

**Exhibit No. VN-2
Dockets UE-090704 and UG-090705
Witness: Vanda Novak**

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,**

Complainant,

v.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.,

Respondent.

DOCKET UE-090704

DOCKET UG-090705

EXHIBIT TO TESTIMONY OF

VANDA NOVAK

**STAFF OF
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

Company Response to Staff Data Request No. 186

November 17, 2009

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**Docket Nos. UE-090704 and UG-090705
Puget Sound Energy, Inc.'s
2009 General Rate Case**

WUTC STAFF DATA REQUEST NO. 186

WUTC STAFF DATA REQUEST NO. 186:

Re: Weather Normalization

On pages 8-9 of Ms. Molander's direct testimony, Exhibit (LIM-1T), she describes a modification to the 2006 weather normalization method for holiday variables and she concludes that that change "improves the coefficients on weather." (Page 9, Lines 3-4.) Please provide the analysis supporting that conclusion and a written narrative describing the analysis.

Response:

As described on pages 8-9 of the Prefiled Direct Testimony of Lorin I. Molander, Exhibit No. ____ (LIM-1T), "The Company made a minor change to the system model in how it estimates the temperature and load relationship on holidays. The model accounts for holidays specifically since there are other factors that contribute to load on those days that are not weather related. Previously, the model was specified so the non-weather factors that contribute to load were the same for all holidays." This change was also made to the gas system model (which includes separate equations for firm, interruptible, and transportation), as described on page 12 of Exhibit No. ____ (LIM-1T).

Attached as Attachment A to Puget Sound Energy, Inc.'s ("PSE") Response to WUTC Staff Data Request No. 186, please find an MS Excel file that contains regression results and statistics supporting the modification of the general holiday variable to specifying individual holidays in the electric and gas system models. Both regressions were run using the updated loads and temperatures for this proceeding, but the holidays are specified differently to examine the difference in effects to the model.

In general, econometric models relating daily loads and daily weather may specify a holiday variable (or variables) to account for the observed difference between energy use on holidays versus energy use on non-holidays that is unrelated to differences in weather. By accounting for the holiday impact on loads, the model is able to better specify the relationship between weather and load. The weather normalization methodology approved in PSE's 2006 general rate case ("GRC"), WUTC Docket Nos. UE-060266 and UG-060267, accounted for the holiday impact on load by including one

holiday dummy variable in the electric and gas system models. The resulting holiday coefficient estimated by the regression was the estimate of the impact on load for all holidays with no differentiation among holidays.

For this proceeding, PSE modified the specification of the holidays in the electric and gas system models. The holiday variable was broken out to represent individual holidays allowing the non-weather factors that affect load to vary for each major holiday (New Year's Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, the day after Christmas, Fourth of July, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and the day after Thanksgiving Day).

Separating the general holiday dummy variable into a separate dummy variable for each major holiday is based on the theory that each holiday impacts loads differently. PSE tested this theory by running the regression specifying the individual holidays and reviewing the resulting regression statistics. Support for the use of specific holiday variables versus a general holiday variable rests on the following set of assumptions: 1) the majority of the specific holiday variables pass the test of significance, 2) the coefficients on holiday variables are notably different, and 3) overall, the coefficients on weather become better specified.

As can be seen on the 'Electric System UPC Equations' tab of Attachment A to PSE's Response to WUTC Staff Data Request No. 186, the majority of the coefficients on separate holiday variables in this proceeding's model are significant at the 5% level. The coefficients on the holiday variables are also notably different between holidays. Using the electric system model as an example, the coefficient on the Christmas Day variable is -6.063, greater than the estimated coefficient of -3.775 for the Christmas Eve variable.

It is expected that the ability of the model to attribute different coefficients to different holidays allows the weather coefficients to be better specified. The "Std. Error" column reports the estimated standard errors of the coefficient estimates. The standard errors measure the statistical reliability of the coefficient estimates—the larger the standard errors, the more statistical noise are in the estimates. Using the electric system model as an example, adding the standard errors of this proceeding's weather variables (i.e. PCD/PHD variables) gives a summed standard error of 1.729. For the 2006 GRC methodology (with updated information for this proceeding) the summed standard error of the weather variables is 1.753. The decrease in the summed standard error of 1.753 to 1.729 implies that this proceeding's methodology has improved the specification of the weather coefficients.

Additionally, adjusted R-Squared, a commonly referenced statistic used to measure how well the regression model has done at predicting values of the dependent variables with the provided exogenous variables, is higher in the 2009 model where the holidays are specified separately (0.978061 using separate holiday variables versus 0.977349 with one holiday variable).

ATTACHMENT A to PSE's Response to WUTC Staff Data Request No. 186

Electric System Load (User-per-Customer) Equation

2008 GRC Revised Methodology
Dependent Variable: Electric System Use-Per-Customer
Method: Least Squares

Date: 10/19/09 Time: 08:58

Sample: 10/1/2005 - 12/1/2008

Included Observations: 1461

Convergence achieved after 21 Iterations

Variable	Coefficient Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.	Variable	Coefficient Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.	
C	56.490	35.017	0.000	C	56.421	34.513	0.000	
JAN	-1.315	2.123	-0.620	JAN	-2.010	2.140	-0.939	
FEB	0.350	2.848	0.208	FEB	0.639	2.994	0.237	
MAR	-1.537	1.980	0.836	MAR	-1.530	2.007	0.813	
APR	-3.406	1.754	-1.942	APR	-3.402	1.776	-1.915	
MAY	-3.132	1.675	-1.870	MAY	-3.091	1.698	-1.831	
JUN	-3.562	1.848	-2.182	JUN	-3.513	1.668	-2.106	
JUL	-4.387	1.653	-3.016	JUL	-4.340	1.674	-2.950	
AUG	-3.705	1.844	-2.284	AUG	-3.656	1.685	-2.198	
SEP	-3.008	1.874	-2.034	SEP	-3.358	1.695	-1.981	
OCT	-4.979	1.730	-2.704	OCT	-4.847	1.753	-2.651	
NOV	-1.948	1.845	-0.806	NOV	-1.730	1.871	-0.824	
JAN*PHD65	0.766	0.077	9.924	0.000	JAN*PHD65	0.819	0.977	10.871
JAN*PHD45	0.113	0.098	1.151	0.250	JAN*PHD45	0.047	0.098	0.483
FEB*PHD65	0.543	0.112	4.844	0.000	FEB*PHD65	0.543	0.114	4.752
FEB*PHD45	0.287	0.145	1.981	0.048	FEB*PHD45	0.292	0.148	1.973
MAR*PHD65	0.476	0.085	7.349	0.000	MAR*PHD65	0.479	0.066	7.279
MAR*PHD45	0.307	0.128	4.031	0.000	MAR*PHD45	0.508	0.128	3.978
APR*PHD65	0.384	0.039	9.897	0.000	APR*PHD65	0.388	0.039	9.838
APR*PHD45	0.347	0.138	6.208	0.000	APR*PHD45	0.846	0.139	6.089
MAY*PHD65	0.139	0.035	4.010	0.000	MAY*PHD65	0.140	0.035	3.978
MAY*PHD45	0.095	0.052	1.845	0.065	MAY*PHD45	0.097	0.052	1.854
SEP*PHD65	0.479	0.043	11.147	0.000	SEP*PHD65	0.481	0.044	11.019
OCT*PHD65	0.703	0.177	3.982	0.000	OCT*PHD65	0.698	0.180	3.885
NOV*PHD65	0.558	0.055	10.191	0.000	NOV*PHD65	0.569	0.056	10.243
NOV*PHD45	0.593	0.054	6.335	0.000	NOV*PHD45	0.584	0.055	6.187
DEC*PHD65	0.725	0.058	12.086	0.000	DEC*PHD65	0.719	0.087	8.278
DEC*PHD45	0.377	0.106	4.720	0.047	DEC*PHD45	0.091	0.108	0.847
JUN*PCD60	0.213	0.049	4.365	0.000	JUN*PCD60	0.213	0.050	4.298
JUL*PCD60	0.332	0.035	9.124	0.000	JUL*PCD60	0.329	0.035	9.312
AUG*PCD65	0.368	0.052	7.089	0.000	AUG*PCD65	0.309	0.053	7.009
SEP*PCD65	0.284	0.149	1.914	0.056	SEP*PCD65	0.291	0.151	1.931
WE	-4.283	0.081	-52.933	0.000	WE	-4.289	0.083	-51.976
XMASEV	-1.804	-0.627	-2.557	0.011	HOLIDAY	-3.627	0.246	-14.071
XMASDY	-3.775	0.881	-4.238	0.000	D121506	-45.431	1.391	-33.381
BOXDY	-6.063	0.709	-8.582	0.000	D121606	-23.350	1.563	-14.938
JULY4	-2.589	0.582	-3.855	0.000	D121706	-9.641	1.398	-6.895
MEMDY	-4.832	0.588	-8.221	0.000	AR(1)	0.628	0.021	29.586
LABODY	-3.719	0.589	-6.310	0.000				
THNSDY	-4.156	0.593	-5.321	0.000				
	-4.056	0.628	-6.460	0.000				
	-2.232	0.625	-3.563	0.000				
	-4.6417	1.366	-33.971	0.000				
	-23.302	1.539	-15.144	0.000				
	-9.680	1.374	-8.974	0.000				
	0.640	0.021	30.375	0.000				
AR(1)								

R-squared: 0.978737

Adjusted R-squared: 0.978051

S.E. of regression: 1.390239

Sum squared resid: 2734.884

Log likelihood: -253.106

F-statistic: 1443.37

P-value(F-statistic): 0

Inverted AR Roots: 0.64

2008 GRC Methodology

Dependent Variable: Electric System Use-Per-Customer

Method: Least Squares

Date: 10/19/09 Time: 08:58

Sample: 10/1/2005 - 12/1/2008

Included Observations: 1461

Convergence achieved after 21 Iterations

Method: Least Squares

Date: 10/19/09 Time: 08:58

Sample: 10/1/2005 - 12/1/2008

Included Observations: 1461

Convergence achieved after 21 Iterations

Equation Variables Key

JAN*PHD65 = JAN*PHD65 * JAN*PHD65

FEB*PHD65 = FEB*PHD65 * FEB*PHD65

MAR*PHD65 = MAR*PHD65 * MAR*PHD65

JUN*PCD60 = JUN*PCD60 * JUN*PCD60

JUL*PCD60 = JUL*PCD60 * JUL*PCD60

AUG*PCD65 = AUG*PCD65 * AUG*PCD65

SEP*PCD65 = SEP*PCD65 * SEP*PCD65

WE = Weekend Dummy Variable

HOLIDAY = Holiday Dummy Variable

NDY = New Years Day Dummy Variable

XMASDY = Christmas Day Dummy Variable

BOXDY = Day after December 25 Dummy Variable

JULY4 = July 4th Dummy Variable

MEMDY = Memorial Day Dummy Variable

LABODY = Labor Day Dummy Variable

THNSDYFA = Thanksgiving Day Dummy Variable

D(MM)(DD)(YY) = Daily After Thanksgiving Dummy Variable

D(MM)(DD)(MM)(YY) = Daily Dummy Variable where (MM) is month, (DD) is day, and (YY) is year

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Gas Interruptible Load (Use-per-Customer) Equation

Revised Methodology (using separate holidays)

Dependent Variable: Gas Interruptible Use-Per-Customer

Method: Least Squares

Date: 10/15/09 Time: 11:35

Sample: 10/1/2004 - 10/31/2008

Included observations: 1766

Convergence achieved after 82 Iterations

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.	Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	-50129.660	2737.638	-18.311	0.000	C	-50070.344	2783.273	-17.980	0.000
JAN	44.656	33.167	1.346	0.178	JAN	47.040	47.758	1.413	0.158
FEB	44.162	37.805	1.168	0.243	FEB	38.051	1.255	0.210	
MAR	-55.349	33.411	-1.657	0.098	MAR	-51.998	33.587	-1.548	0.122
APR	-27.528	30.288	-0.909	0.383	APR	-24.447	30.415	-0.804	0.422
MAY	-19.351	28.442	-0.680	0.496	MAY	-16.126	28.548	-0.585	0.572
JUN	-32.182	27.799	-1.158	0.247	JUN	-29.238	27.910	-1.048	0.295
JUL	-12.793	27.014	-0.474	0.638	JUL	-9.250	27.083	-0.341	0.733
AUG	-14.003	27.005	-0.519	0.804	AUG	-11.015	27.105	-0.406	0.985
SEP	-15.141	28.053	-0.539	0.550	SEP	-11.141	28.180	-0.395	0.983
OCT	-40.547	30.441	-1.332	0.183	OCT	-37.077	30.581	-1.212	0.226
NOV	-18.676	35.350	-0.472	0.637	NOV	-10.734	35.580	-0.302	0.763
JANHDD	10.840	0.852	12.730	0.000	JANHDD	10.843	0.881	12.593	0.000
FEBHDD	10.959	1.216	9.009	0.000	FEBHDD	10.932	1.228	8.904	0.000
MARHDD	15.200	1.057	14.375	0.000	MARHDD	15.182	1.067	14.232	0.000
APRHDD	13.749	15.286	0.000	APRHDD	13.747	0.909	15.129	0.000	
MAYHDD	11.474	0.991	11.157	0.000	MAYHDD	11.501	1.000	11.503	0.000
JUNHDD	12.207	1.193	10.228	0.000	JUNHDD	12.216	1.206	10.130	0.000
SEPHDD	10.244	1.313	7.801	0.000	SEPHDD	10.200	1.327	7.685	0.000
OCTHDD	14.418	1.090	13.227	0.000	OCTHDD	14.383	1.100	13.079	0.000
NOVHDD	13.506	1.087	12.309	0.000	NOVHDD	13.241	1.104	11.980	0.000
DEGHDD	13.049	1.065	12.257	0.000	DEGHDD	13.174	1.072	12.285	0.000
WE	-76.135	3.037	-25.067	0.000	WE	-76.208	3.044	-25.037	0.000
NEWYDAY	-75.023	19.237	-3.900	0.000	HOL	-65.579	7.710	-8.506	0.000
XMAS_EVE	-100.287	22.851	-4.439	0.000	TRENDM	26.081	1.388	18.074	
XMAS_DAY	-105.241	22.602	-4.656	0.000	D010404	-365.555	47.195	-7.703	0.000
IND_DAY	-49.975	18.738	-2.667	0.008	D010504	637.819	50.764	-12.584	0.000
MEM_DAY	-85.174	18.826	-2.931	0.003	D010604	-365.256	46.737	-7.901	0.000
LAB_DAY	-47.678	18.405	-2.535	0.011	D010405	-586.208	45.110	-12.552	0.000
THKS_DAY	-121.575	22.169	5.484	0.000	D010505	-331.837	45.276	-7.329	0.000
DAYFTTHNKS	-111.161	25.589	-4.344	0.000	AR(1)	0.425	0.027	15.590	0.000
TRENDM	25.112	1.365	18.398	0.000					
D010404	-365.227	46.913	-7.785	0.000	R-squared	0.9086252	Mean dependent var	379.3625	
D010504	-839.320	50.383	-12.889	0.000	Adjusted R-squared	0.9070452	S.D. dependent var	149.0955	
D010604	-370.220	46.442	-7.972	0.000	S.E. of reg	45.456557	Akaike Info criterion	10.4881	
D010405	-567.097	44.851	-12.644	0.000	Sum square	3585691.12	Schwarz criterion	10.5894	
D010505	-332.730	45.014	-7.392	0.000	Log Likelihood	-9230.616	Hannan-Quinn criter.	10.32283	
AR(1)	0.419	0.027	15.291	0.000	F-statistic	575.09106	Durbin-Watson stat	1.823593	
					Prob(F-stat)	0			
					Inverted A	0.43			
					Inverted AR	0.42			

Equation Variables Key
 JAN, FEB, ..., NOV = Monthly Dummy Variables
 JANHDD, FEBHDD, ..., DEC*HDD = Monthly Heating degree Days with a 65 F cut point
 WE = Weekend Dummy Variable
 LAB_DAY = Labor Day Dummy Variable
 HOL = Holiday Dummy Variable
 NEWYDAY = New Years Day Dummy Variable
 XMAS_EVE = Christmas Eve Dummy Variable
 XMAS_DAY = Christmas Day Dummy Variable
 IND_DAY = July 4th Dummy Variable
 MEM_DAY = Memorial Day Dummy Variable
 DAYFTTHNKS = Day After Thanksgiving Dummy Variable
 TRENDM = Linear Trend Variable
 D(MM)/DD)(YY) = Daily Dummy Variable where (MM) is month, (DD) is day, and (YY) is year

Note: The individual holidays included in the revised methodology model are those holidays found to be significant.
 Convergence achieved after 86 iterations
 Included observations: 1766
 Date: 10/1/2004 - 10/31/2008
 Sample: 10/1/2004 - 10/31/2008
 Included observations: 1766
 Convergence achieved after 82 Iterations

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Gas Transportation Load (Use-per-Customer) Equation

Revised Methodology (using separate holidays)

Dependent Variable: Gas Transportation Use-Per-Customer

Method: Least Squares

Date: 10/19/09 Time: 12:33

Sample: 10/1/2004-10/31/2008

Included observations: 1766

Convergence achieved after 8 iterations

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.	Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	-167442.752	28352.177	-5.906	0.000	JAN	-167474.827	28117.950	-5.958	0.000
JAN	300.036	238.587	1.257	0.209	FEB	331.520	238.680	1.390	0.185
FEB	737.078	263.223	2.800	0.005	MAR	769.82	265.610	2.897	0.004
MAR	452.200	235.650	1.919	0.055	APR	481.981	287.264	2.028	0.043
APR	315.514	217.379	1.461	0.147	MAY	351.485	218.327	1.610	0.108
MAY	262.042	205.391	1.276	0.202	JUN	286.988	205.920	1.441	0.150
JUN	468.095	197.665	2.370	0.018	JUL	491.843	197.683	2.487	0.013
JUL	240.508	197.402	1.218	0.223	AUG	270.584	197.568	1.370	0.171
AUG	298.897	197.331	1.604	0.133	SEP	331.102	197.579	1.676	0.054
SEP	266.250	204.882	1.300	0.194	OCT	292.163	205.289	1.423	0.155
OCT	271.472	218.206	1.244	0.214	NOV	301.951	219.164	1.378	0.168
NOV	409.285	255.533	1.602	0.109	JANHDD	471.579	267.164	1.834	0.067
JANHDD	51.175	6.109	8.475	0.000	FEBHDD	51.948	6.206	8.354	0.000
FEBHDD	33.228	7.935	4.188	0.000	MARHDD	33.184	8.097	4.098	0.000
MARHDD	46.320	6.746	6.866	0.000	APRHDD	46.916	6.888	6.750	0.000
APRHDD	45.955	5.618	7.838	0.000	MAYHDD	45.959	5.939	7.739	0.000
MAYHDD	33.800	6.395	5.285	0.000	SEPHDD	34.716	5.321	6.324	0.000
SEPHDD	27.283	9.240	2.953	0.003	OCTHDD	27.244	9.397	2.899	0.004
OCTHDD	40.805	7.000	5.830	0.000	NOVHDD	40.778	7.143	5.708	0.000
NOVHDD	33.281	7.522	4.424	0.000	DECHDD	31.135	7.645	4.073	0.000
DECHDD	47.544	7.260	6.549	0.000	WE	48.604	7.350	6.613	0.000
WE	-659.434	14.564	-45.279	0.000	HOL	-662.251	14.857	-44.876	0.000
NEWYDAY	-737.198	111.481	-7.151	0.000	TRENDM	-828.832	44.972	-18.452	0.000
XMAS_EVE	-1035.689	135.821	-7.625	0.000	D10404	85.322	14.017	6.087	0.000
XMAS_DAY	-1225.654	153.669	-7.976	0.000	D10405	-214.910	282.080	-7.593	0.000
BOX_DAY	-264.052	135.678	-1.946	0.052	D10406	-408.082	317.363	-12.632	0.000
IND_DAY	-767.100	103.305	-7.428	0.000	D10407	-282.682	261.498	-10.049	0.000
MEM_DAY	-985.711	103.974	-9.288	0.000	D10405	-330.221	266.285	-12.401	0.000
LAB_DAY	-1421.693	126.060	-11.278	0.000	D10405	-234.1858	267.245	-8.763	0.000
THKS_DAY	-825.969	145.656	-5.673	0.000	AR(1)	0.851	0.019	34.669	0.000
TRENDM	85.322	14.133	6.037	0.000	R-squared	0.85027226	Mean dependent var 4383.153		
D10404	-2137.442	275.559	-7.756	0.000	Adjusted R	0.84777105	S.D. dependent var 722.6588		
D10404	-4000.765	310.535	-12.883	0.000	S.E. of reg	281.986385	Akaike info criterion 14.13622		
D10404	-2822.310	275.039	-10.282	0.000	Sum square	1380.0884	Schwarz criterion 14.21938		
D10405	-3291.622	259.921	-12.664	0.000	Log likeilo	-12454.051	Hannan-Quinn criter. 14.14406		
D10405	-2331.106	280.851	-8.937	0.000	F-statistic	339.944073	Durbin-Watson stat 2.041633		
AR(1)	0.661	0.019	35.649	0.000	Prob(F>stia)	0			
					Inverted A	0.65			

Equation Variables Key
 JAN_FEB = JANUARY Dummy Variable
 NOV = NOVEMBER Dummy Variable
 JAN_HDD = JANUARY Heating degree Days with a 65 F cut point
 FEB_HDD = FEBRUARY Heating degree Days with a 65 F cut point
 DEC_HDD = DECEMBER Heating degree Days with a 65 F cut point
 WEEKEND_DUMMY = Weekend Dummy Variable
 HOLIDAY_DUMMY = Holiday Dummy Variable
 NEWYDAY = New Years Day Dummy Variable
 XMAS_EVE = Christmas Eve Dummy Variable
 XMAS_DAY = Christmas Day Dummy Variable
 BOX_DAY = Day after Christmas Dummy Variable
 IND_DAY = July 4th Dummy Variable
 MEM_DAY = Memorial Day Dummy Variable
 LAB_DAY = Labor Day Dummy Variable
 THKS_DAY = Thanksgiving Day Dummy Variable
 DYATTHKS = Day After Thanksgiving Dummy Variable
 TRENDM = Linear Trend Variable
 D(MM)(DD)(YY) = Daily Dummy variable where (MM) is month, (DD) is day, and (YY) is year

Convergence achieved after 8 iterations

Note: The individual holidays included in the revised methodology model are those holidays found to be significant.
 JAN, FEB, NOV = Monthly Dummy Variables
 JAN_HDD, FEB_HDD, DEC_HDD = Monthly Heating degree Days with a 65 F cut point
 IND_DAY = July 4th Dummy Variable
 MEM_DAY = Memorial Day Dummy Variable
 LAB_DAY = Labor Day Dummy Variable
 THKS_DAY = Thanksgiving Day Dummy Variable
 DYATTHKS = Day After Thanksgiving Dummy Variable
 TRENDM = Linear Trend Variable
 D(MM)(DD)(YY) = Daily Dummy variable where (MM) is month, (DD) is day, and (YY) is year

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