BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of

PUGET SOUND ENERGY

For an Order Authorizing the Sale of All of Puget Sound Energy's Interests in Colstrip Unit 4 and Certain of Puget Sound Energy's Interests in the Colstrip Transmission System **Docket UE-191037**

PUGET SOUND ENERGY'S MOTION FOR AMENDED PROTECTIVE ORDER WITH HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL PROVISIONS

- 1. Puget Sound Energy ("PSE") files this Motion for Amended Protective
 Order With "Highly Confidential" Provisions pursuant to WAC 480-07-420, and
 respectfully moves the Commission for a Protective Order in conjunction with its
 Application for an Order Authorizing the Sale of All of Puget Sound Energy's Interests in
 Colstrip Unit 4 and Certain of Puget Sound Energy's Interests in the Colstrip
 Transmission System, filed on February 19, 2020 (the "Application").
 - 2. PSE's representatives for purposes of this proceeding are:

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I. RELIEF REQUESTED

3. PSE respectfully requests that the Commission issue an amended standard Protective Order that includes "highly confidential" provisions. Submitted as Exhibit A to this Motion is a proposed form of amended Protective Order with "highly confidential" provisions.

II. STATEMENT OF FACTS

This Motion is being filed coincident with PSE's Application.

Confidential information, including commercial information, modeling, and sensitive competitive information, may be required to resolve the issues in this proceeding. In its Application, PSE designated a limited number of materials as "confidential" under WAC 480-07-160. Such materials include financial and commercial information that have not been publicly disclosed. Public release of such materials is not appropriate. Absent a protective order, a significant risk exists that confidential information might become

available to persons who have no legitimate need for such information and that injury to

5. The Commission's standard form of protective order should be sufficient to protect the materials that have been and may subsequently be identified as "confidential." However, some information that may be disclosed in this matter could require enhanced protections from disclosure, including highly sensitive proprietary financial and sensitive commercial information.

III. STATEMENT OF ISSUES

6. This Motion for Amended Protective Order with "Highly Confidential" Provisions presents the following issue: Should the Commission enter an amended

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the information provider could result.

4.

Protective Order that protects highly sensitive information submitted by PSE, as the Commission has done in prior cases and other similar proceedings?

IV. EVIDENCE RELIED UPON

7. In support of the relief requested in this Motion, PSE relies on its

Application which contains commercial information, modeling, and additional sensitive competitive information, which require "confidential" protections, and that "highly confidential" protections may be further required to protect information provided in this proceeding.

V. AUTHORITY AND ARGUMENT

8. An amended protective order to govern the disclosure of confidential and highly confidential information is required in this proceeding. Authority for PSE's requested relief is found in WAC 480-07-420(2), which provides for entry of a protective order with "highly confidential" provisions. In accordance with WAC 480-07-420(2), it is necessary to create a separate designation and a higher degree of protection for certain documents that contain highly confidential information. This is consistent with the Commission's practice in prior cases involving contentions that certain materials require heightened protection to facilitate the exchange of information, as provided in WAC 480-07-420. There is also ample Commission precedent for the entry of a protective order with a "highly confidential" designation in prior cases to protect information similar to the sensitive information needing protection in this case.¹

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¹ See, e.g., In the Matter of the Joint Application of Puget Sound Energy et al., Docket U-180680, Order 02 (Nov. 9, 2018).

- 9. Generally, the Commission has amended its standard protective order to allow for the designation of highly confidential documents under the following circumstances: (1) the parties to the docket are competitors or potential competitors, or the attorneys or consultants in the case may represent such competitors or potential competitors; (2) the information relevant to the case may contain sensitive competitive information that would be of value to competitors if released; (3) a disclosing party may suffer harm if forced to disclose certain information without heightened protection; and (4) the entry of the protective order will facilitate discovery.
- 10. The material PSE may seek to protect is precisely the type of information that is intended to be eligible for "highly confidential" protections in WAC 480-07-420(2). Information relevant to the case may contain highly sensitive competitive information such as investment strategies and modeling, that would be of value to competitors if released; a disclosing party may suffer harm if forced to disclose such information without heightened protection. The entry of the protective order will also facilitate discovery as it will allow PSE to disclose relevant, commercially-sensitive information without the risk of loss.
- 11. PSE is not seeking to restrict access by Commission Staff or Public Counsel to "highly confidential" information beyond the protections contained in the Commission's standard protective order for "confidential" information, provided that experts retained by Commission Staff or Public Counsel certify that they will not use the information to achieve a competitive advantage. PSE also asks that any intervenors in this proceeding, including their principals, attorneys and experts, be required to make the same showing prior to being permitted access to the "highly confidential" information.

Perkins Coie LLP

VI. CONCLUSION

12. WHEREFORE, PSE respectfully requests that the Commission enter a Protective Order with "highly confidential" provisions in this case, in substantially the form attached as Exhibit A.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 19th day of February, 2020.

PERKINS COIE LLP

By

Sheree Strom Carson, WSBA #25349 Jason Kuzma, WSBA #31830 David S. Steele, WSBA #45640

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EXHIBIT A

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of

PUGET SOUND ENERGY

For an Order Authorizing the Sale of All of Puget Sound Energy's Interests in Colstrip Unit 4 and Certain of Puget Sound Energy's Interests in the Colstrip Transmission System **Docket UE-191037**

[PROPOSED] PROTECTIVE ORDER WITH HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL PROVISIONS

- The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission ("Commission") finds that a protective order to govern disclosure of proprietary and confidential information is necessary in this proceeding. The Commission has reviewed the Motion for Amended Protective Order with Highly Confidential Provisions filed by Puget Sound Energy ("PSE") and this Proposed Protective Order, provided the parties an opportunity to comment on the motion and proposed protective order, considered their comments, and finds as follows:
 - a. It is likely that proprietary and confidential information will be required to resolve the issues in this proceeding.
 - b. Absent a protective order, a significant risk exists that confidential information might become available to persons who have no legitimate need for such information and that injury to the information provider or third parties could result.
 - c. In accordance with WAC 480-07-420(2), the Commission finds that it is necessary to create a separate designation and a higher degree of protection for certain documents asserted by parties to be highly confidential. This is consistent with the Commission's practice in prior cases involving contentions that certain documents require heightened protection to facilitate discovery, and is consistent with the requirements of WAC 480-07-420.
- Accordingly, the Commission enters this Protective Order to govern the discovery and use of proprietary and confidential documents in this proceeding:

A. General Provisions

- 3 Confidential Information. All access, review, use, and disclosure of any material designated by a party to this proceeding as confidential (referred to in this Order as "Confidential Information") is governed by this Order and by WAC 480-07-160. The Commission expects Confidential Information to include only numbers, customer names, and planning details. The Commission requires the parties to redact such information from the pre-filed testimony, exhibits, briefs, and all other documents filed with the Commission, and provide complete versions of the documents that include the redacted material, under separate cover in the manner described below. The Commission may reject a filing or any other submission that fails to segregate Confidential Information, or categorizes public information as confidential.
- Parties must scrutinize potentially confidential material, and strictly limit what they designate "Confidential Information" to only information that truly might compromise their ability to compete fairly or that otherwise might impose a business risk if disseminated without the protections provided in this Order. The first page and individual pages of a document determined in good faith to include Confidential Information must be marked by a stamp that reads: "Shaded information designated as confidential per protective order in Docket UE-191037." Placing a Confidential Information stamp on the first page of an exhibit indicates only that one or more pages contains Confidential Information and will not serve to protect the entire contents of the multi-page document. Each page of the redacted version of a document that contains Confidential Information must be marked separately to indicate where confidential information is redacted. The confidential (i.e., unredacted) version must be provided on yellow or canary paper with references (i.e., highlighting or other markings) to show where Confidential Information is redacted in the original document.
- Confidential and Redacted Versions. Parties must file complete confidential (*i.e.*, unredacted) and redacted versions of testimony, exhibits, and briefs with the Commission. This includes electronic versions and requires that all diskettes and all electronic mail specify whether the file is confidential, redacted, or public.
 - a. If a witness has a confidential portion of her testimony, the sponsoring party must provide a complete redacted version of the testimony and a complete confidential version, with confidential pages on yellow or canary paper.

- b. Parties must submit (at least) two flash drives, CD-ROMs or e-mail attachments, one with the electronic version of the confidential text and one with the electronic version of the redacted text.
 - i. Parties MUST identify the confidential diskettes with prominent red markings and the word "confidential" in addition to the contents and the docket number. The others must be prominently labeled "redacted" or "public".
 - ii. Parties MUST identify each confidential digital file with a "C" in the file name and MUST have the legend "Shaded information designated as confidential per protective order in Docket UE-191037" prominently displayed on the first page (*i.e.*, the page that appears on the computer screen when the file is opened).
 - iii. Parties MUST identify each highly confidential digital file with an "HC" in the file name and MUST have the legend "Shaded information designated as highly confidential per protective order in Docket UE-191037" prominently displayed on the first page (*i.e.*, the page that appears on the computer screen when the file is opened).
- Purpose of Access and Use; Confidentiality. No Confidential Information distributed or obtained pursuant to this Protective Order may be requested, reviewed, used or disclosed, directly or indirectly, by any party, expert or counsel or any other person having access pursuant to this Order, except for purposes of this proceeding. Persons having access to the Confidential Information pursuant to this Order must request, review, use or disclose Confidential Information only by or to persons authorized under this Order, and only in accordance with the terms specified in this Order. Without limiting the foregoing, persons having access to Confidential Information shall not use any Confidential Information to design, develop, provide, or market any product, service, or business strategy that would compete with any product of the party asserting confidentiality.

B. Disclosure of Confidential Information

Persons Permitted Access. No Confidential Information will be made available to anyone other than Commissioners, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission Staff (Commission Staff), the presiding officer(s), and counsel for the parties for this proceeding, including counsel for Commission Staff, and attorneys administrative staff such as paralegals. However, counsel may authorize those persons

designated as their party's experts in this matter to access any Confidential Information solely for the purposes of this proceeding. Except for the Commission Staff, no such expert may be an officer, director, direct employee, major shareholder, or principal of any party or any competitor of any party (unless this restriction is waived by the party asserting confidentiality). Any dispute concerning persons entitled to access Confidential Information must be brought before the presiding officer(s) for resolution.

- Staff of designated outside counsel and staff of designated outside consultants who are authorized to review Confidential Information may have access to confidential documents or information for purposes of processing the case, including but not limited to, receiving and organizing discovery, and preparing prefiled testimony, hearing exhibits, and briefs. Outside counsel and consultants are responsible for appropriate supervision of their staff to ensure the protection of all confidential information consistent with the terms of this Order.
- Nondisclosure Agreement. Before being allowed access to any Confidential Information designated for this docket, each counsel and expert must agree to comply with and be bound by this Order on the form of Exhibit A (counsel and administrative staff) or B (expert) attached to this Order. Counsel for the party seeking access to the Confidential Information must deliver to counsel for the party producing Confidential Information a copy of each signed agreement, which must show each signatory's full name, permanent address, the party with whom the signatory is associated and, in the case of experts, the employer (including the experts position and responsibilities). The party seeking access must also file a copy of the agreement to the Commission and, in the case of experts, the party providing Confidential Information shall complete its portion and file it with the Commission or waive objection as described in Exhibit B.
- 10 Access to Confidential Information. Copies of documents designated confidential under this Order will be provided in the same manner as copies of documents not designated confidential, pursuant to WAC 480-07-400 and WAC 480-07-405. Requests for special provisions for inspection, dissemination or use of confidential documents must be submitted to the presiding officer if not agreed by the parties. The parties must neither distribute copies of documents that include Confidential Information to, nor discuss the contents of confidential documents with, any person not bound by this Order. Persons to whom copies of documents are provided pursuant to this Order warrant by signing the confidentiality agreement that they will exercise all reasonable diligence to maintain the documents consistent with the claim of confidentiality.

C. Highly Confidential Information

- Designation and Disclosure of Highly Confidential Information. Intervenors in this proceeding may include competitors, or potential competitors. Moreover, information relevant to the resolution of this case is expected to include sensitive competitive information. Parties to this proceeding may receive discovery requests that call for the disclosure of highly confidential documents or information, the disclosure of which imposes a highly significant risk of competitive harm to the disclosing party or third parties. Parties may designate documents or information they consider to be Highly Confidential and such documents or information will be disclosed only in accordance with the provisions of this Section.
- Parties must carefully scrutinize responsive documents and information and strictly limit the amount of information they designate as Highly Confidential Information to only information that truly might impose a serious business risk if disseminated without the heightened protections provided in this Section. The first page and individual pages of a document determined in good faith to include Highly Confidential Information must be marked by a stamp that reads: "Shaded information designated highly confidential in Docket UE-191037."
- Placing a "Highly Confidential" stamp on the first page of a document indicates only that one or more pages contains Highly Confidential Information and will not serve to protect the entire contents of a multi-page document. Each page that contains Highly Confidential Information must be marked separately to indicate where Highly Confidential Information is redacted. The unredacted versions of each page containing Highly Confidential Information and provided under seal also must be stamped "Highly Confidential" and submitted on light blue paper with references (*i.e.*, highlighting or other markings) to show where Highly Confidential Information is redacted in the original document.
- Parties who seek access to or disclosure of Highly Confidential documents or information must designate one or more outside counsel and one or more outside consultant, legal or otherwise, to receive and review materials marked "Highly Confidential . . ." For each person for whom access to Highly Confidential Information is sought, parties must submit to the party that designated the material as Highly Confidential and file with the Commission a Highly Confidential Information Agreement, in the form prescribed by Exhibit C of this Order, certifying that the person requesting access to Highly Confidential Information:

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- a. Is not now involved, and will not for a period of two years involve themselves in, competitive decision making with respect to which the documents or information may be relevant, by or on behalf of any company or business organization that competes, or potentially competes, with the company or business organization from whom they seek disclosure of highly confidential information with respect to the development or purchase of energy resources; and
- b. Has read and understands, and agrees to be bound by, the terms of the Protective Order in this proceeding, including this Section of the Protective Order.
- The restrictions in paragraph 14 do not apply to persons employed with the Attorney General's office for Public Counsel and Commission Staff. However, Public Counsel and Commission Staff shall submit the Highly Confidential Information Agreement, in the form prescribed by Exhibit C of this Order, for any external experts or consultants they wish to have review the Highly Confidential Information.
- Any party may object in writing to the designation of any individual counsel or consultant as a person who may review Highly Confidential documents or information. Any such objection must demonstrate good cause, supported by affidavit, to exclude the challenged counsel or consultant from the review of Highly Confidential documents or information. Written response to any objection must be filed within five days after receipt of the objection. If, after receiving a written response to a party's objection, the objecting party still objects to disclosure of the Highly Confidential Information to the challenged individual, the Commission shall determine whether the Highly Confidential Information must be disclosed to the challenged individual.
- Outside counsel designated in the manner described in Section 14, above, may provide one copy of Highly Confidential documents or information to their outside consultants or experts who have been designated to receive Highly Confidential Information in the manner described in Section 14, above. Designated outside counsel and consultants will each maintain the Highly Confidential documents and information and any notes reflecting their contents in a secure location to which only designated counsel and consultants have access. No additional copies will be made, except for use as part of prefiled testimonies or exhibits or during the hearing, and then such copies shall also be subject to the provisions of this Order.
- Staff of designated outside counsel and staff of designated outside consultants who are authorized to review Highly Confidential Information may have access to Highly

Confidential documents or information for purposes of processing the case, including but not limited to receiving and organizing discovery, and preparing prefiled testimony, hearing exhibits, and briefs. Outside counsel and consultants are responsible for appropriate supervision of their staff to ensure the protection of all confidential information consistent with the terms of this Order.

- Information must be maintained in the secure location until filed with the Commission or removed to the hearing room for production under seal and under circumstances that will ensure continued protection from disclosure to persons not entitled to review Highly Confidential documents or information. Counsel will provide prior notice (at least one business day) of any intention to introduce such material at hearing, or refer to such materials in cross-examination of a witness. The presiding officer will determine the process for including such documents or information following consultation with the parties.
- The designation of any document or information as Highly Confidential may be challenged by motion and the classification of the document or information as Highly Confidential will be considered in chambers by the presiding officer(s). The party contending that a document or information is Highly Confidential bears the burden of proving that such designation is necessary.
- 21 Highly Confidential documents and information will be provided to Commission Staff and Public Counsel under the same terms and conditions of this Protective Order as govern the treatment of Confidential Information provided to Commission Staff and Public Counsel and as otherwise provided by the terms of this Protective Order other than this Section.

D. Use of Confidential Information in This Proceeding

- 22 Unless specifically stated otherwise, references to "Confidential Information" in Part D of this Order apply to Confidential Information and to Highly Confidential Information.
- 23 **Reference to Confidential Information**. If counsel or persons afforded access to confidential information refer to such information orally or in writing during any part of this proceeding, any public reference (*i.e.*, any reference that will not be placed in a sealed portion of the record) shall be solely by title, exhibit reference, or some other description that will not disclose the substantive confidential information contained in the document. Any other written reference shall be segregated and marked "Confidential Information," or "Highly Confidential Information," as appropriate, and access to it shall

be given solely to persons who are authorized access to the information under this Order. The parties must not disclose to any person not bound by the terms of this Order any confidential information that has been referenced in this proceeding.

- Parties intending to refer publicly to confidential information in oral testimony, crossexamination, or argument must provide as much prior notice as is feasible to the affected party and the presiding officer. Unless alternative arrangements are in place to protect the confidential information, as provided below, there must be sufficient notice to permit the presiding officer an opportunity to clear the hearing room of persons not bound by this Order or take such other action as is appropriate in the circumstances. Use of protected information must be made only after finding alternative means of presentation to be inadequate.
- 25 **Protected Use by Agreement**. Any party who intends to use any confidential information in the course of this proceeding, including but not limited to testimony to be filed by the party, exhibits, direct and cross-examination of witnesses, rebuttal testimony, or a proffer of evidence, shall give reasonable notice of such intent to all parties and to the presiding officer, and attempt in good faith to reach an agreement to use the confidential information in a manner which will protect its trade secret, proprietary, or other confidential nature. The parties shall consider such methods as: (1) use of clearly edited versions of confidential documents, (2) characterizations of data rather than disclosure of substantive data, and (3) aggregations of data. The goal is to protect each party's rights with respect to confidential information while allowing all parties the latitude to present the evidence necessary to their respective cases.
- If the parties cannot reach agreement about the use of confidential information, they must notify the presiding officer. The presiding officer will determine the manner of best protecting the confidential information while ensuring that all parties are afforded their rights to due process, including the right to cross-examine witnesses.
- **Right to Challenge Admissibility**. Nothing in this Order may be construed to restrict any party's right to challenge the admissibility or use of any confidential information on any ground other than confidentiality, including but not limited to competence, relevance, or privilege.
- Right to Challenge Confidentiality. Any party may challenge another party's contention that information should be entitled to protection under this Order. The presiding officer will conduct an *in camera* hearing to determine whether the information shall be accorded protection under the terms of this Order. The party asserting confidentiality bears the burden of proving that confidential designation is proper.

- Pending determination, the challenged information shall be treated in all respects as protected under the terms of this Order.
- The presiding officer may challenge a party's assertion of confidentiality by notice to all parties.
- If the presiding officer determines the challenged information is not entitled to protection under this Order, the information continues to be protected under this Order for ten days thereafter to enable the producing party to seek Commission or judicial review of the determination, including a stay of the decisions effect pending further review.
- Admission of Confidential Information Under Seal. The portions of the record of this proceeding containing confidential information will be sealed for all purposes, including administrative and judicial review, and must not be examined by any person except under conditions of this Order, unless such confidential information is released from the restrictions of this Order, either through the agreement of the parties or pursuant to a lawful order of the Commission or of a court having jurisdiction to do so.
- Return of Confidential Information. Within thirty (30) days after the conclusion of this proceeding, including any administrative or judicial review, every person who possesses any confidential information (including personal notes that make substantive reference to confidential information and transcripts of any depositions to which a claim of confidentiality is made), must return all confidential information to the party that produced it, or at the producing party's election, must certify in writing that all copies and substantive references to confidential information in notes have been destroyed. These provisions apply to all copies of exhibits which contain confidential information and for that reason were admitted under seal. The only exceptions are: (1) that counsel may retain exhibits as counsel records, for only so long as they represent the participant in this proceeding; and (2) that the Commission will retain a complete record of the testimony and documentary evidence admitted to the record or refused admission, including confidential information, as part of the Agency's official records.
- Freedom of Information Laws. Any federal agency that has access to and/or receives copies of the confidential information that becomes the subject of a request under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552 as amended) shall observe the safeguards established for submitters of confidential commercial information set forth in Executive Order 12600 (52 FR 23781) and the corresponding provisions contained in the agency's procedures for processing FOIA requests for records potentially subject to exemption under 5 U.S.C. 552 (b)(4); and any Washington state agency that has access to and/or

receives copies of the confidential information must treat the confidential information as being within the exemption from disclosure provided in RCW 42.56.330(1).

- Notice of Compelled Production in Other Jurisdictions. If a signatory to this Protective Order is compelled to produce confidential documents in any regulatory or judicial proceeding by the body conducting the proceeding, the signatory must provide notice to the party that provided the confidential information. Such confidential information must not be produced for at least ten days following notice, to permit the party that provided the information an opportunity to defend the confidential nature of the material before the regulatory or judicial body that would compel production. Disclosure after that date, in compliance with an order compelling production, is not a violation of this Order.
- Modification. The Commission may modify this Order on motion of a party or on its own motion upon reasonable prior notice to the parties and an opportunity for hearing.
- Violation of this Order. Violation of this Order by any party to this proceeding or by any other person bound by this Order by unauthorized use or unauthorized divulgence of Confidential or Highly Confidential Information may subject such party or person to liability for damages and shall subject such party to penalties as generally provided by law, including, but not limited to, the provisions of RCW 80.04.380-.405.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective, 2020.
WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Administrative Law Judge

EXHIBIT A (ATTORNEY AGREEMENT)

AGREEMENT CONCERNING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION IN DOCKET UE-191037 BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

proceeding for	, as attorney in this
Signature	Date
Address	

EXHIBIT B (EXPERT AGREEMENT)

AGREEMENT CONCERNING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION IN DOCKET UE-191037 BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

by the Washington Utilities and Transporta	, as expert witness in (a party to this nd be bound by the Protective Order entered ation Commission in Docket UE-191037, and ective Order and fully understand its terms and
Signature	Date
Employer	
Address	Position and Responsibilities
The following portion is to be computed the Commission within 10 days of receipt; the above-named person will be deemed an Information under the terms and conditions No objection. Objection. The responding	g party objects to the above-named expert The objecting party shall file a motion setting
Signature	Date

EXHIBIT C (HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION AGREEMENT)

AGREEMENT CONCERNING HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION IN DOCKET UE-191037 BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

	I,			, as
		In-house at	ttorney	
		In-house ex	xpert	
		Outside co	unsel	
		Outside ex	pert	
proce	eding) hereby d		y of perjury und	(a party to this ler the laws of the State of
a.	competitive d may be releva competes, or p from whom th	ecision making wit ant, by or on behalf potentially compete	th respect to white of any company es, with the company of highly confidence.	of two years involve myself in, ch the documents or information or business organization that pany or business organization dential information with respect ces; and
d.	I have read and understand, and agree to be bound by, the terms of the Protective Order in this proceeding, including this Section C of the Protective Order.			
Signature		Date		
City/S	State where this	Agreement was sig	gned	

Employer	
Position and Responsibilities	Permanent Address
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the Commission within 10 days of receipt.	Poleted by the responding party and filed with Failure to do so will constitute a waiver and person having access to Highly Confidential of the protective order.
No objection.	
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Signature	Date