

Decision 26-02-050 February 26, 2026

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Application of  
PACIFICORP (U901E) for Authority to  
Recover Costs Recorded in the  
Catastrophic Event Memorandum  
Account.

Application 24-09-004

**ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE**

**Summary**

This decision extends the statutory deadline in this proceeding until July 16, 2026.

**1. Background**

Public Utilities Code (Pub. Util. Code) Section 1701.5(a) provides that the Commission shall resolve the issues raised in the scoping memo of a ratesetting proceeding within 18 months of the date the proceeding is initiated, unless the Commission makes a written determination that the deadline cannot be met and issues an order extending that deadline. The current statutory deadline for this proceeding is March 16, 2026.

PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power (PacifiCorp) filed Application (A.) 24-09-004 (Application) with the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on September 16, 2024.

In August 2023, the Smith River Complex and Happy Camp Complex fires (collectively, Fires) occurred in northern California. The Fires caused extensive damage to PacifiCorp's electrical facilities. PacifiCorp recorded total operating and capital costs of approximately \$29.6 million in its Catastrophic Event Memorandum Account (CEMA) to respond to the Fires and repair its electrical facilities excluding accrued interest. The Application seeks that the Commission approve PacifiCorp's request to recover its recorded CEMA costs for the Fires. Those costs include approximately \$25.3 million in operational and maintenance expenses and \$4.4 million in capital costs on a California-allocated basis. In Resolution No. E-3238, the Commission authorized investor-owned utilities to record and recover CEMA costs.

On September 18, 2024, the Application appeared on the Commission's Daily Calendar.

On October 17, 2024, ALJ Resolution 176-3553 issued and preliminarily categorized this proceeding as ratesetting.

On October 18, 2024, the Public Advocates Office filed a protest to the Application.

On December 5, 2024, the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) held a prehearing conference wherein the assigned ALJ granted Small Business Utility Advocates' motion to become a party on the record.

On January 24, 2025, the assigned Commissioner issued a Scoping Memo and Ruling setting forth the issues, need for evidentiary hearing, schedule, category, and other matters necessary to scope this proceeding.

On August 7, 2025, the parties filed a joint motion for adoption of a Settlement Agreement.

Additional time is necessary for the assigned ALJ to review the Settlement Agreement and render a decision in this proceeding. Therefore, an extension of the statutory deadline until July 16, 2026, is necessary and appropriate to allow sufficient time to submit the proceeding, issue a proposed decision for public review and comments, and to allow the Commission enough time to deliberate and issue its final decision.

## **2. Waiver of Comment Period**

Under Rule 14.6(c)(4) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Commission may reduce or waive the period for public review and comment of proposed decisions extending the deadline for resolving ratesetting proceedings. Accordingly, the otherwise applicable period for public review and comment is being waived.

## **3. Assignment of Proceeding**

John Reynolds is the assigned Commissioner and Patrick Petersen is the assigned Administrative Law Judge in this proceeding.

### **Findings of Fact**

1. A.24-09-004 was filed on September 16, 2024.
2. The current statutory deadline for A.24-09-004 is March 16, 2026.
3. A.24-09-004 cannot be completed by March 16, 2026.
4. An extension of the statutory deadline until July 16, 2026, is necessary to complete this proceeding.

### **Conclusion of Law**

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission under Pub. Util. Code Section 1701.5(a), the statutory deadline should be extended until July 16, 2026.

**O R D E R**

**IT IS ORDERED** that the statutory deadline in this proceeding is extended until July 16, 2026.

This order is effective today.

Dated February 26, 2026, at Santa Maria, California.

ALICE REYNOLDS

President

DARCIE L. HOUCK

JOHN REYNOLDS

KAREN DOUGLAS

MATTHEW BAKER

Commissioners