

EXHIBIT NO. ___(RJA-16)
DOCKET NO. UE-060266/UG-060267
2006 PSE GENERAL RATE CASE
WITNESS: RONALD J. AMEN

**BEFORE THE
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,**

Complainant,

v.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.,

Respondent.

Docket No. UE-060266
Docket No. UG-060267

**FIFTH EXHIBIT (NONCONFIDENTIAL) TO THE
PREFILED REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF
RONALD J. AMEN
ON BEHALF OF PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.**

AUGUST 23, 2006

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION STAFF
RESPONSE TO DATA REQUEST

DATE PREPARED: August 2, 2006
CASE NO.: UE-060266 & UG-060267
REQUESTER: Puget Sound Energy

WITNESS: Joelle Steward
RESPONDER: Joelle Steward
TELEPHONE: (360) 664-130

PC-5 **Re: Testimony of Joelle R. Steward, p. 8 line 4**, “I recommend that the Commission adopt, as a pilot, a partial decoupling mechanism...” Please provide the following information:

- a) A complete copy of the pilot decoupling tariff that is being proposed by Staff.
- b) Specimen copies of all forms and calculations that would be submitted by PSE in compliance with the decoupling “mechanism” that is being proposed by Staff.
- c) Explain the audit and review procedures anticipated to be undertaken by Staff to process the periodic information submissions from PSE that are required to administer the pilot decoupling mechanism and tariff, indicating procedures to be followed if problems are encountered that cause such calculations to be disputed.
- d) Provide Staff’s best estimate of annual labor and non-labor costs that would be borne by Staff to review, audit and otherwise administer the pilot decoupling tariff that is being proposed.

Response:

a) Staff has not prepared a tariff for its decoupling proposal. We anticipate that the tariff would be similar to PSE’s proposed tariff Schedule 118, but modified to reflect Staff’s changes, which are: 1) actual margin revenues will be based on weather normalized volumes each month, and 2) the customer growth adjustment will be based on actual volumes from new customers, not test year average use per billing meter, as in Section 4.2.d. The tariff should also reflect that the decoupling adjustment is limited to three years.

b) Staff has not prepared a specimen copy of what the Company will file. It is Staff’s expectation that PSE would submit, at a minimum, calculations similar to what was provided in Ms. Steward’s workpapers for Exhibit No. __ (JRS-5), submitted to the parties on July 20, 2006, but with further refinement to reflect new customer usage. Staff would work with the Company and other interested parties to determine any additional documentation or calculations required to complete the filing.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION STAFF
RESPONSE TO DATA REQUEST

DATE PREPARED: August 2, 2006
CASE NO.: UE-060266 & UG-060267
REQUESTER: Puget Sound Energy

WITNESS: Joelle Steward
RESPONDER: Joelle Steward
TELEPHONE: (360) 664-1308

c) Staff will review the filings in a manner similar to the review of other mechanisms, such as PCAs, PGAs, and conservation tariff riders. Staff's review will adapt to the particular requirements related to the mechanism's implementation.

d) There are no incremental costs for Staff to review, audit and administer the pilot. Based on our experience with other deferral mechanisms listed in PC-5 c), a rough estimate of analyst's time is between 15 and 30 hours a year.