

## **OPUC GRANTS “LIMITED APPROVAL” FOR PACIFICORP’S 2017 RFP**

At a Special Public Meeting on August 29, 2017, the Public Utilities Commission of Oregon (“OPUC” or “Commission”) favored a “limited approval” of PacifiCorp’s (or the “Company”) 2017 Draft Request for Proposal (“RFP”) for new Wyoming wind resources. More precisely, RFP approval is now “limited” or strictly contingent, in the sense that ultimate approval depends upon whether the OPUC recognizes the new wind resource action item in PacifiCorp’s 2017 Integrated Resource Plan (“IRP”). The Commission highlighted that limited RFP approval on this provisional basis should in no way be interpreted as a “pre-acknowledgment” determination on the IRP. Rather, it allows the Commission to oversee the RFP until a critical IRP decision is made. A Commission determination on 2017 IRP acknowledgment is not expected until December 2017.

By way of background, PacifiCorp is seeking up to 1,270 MW of new Wyoming wind resources through the RFP, with a commercial operation date of December 31, 2020. The Company regards this as a time-sensitive economic opportunity to benefit from federal production tax credits soon to expire. The RFP is one component of PacifiCorp’s IRP plan to invest well over \$3.2 billion for new wind and associated transmission by 2020. Many stakeholders throughout PacifiCorp’s service area, including regulatory commission staff and Pacific Northwest customers represented by Davison Van Cleve, have expressed concern over Company modeling that appears to indicate limited ratepayer benefits in light of considerable investment risk—and even net customer costs, according to certain modeling scenarios.