

BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Amanda McKinney
District 1

Kyle Curtis
District 2

LaDon Linde
District 3

July 8, 2024

Mr. Ryan Flynn
President & CEO
Pacific Power
825 NE Multnomah St.
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Mr. Flynn,

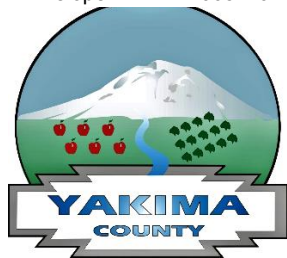
The Board of Yakima County Commissioners write to express our deepest concerns regarding Pacific Power's "de-energizing" policy. To date, our County has experienced seven "de-energizing" events that have caused outages to over 60,000 residents and businesses. While we understand the necessity of safety measures to prevent wildfires and protect the public, the implementation of this policy has had significant and far-reaching impacts on our community.

Our primary concern revolves around the frequency and duration of these power outages. The "de-energizing" events have disrupted daily life for residents, negatively affected local businesses, and posed serious challenges for essential services, including healthcare facilities and emergency responders. Many of our constituents rely on a stable power supply for medical equipment, and the sudden loss of power puts their health and well-being at risk.

Moreover, we have received numerous complaints from our residents about the lack of timely and effective communication from Pacific Power regarding these power outages. Adequate and prompt notifications are crucial to allow individuals and businesses to prepare appropriately and mitigate the adverse effects of power loss. The current communication strategy falls short in ensuring that all affected parties are well-informed in a timely manner.

We strongly urge Pacific Power to review and improve its "de-energizing" policy with the following recommendations:

1. **Enhanced Communication:** Implement a robust notification system that ensures timely and clear communication with all stakeholders, including residents, businesses, and local authorities.
2. **Critical Infrastructure Support:** Develop contingency plans to support critical infrastructure and vulnerable populations during power outages, including the provision of backup power supplies for healthcare facilities and emergency services.
3. **Community Engagement:** Establish a task force involving Pacific Power representatives and Yakima County officials to regularly discuss and address concerns related to the de-energizing policy and explore potential improvements. Local authorities that are managing



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Amanda McKinney
District 1

Kyle Curtis
District 2

LaDon Linde
District 3

the fire risk should be consulted prior to any “de-energizing” events. Our first responders know our terrain, have well thought out mitigation plans and always have eyes on the ground.

The Yakima County Board of Commissioners are committed to working collaboratively with Pacific Power to find a balanced approach that prioritizes public safety while minimizing the negative impact on our community. We believe that through improved communication, strategic planning, and ongoing collaboration, we can better manage the challenges posed by the de-energizing policy.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to your prompt response and to working together towards a mutually-beneficial solution that serves the best interests of Yakima County and its residents, as well as Pacific Power.

Sincerely,

Amanda McKinney
Chair of the Board
Commissioner, District 1

Kyle Curtis
Commissioner, District 2

LaDon Linde
Commissioner, District 3

Cc: Governor Jay Inslee
U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senator Patty Murray
U.S. Representative Dan Newhouse
Representative Chris Corry
Senator Curtis King
Senator Nikki Torres