



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
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April 13, 2017

**NOTICE REVISING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

RE: *Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Puget Sound Energy*,  
Docket PG-160924

TO ALL PARTIES:

On March 9, 2016, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) initiated a complaint against Puget Sound Energy (PSE) as a result of Commission regulatory staff's (Staff) investigation into a natural gas explosion that occurred in the vicinity of 8411 Greenwood Ave. N, Seattle, Washington. On November 2, 2016, the Commission entered a Prehearing Conference Order establishing a procedural schedule. The procedural schedule was modified by notice dated January 17, 2017. The revised procedural schedule included, among other things, an evidentiary hearing on July 6 and 7, 2017.

On March 28, 2017, Staff and PSE filed with the Commission a multi-party Settlement Agreement (Settlement) and supporting Narrative. At that time, Staff and PSE represented that the Public Counsel Unit of the Washington Attorney General's Office (Public Counsel), the only other party in this proceeding, had not taken a position on the Settlement. The Settlement purports to resolve all of the contested issues in the proceeding. Among other things, the Settlement provides for the Commission to impose a \$2.75 million penalty against PSE, \$1.5 million of which would be due within 10 days after the Commission approves the Settlement and the remaining \$1.25 million would be suspended pending PSE's compliance with conditions contained in the Settlement.

On March 29, 2017, the Commission issued a notice suspending the existing procedural schedule and setting this matter for hearing on May 15, 2017. The notice further advised that testimony in support of, or in opposition to, the Settlement was due May 1, 2017.

On April 12, the Commission received a letter from Staff indicating that Public Counsel will not be joining the Settlement. Staff proposes a revised procedural schedule pursuant to which Public Counsel would submit testimony in support of its position on April 14 and Staff and PSE would submit responsive testimony on May 8.

Also on April 12, Public Counsel submitted a letter to the Commission objecting to Staff's proposal and suggesting that the Commission retain the schedule that requires all parties to file testimony in support of their positions on May 1. Despite further discussion, the parties were unable to agree on a revised procedural schedule.

The Commission finds good cause to set new deadlines for the filing of testimony and, in the absence of a consensus by the parties, does so as follows:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Public Counsel Testimony due	April 24, 2017
Staff and PSE Responsive Testimony due	May 8, 2017

**THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That the procedural schedule in Docket PG-160924 is revised to include the deadlines listed above.**

GREGORY J. KOPTA  
Administrative Law Judge