

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

In the Matter of the Joint Application of	)	DOCKET U-072375
)	
PUGET HOLDINGS LLC AND	)	ORDER 03
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.,)	
	)	GRANTING, IN PART, MOTION TO
For an Order Authorizing Proposed	)	ADOPT PUBLIC HEARING
Transaction	)	SCHEDULE
)	
	)	NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT
	)	HEARINGS (set for
	)	May 15, 2008 – Bellevue,
	)	May 20, 2008 – Bellingham, and
	)	June 4, 2008 - Olympia)
.....)	

ORDER

1 On January 11, 2008, the Public Counsel Section of the Washington State Attorney General’s Office (Public Counsel) filed a motion in *WUTC v. Puget Sound Energy, Inc.*, Dockets UE-072300 and UG-072301 (consolidated), a pending general rate case, requesting that the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) hold four joint public hearings in this matter (Docket U-072375), which concerns the proposed sale of Puget Sound Energy (PSE) to a consortium of investors led by the Macquarie Group of Companies. Public Counsel proposed alternative locations, preferred dates and a preferred starting time of 6:30 p.m. for each hearing. The Commission has consulted informally with the parties via e-mail to narrow the range of dates and locations.¹

¹ Public Counsel filed in Dockets UE-072300 and UG-072301 (consolidated) on January 28, 2008, a paper styled “Joint Motion for Interlocutory Review or Reconsideration. “ The Commission’s procedural rules provide for review of prehearing and interlocutory orders at WAC 48-07-430 and -810, respectively. Public Counsel’s “motion,” joined by the Northwest Energy Coalition and The Energy Project, was premature and not within the scope of what is allowed under the procedural rules. It was filed in reaction to an informal e-mail to the parties announcing a preliminary determination regarding the number of public comment hearings to be held in this matter jointly with those concerning PSE’s general rate case and requesting additional coordination among the parties and further communication with the Commission so

- 2 The Commission determines that three public comment hearings in diverse locations in PSE's service territory will provide sufficient opportunities for members of the public to comment orally on the record of these proceedings. These hearings are in addition to the continuing opportunity for members of the public to submit written comments to the Commission in the general rate proceeding (Dockets UE-072300 and UG-072301) and the transfer of property proceeding (Docket U-072375), either directly or via Public Counsel, until the record is closed in each proceeding.
- 3 The Commission grants Public Counsel's motion, in part, and gives notice below of the date, time, and community in which each public comment hearing will be held. The Commission will arrange for facilities in each community and will announce their locations by subsequent notice.
- 4 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE that it will conduct joint hearings to receive comments from members of the public concerning PSE's application in Docket U-072375 for approval of the proposed acquisition of the company by a consortium of investors, and PSE's general rate proceeding in Dockets UE-072300 and UG-072301 (consolidated), according to the following schedule:**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
May 15, 2008	6:30 p.m.	Bellevue, Washington
May 20, 2008	6:30 p.m.	Bellingham, Washington
June 4, 2008	6:30 p.m.	Olympia, Washington

The Commission will give further notice concerning the precise location for the conduct of these public comment hearings once facilities are arranged.

that an appropriate order, such as this one, could be entered. If Public Counsel or any other party is dissatisfied with the Commission's decision in this order on Public Counsel's earlier motion requesting a schedule for public comment hearings, they have ten days from the date of this order to seek review consistent with the Commission's rules governing prehearing orders and review of interlocutory orders.

Dated at Olympia, Washington, and effective February 7, 2008.

WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DENNIS J. MOSS
Administrative Law Judge

NOTICE TO PARTIES: This is an Interlocutory Order of the Commission. Administrative review may be available through a petition for review, filed within 10 days of the service of this Order pursuant to WAC 480-07-810.