



## The Oregonian

### Portland signs on three experts to scrutinize PGE practices

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-- Gail Kinsey Hill  
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Portland officials will dip into funds left over from the failed attempt to buy Portland General Electric to hire three energy experts for an investigation of the utility's rate-setting practices.

All are from the Portland area: Ann Fisher, a lawyer and consultant; Robert McCullough, a nationally recognized expert on wholesale power trading; and David Jubb, a lawyer and accountant.

"They're helping us with issues related to PGE," City Attorney Linda Meng said.

City officials said they don't know how much the investigation will cost, but that money is available from the remainder of a 2005 acquisition effort. Roughly half the authorized \$1.5 million was spent, leaving \$700,000, Meng said.

Fisher and McCullough will focus on energy trading and ratepayer charges tied to the Multnomah County business income tax, Meng said. Jubb will take a look at PGE's tax obligations and payments more generally, she said.

Fisher is an expert on energy issues and utility regulatory law. She once worked for PGE. In recent years, she has been critical of PGE's rates, including ratepayer charges related to taxes.

McCullough for years has consulted on power-trading issues and has gained attention for his analyses of Enron's market manipulation strategies.

Jubb has worked with the city before. In 2003, he helped the city put together a bid for PGE. Enron rebuffed the offer, as it did in 2005 when Portland mounted a second acquisition effort.

Phillip Gildan, a lawyer with Greenberg Traurig, a Florida-headquartered firm, also is aiding the investigation. He first was hired in connection with the city's second bid for PGE and remains under contract.

Commissioner Erik Sten acknowledged that PGE might object to a review by people who have been in conflict with utility interests in the past. But, he said, "You want a skeptic to look at something you're skeptical of."

PGE declined to comment.

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