

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



April 7, 2023

Shelley McCoy
Director, Regulation
PacifiCorp
825 NE Multnomah, Suite 2000
Portland, Oregon 97232

SUBJECT: Notice of Violation – PacifiCorp 2021 Public Safety Power Shutoff Event

Dear Ms. McCoy:

On behalf of the Safety and Enforcement Division (SED) of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Wildfire Safety & Enforcement Branch (WSEB), Cindy Chen of my staff evaluated the compliance report submitted by PacifiCorp concerning its 2021 Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) event. PacifiCorp initiated one PSPS event in 2021. The information used in our evaluation is from the compliance event report filed by PacifiCorp as required in Resolution ESRB-8, Decision (D.) 19-05-042, D.20-05-051, D.21-06-014, and D.21-06-034. We also considered stakeholders' comments in our evaluation.

Violations of D.19-05-042*Customer Notification Violations*

In D.19-05-042, the Commission set forth a number of notification requirements to ensure customers would be informed prior to a de-energization event. Over the course of our evaluation, WSEB was unable to determine if PacifiCorp properly notified customers when re-energization began. D.19-05-042 requires that the electric investor-owned utility provide notification to customers “at the beginning of a de-energization event, when re-energization begins and when re-energization is complete.” (A8). PacifiCorp only reported that “several” notifications did not get made as re-energization began because of system overload. Without information specifying how many customers did not receive a notification, WSEB must assume that none of the customers received them.

Additionally, the D.19-05-042 requires advance notification 48-72 hours to public safety partners and 1-4 hours to customers prior to a de-energization (D.19-05-042 A8). PacifiCorp did not meet either requirement.

PacifiCorp failed to notify Critical Facilities and customers of the estimated start time, duration, and estimated time to full restoration of the events (A16, A22-23).

Post Event Report

Additionally, the Commission requires utilities to submit a post event report for each PSPS event. D.19-05-042 requires that a link to the report be included on the utilities website with contact information to submit comments (A22). PacifiCorp's service of the de-energization report did not include a link to the report on PacifiCorp's website and contact information to submit comments. In the report, PacifiCorp failed to evaluate the engagement with local and state public safety partners in providing advanced education, outreach, and notification during the events (A22-23).

The Commission requires the electric investor-owned utilities provide the decision criteria leading to de-energization (A22- A23). PacifiCorp did not report the specific criteria leading to the de-energization event.

Violations of D.20-05-051

Post Event Report

Further post event report requirements are set out by the Commission in D.20-05-051. (Appendix A at 4). PacifiCorp did not explain why it missed notifications before re-energization. It also did not report sufficient quantitative information including the specific criteria leading to de-energization as required in Appendix A, page 9.

Please advise me no later than May 7, 2023, of corrective measures taken by PacifiCorp to remedy and prevent the future recurrence of the identified violations, or provide additional data that refutes the violations detailed in this Notice of Violation. Based on your response, this Notice of Violation may lead to an enforcement action. If you have any questions, you can contact Cindy Chen at (415) 660-8312 or email Cindy.Chen@cpuc.ca.gov.

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Sincerely,



Ronald DeMayo

Program and Project Supervisor
Public Safety Power Shutoff Section
Wildfire Safety and Enforcement Branch
Safety and Enforcement Division
California Public Utilities Commission

Cc: Lee Palmer, Director, Safety and Enforcement Division, CPUC
Anthony Noll, Program Manager, WSEB, SED, CPUC
Cindy Chen, Senior Public Utilities Regulatory Analyst, WSEB, SED, CPUC