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## *Via Electronic & U.S. Mail*

Steven King  
Acting Executive Director and Secretary  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
PO Box 47250  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: In the Matter of PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC. Expedited Rate Filing  
WN V-60, Tariff G, Electric Service, Advice No. 2013-01  
**Docket Nos. UE-130137 and UG-130138**

Dear Mr. King:

The Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities (“ICNU”) requests that the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (“WUTC” or the “Commission”) suspend the Expedited Rate Case Filing (“ERF”) submitted by Puget Sound Energy (“PSE”) in Docket Nos. UE-130137 and UG-130138. ICNU requests that the Commission suspend these dockets as soon as possible in order to ensure that the parties have the protection of the Commission’s rules and the ability to fully participate in these dockets. ICNU filed a notice of intervention in Docket No. UE-130137 on February 7, 2013.

It is our understanding that Staff has been engaged in settlement discussions with PSE since at least January 24, 2013. Counsel for Staff, Sally Brown, represented at a Status Conference held today that Staff and PSE have reached an agreement in principle in these dockets (as well as other dockets). ICNU has not been included in these settlement talks. To our knowledge, other parties have been excluded as well.

The ERF dockets represent a new approach to ratemaking, and ICNU believes that a full and complete record is essential to ensure that any outcome from these dockets is in the public interest. Once the dockets are suspended, full discovery can begin, and all parties can better evaluate the harms or the benefits from any settlement that apparently has been reached between Staff and PSE.

Importantly, since Staff and PSE do not believe the settlement rule applies yet (we do not support this view), once this case becomes an “adjudicative” proceeding, without dispute, Washington Administrative Code (“WAC”) § 480-07-700(3) applies.

WAC § 480-07-700(3)(b) states that if any party wishes to initiate a settlement conference with any other party between the filing of the docket and the initial prehearing conference, it must provide 10-days’ notice to the Commission, parties, persons who have filed

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petitions to intervene, and any person that was a participant in the most recent proceeding involving the filing party. Such persons must be allowed to participate in an early settlement conference if they file petitions to intervene prior to the conference. ICNU has repeatedly requested to be included in these early settlement negotiations. It appears as though suspension of the dockets is necessary to ensure the full procedural rights of all parties. The ERF has not been considered at a Commission open meeting, there has been no opportunity for formal discovery, no prehearing conference, and yet there is a settlement in principle in place. This is the very outcome the rule was intended to prevent.

ICNU respectfully requests that the Commission suspend the ERF filing so that WAC § 480-07-700 will unquestionably apply. ICNU requests that the parties be given full rights to discovery and a hearing. Without such tools, ICNU cannot evaluate the merits of a settlement that was crafted in secret, nor can a record be developed upon which the Commission can base a decision, as required by WAC § 480-07-750(1).

In addition, ICNU is authorized to represent that the Northwest Industrial Gas Users supports ICNU's request to suspend the ERF dockets and set the matter for hearing.

Sincerely yours,



Melinda J. Davison

cc: Service List