

BEFORE THE  
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.,

Respondent.

Docket No. UE-111048

Docket No. UG-111049

PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.'S  
OBJECTION TO BENCH REQUEST

*I.* Pursuant to WAC 480-07-405(6)(c), Puget Sound Energy, Inc. ("PSE") hereby objects to the Bench Request dated October 5, 2011, directed to Commission Staff and other interested parties, for the following reasons:


- i. In the Bench Request, the Commission—the decision maker in this rate proceeding—is improperly influencing the nature and content of evidence entered into the record in this proceeding.
- ii. The Bench Request may result in the imposition of a type of regulatory mechanism for addressing fixed cost recovery that PSE did not request in this general rate case.
- iii. The Bench Request, in referencing the Commission's Report and Policy Statement on Regulatory Mechanisms, Including Decoupling, to Encourage Utilities to Meet or Exceed Their Conservation Targets ("Report and Policy Statement"), suggests that the Commission has a policy preference for full

decoupling that is inconsistent with the language of the Report and Policy Statement.

2. PSE reserves its right to object to any responses to this Bench Request after such response is filed with the Commission, and in briefing.

Respectfully submitted this 10 day of October 2011.

**PERKINS COIE LLP**

By   
Sheree Strom Carson, WSBA #25349  
Jason T. Kuzma, WSBA #31830  
Donna L. Barnett, WSBA #36794  
Attorneys for Puget Sound Energy, Inc.