently changed to March 31. Earlier this fall the Company's IRP team informed IRP stakeholders that a draft IRP would likely be circulated by about February 1, 2009, with a 30-day stakeholder comment period, so that the Company could complete and submit the IRP to the various state commissions for review by March 31, 2009. Due to changing circumstances, the Company on March 11, 2008 held a teleconference with stakeholders to discuss the feasibility of filing a Draft IRP on April 8, 2009, with a two-week comment period, and a target date of May 6, 2009 to formally file the IRP with state commissions. After further input from parties in various states, the Company now proposes to file a Draft IRP on April 8, 2009, allow parties about a month to submit comments on the draft, and formally file the IRP with state commissions on May 29, 2009.

Discussion

The Committee has read the Division's March 25, 2009 response to an action request issued by the Commission regarding the revised 2008 IRP schedule proposed by the Company. The Committee generally concurs with the Division's response that the Company be required to formally file its 2008 IRP with the Commission on April 8, 2008 and set a procedural schedule for the docket. Given the size of the impending resource deficit and the unsuccessful resolution of recent resource acquisition processes, the Committee believes that the Commission and intervening parties should have access to

the updated IRP information as soon as possible. The sooner we start this analysis, the sooner the Commission can provide direction in resolving these important issues.

However, we believe that parties should be afforded at least 60 to 90 days from the time the 2008 IRP is filed to analyze, prepare and submit comments on this very important planning document. The Division's recommendation of a minimum of 30 days does not provide a party adequate time to conduct discovery on the IRP and its technical appendices and prepare comments.

The Committee does not take a position at this time regarding the timing of the filing of future IRPs and associated updates. The Committee believes that filings should be made in a timely manner, but also believes that filings should be made on a timeline that facilitates review of the best possible quality of information. The Committee suggests that it might be helpful to discuss these issues in a technical conference to consider relevant issues before the Commission makes a determination on the timing of future filings.

Recommendation

The Commission should require PacifiCorp to formally file its 2008 IRP on April 8, 2008 and request a procedural schedule for the docket, including a timeline for discovery, comments from parties, the Company's response to comments, a technical conference and possibly hearings. Regarding formal comments from parties, the Commission should allow parties at least 60 to 90 days from the date the 2008 IRP is filed to prepare and file comments.