

RESOLUTION No.

35646

Authorize the City Attorney to intervene and participate in the Oregon Public Utility Commission's review of Portland General Electric's Customer Choice Plan (Resolution)

WHEREAS, Portland General Electric, ("PGE"), has filed a proposed plan with the Oregon Public Utility Commission to restructure the utility to allow for direct customer access to a competition marketplace for electricity sales in Oregon (UE 102), and,

WHEREAS, PGE's Customer Choice Plan would have significant long term impacts upon electricity rates and services, and utility management in Oregon, and,

WHEREAS, the City of Portland has broad authority under its home rule charter to oversee the activities of utilities within its boundaries, including through the establishment of franchises and the issuance of permits, and is also responsible for the orderly management of public rights-of-way within its boundaries, and,

WHEREAS, the City collects utility license fees from PGE to compensate for the utility's use of the public right-of-way within Portland, and assesses permit fees for specific projects in the right-of-way, and the City has significant concerns regarding the potential impact of utility restructuring upon revenues received by the City, and,

WHEREAS, the City is a large customer of PGE, with over 600 accounts and annual utility billings of approximately \$6,700,000, and has an interest in the future effects of changing utility rates, and,

WHEREAS, the City has previously entered into special contracts for electricity services with PGE, and under one of these contracts the City obtained the benefits of a "market pricing" arrangement for some of its aggregated electricity load while, at the same time, encouraging the acquisition of renewable energy resources, and,

WHEREAS, existing City policies encourage the conservation of resources, and the provision of services for low income consumers and small businesses, and,

WHEREAS, a competitive marketplace for electricity will likely place an emphasis on price over public purposes such as energy conservation and low income weatherization and energy assistance, and,

WHEREAS, residential and small business customers, lacking marketplace power, are least likely to see the benefits of marketplace competition, and may even be harmed by reductions in public purposes and possible higher prices, and,

WHEREAS, participation as a party in UE 102 would permit the City to (1) obtain important information regarding rates, services and other matters not readily available to persons with non-party status, (2) be informed of other parties actions and comments in this proceeding, and (3) influence the outcome of the proceeding for the benefits of the citizens of Portland

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Portland, that the City Attorney is hereby authorized and directed to intervene on behalf of the City as a full party in Oregon Public Utility Commission proceeding UE 102 (In the Matter of Portland General Electric Company for Approval of the Customer Choice Plan) to present the City's views and protect its interests as necessary

Adopted by the Council, **OCT 01 1997**
Commissioner Erik Sten
Susan Anderson/B Walters
September 24, 1997

Barbara Clark
Auditor of the City of Portland
By
Britta Olson Deputy

1515

Agenda No

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Title

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INTRODUCED BY	Filed	SEP 25 1997
Commissioner Enk Sten	Barbara Clark Auditor of the City of Portland	
NOTED BY COMMISSIONER		
Affairs		
Finance and Administration	By <u>Cay Kershner</u> Deputy	
Safety	For Meeting of _____	
Utilities	ACTION TAKEN	
Works <u>Strike Step home</u>		
BUREAU APPROVAL		
Bureau Energy Office		
Prepared by SA/BEW/jtl Date 9/24/97		
Budget Impact Review		
___ Completed ___ Not Required		
Bureau Head Susan Anderson, Director <u>Susan Anderson</u>		

Agenda		Four Fifths Agenda	Commissioners voted as follows		
Consent	Regular		YEAS	NAYS	
NOTED BY		Francesconi	Francesconi	✓	
City Attorney	<u>Benjamin Watters Deputy</u>	Hales	Hales	✓	
City Auditor		Kafoury	Kafoury	✓	
City Engineer		Sten	Sten	✓	
		Katz	Katz	✓	