EXHIBIT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ (KJH-1T) DOCKET NO. UE-011570 and UG-011571 WITNESS: KIMBERLY J. HARRIS

# BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

# WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

### PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.

Respondent.

# DIRECT TESTIMONY OF KIMBERLY J. HARRIS ON BEHALF OF PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC. REGARDING SETTLEMENT STIPULATION

JUNE 7, 2002

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2		PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.
3		DIRECT TESTIMONY OF KIMBERLY J. HARRIS
4		SETTLEMENT STIPULATION
5		
6 7	Q:	Please state your name, business address and present position with Puget Sound Energy, Inc.
8	A:	My name is Kimberly Harris. My business address is One Bellevue Center,
9		Suite 1500, 411 – 108th Ave. N.E., Bellevue, Washington 98004. I am the
10		Vice President of Regulatory Affairs for Puget Sound Energy, Inc. ("PSE" or
11		"the Company").
12	Q:	What do your responsibilities as Vice President of Regulatory Affairs include?
13	A:	I am responsible for the Company's federal and state regulatory activities
14		and relationships. My job duties currently include oversight of PSE's pending
15		General Rate Case, including the collaborative process that the parties have
16 17		recently concluded and the settlement that is pending before the
		Commission for review and approval. I have participated in and/or overseen
18		collaboratives for and will testify about the settlement with respect to overall
19		policy matters and relocation and underground conversion issues. In the
20		past, I have served as PSE's Director of Power Planning and as Associate
21		General Counsel.
22 23	Q:	Why does PSE support the proposed Settlement Stipulation for Electric and Common Issues?
24	A:	PSE is separately submitting testimony regarding each Issue Agreement
25		contained in the Settlement Stipulation to address specific issues involved in
26		each Issue Agreement. In general, PSE believes that the Settlement

Stipulation will result in rates, terms, and conditions of service that are fair, 2 just, reasonable, and sufficient, and that the Settlement Stipulation is good 3 for the Company, its customers, and its shareholders. The settlement will 4 assist the Company in restoring its financial health, providing an overall 4.6 5 percent electric rate increase, about \$59 million annually for PSE. It also 6 provides for a power cost adjustment mechanism, which should enhance the 7 Company's financial stability and address investor concerns associated with 8 volatility in wholesale power markets. The Settlement Stipulation also 9 provides a number of other benefits to the Company and its customers, as 10 described in greater detail in the other testimony submitted herewith. 1 1

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#### Q: How was this settlement achieved?

A: The Settlement Stipulation was developed through the collaborative process 13 that has been underway in the above-referenced dockets since late March, 14 2002. The parties' ability to reach agreement is a significant 15 accomplishment that required an extraordinary commitment on behalf of the 16 parties and their representatives, that in many respects required more effort 17 than would be required for resolution of a rate case through litigation. I 18 believe that the process will have lasting benefits to the Company and its 19 customers because of the quality of the settlement achieved, the extensive 20 communication that occurred regarding various interests and concerns, and 21 the working relationships that have developed through this process. The 22 Company looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with its 23 customers on many more issues into the future. 24

**25** [BA021570091]

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