WUTC REJECTS PACIFIC POWER “ERF” CHARACTERIZATION IN NEW RATE CASE

On December 29, 2015, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (“WUTC”) established a procedural schedule in Pacific Power and Light Company’s (“Pacific Power”) new rate case, Docket UE-152253. In requesting annual 2.99% rate increases, effective May 2016 and May 2017, respectively, Pacific Power had characterized the request as an expedited rate filing, or “ERF.” In establishing a procedural schedule, however, the WUTC expressly stated that it “does not recognize this filing as an ERF,” and further reserved its right to use the “ten full months” available to review Pacific Power’s filing. The schedule adopted by the WUTC provides for an evidentiary hearing and briefing in May 2016, making a final order around July 1, 2016 as the earliest date likely in the event of a fully litigated case.