

Rob McKenna

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

Utilities and Transportation Division 1400 S Evergreen Park Drive SW • PO Box 40128 • Olympia WA 98504-0128 • (360) 664-1183

January 10, 2007

Carole J. Washburn, Secretary Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW P. O. Box 47250 Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Re: Puget Sound Energy General Rate Case

Docket Nos. UE-060266 and UG-060267 Consolidated

Dear Ms. Washburn:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced docket are the original and 16 copies of a Motion of Commission Staff for Clarification of Order 08, and Certificate of Service.

Sincerely.

ROBERT D. CEDARBAUM

Senior Counsel

Enclosures RDC:klg cc: Parties

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

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PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.

Respondent.

DOCKET NO. UE-060266

DOCKET NO. UG-060267

MOTION OF COMMISSION STAFF FOR CLARIFICATION OF ORDER 08

The Staff of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission requests clarification of the Commission's Order 08 in this proceeding. Staff's motion is filed pursuant to WAC 480-07-835 and is limited to the following three items:

1. Gas Low Income Assistance

Staff, Public Counsel and the Northwest Industrial Gas Users proposed an increase in the natural gas low income bill assistance program of \$525,000 (net of taxes and revenue sensitive items) above the current level of \$2.8 million. The \$525,000 increase would be allocated across classes on an equal percent of margin basis, which is consistent with

existing Schedule 129.1

The Company does not oppose the proposal.² However, while the Commission's Order 08 approves expressly an increase in the *electric* low income assistance program,³ it does not approve expressly the increase proposed for the natural gas low income assistance program.

MOTION OF STAFF FOR CLARIFICATION-1

¹ Exhibit No. 581 at 14:16-15:6 (Joint Parties). ² Tr. 98:22-25 (Harris).

³ Order 08 at ¶ 144.

Therefore, we ask the Commission to clarify its Order 08 by expressly approving the natural gas low income assistance proposal of Staff, Public Counsel and the NWIGU.⁴

2. **Line of Credit for Hedging Transactions**

The Company proposed to include in the Power Cost Adjustment mechanism the cost associated with a new line of credit to support wholesale power hedging transactions. All parties weighing in on that issue supported the proposal, which the Commission approved in its Order 08.5

The Company also proposed to include in the Purchased Gas Adjustment mechanism the cost associated with the new line of credit to support its core gas portfolio hedging transactions. 6 That proposal is not approved expressly in the Commission's Order 08.

Staff does not object to the proposal and asks the Commission to clarify its Order 08 accordingly.

3. **Demand-related Gas Costs**

The Company proposes to change the demand-related gas costs reflected on Schedules 101 and 106 through a cost of service methodology that uses a design-day peak allocator.7

The Commission's Order 08 does not expressly decide the issue regarding the allocation of demand-related gas costs. However, the Commission did state that:

The record in this proceeding is not adequate for purposes of evaluating PSE's use of the design day as a peak allocator in its COS study. We express no opinion on the subject.8

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⁴ The Company's compliance filing in this case does reflect the natural gas low income assistance proposal. See, Advice No. 2007-02, Natural Gas Tariff Filing (January 9, 2007). Thus, the clarification we request may not be necessary, but will insure that there are is no future misunderstanding regarding the Commission's directive on this matter.

⁵ Order 08 at ¶ 34.

⁶ Exhibit No. 131C at 25:18-26:2 (Gaines) and Exhibit No. 421 at 51:15-52:6 (Story).

⁷ Exhibit No. 31 at 32:14-16 (Amen).

⁸ Order 08 at ¶ 133.

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Therefore, we ask the Commission to clarify its Order 08 to reject the Company's allocation of demand-related gas costs in Schedules 101 and 106. That clarification would be consistent with the latest Commission precedent that resolved that issue on its merits.⁹

Dated this 10th day of January, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

ROB MCKENNA Attorney General

ROBERT D. CEDARBAUM

Senior Counsel

Counsel for Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission Staff

⁹ WUTC v. Washington Natural Gas Co., 5th Suppl. Order at 7-9, Docket Nos. UG-940034, et al., (April 11, 1995).

Docket Nos. UE-060266/UG-060267 CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing Initial Brief of Commission Staff, upon the persons and entities listed on the Service List via e-mail and Federal Express, addressed as shown on said Service List, with first class postage prepaid.

DATED at Olympia, Washington this 10th day of January, 2007

(ŘÍSTA L. GROSS

For Puget Sound Energy:

Kirstin S. Dodge Jason Kuzma Perkins Coie LLP 10885 NE Fourth St, Suite 700 Bellevue, WA 98004-5579

Fax: (425) 635-2400 Phone: (425) 635-1400

E-mail: <u>kdodge@perkinscoie.com</u> jkuzma@perkinscoie.com

For Public Counsel:

Simon ffitch Public Counsel Section Office of the Attorney General 800 Fifth Ave, Suite 2000 Seattle, WA 98104-3188 Fax: (206) 389-2085

Phone: (206) 464-7744 E-mail: simonf@atg.wa.gov

For ICNU:

S. Bradley Van Cleve Matthew W. Perkins Irion Sanger Davison Van Cleve PC 333 SW Taylor, Suite 400 Portland, OR 97204 Fax: (503) 241-8160 Phone: (503) 241-7242 E-mail: mail@dvclaw.com

For The Kroger Co.:

Michael L. Kurtz Boehm Kurtz & Lowry 36 E Seventh St, Suite 1510 Cincinnati, OH 45202 Phone: (513) 421-2255 Fax: (513) 421-2764

E-mail: mkurtzlaw@bkllawfirm.com

For Cogeneration Coalition of Wash.:

Michael P. Alcantar Donald Brookhyser Alcantar & Kahl LLP 1300 SW Fifth, Suite 1750 Portland, OR 97201

Fax: (503) 402-8882 Phone: (503) 402-9900 E-mail: mpa@a-klaw.com deb@a-klaw.com

For Northwest Energy Coalition:

Nancy Hirsch
Danielle Dixon
219 1st Ave S, Suite 100
Seattle, WA 98104
Fax: (206) 621-0097
Phone: (206) 621-0094

Email: <u>nancy@nwenergy.org</u> danielle@nwenergy.org

For The Energy Project:

Ronald L. Roseman Attorney at Law 2011 14th Ave E Seattle, WA 98112 Fax: (206) 568-0138

Phone: (206) 324-8792

E-mail: ronaldroseman@comcast.net

For NWIGU:

Edward Finklea Chad M. Stokes Cable Houston Benedict Haagensen & Lloyd LLP 1001 SW Fifth Ave, Suite 2000 Portland, OR 97204-1136

Fax: (503) 224-3176 Phone: (503) 224-3092 E-mail: efinklea@chbh.com cstokes@chbh.com

For Federal Executive Agencies:

Norman Furuta Federal Executive Agencies 333 Market St., 10th Floor MS 1021A San Francisco, CA 94105-2195

Fax: (415) 977-8760 Phone: (415) 977-8808

E-mail: norman.furuta@navy.mil

For Seattle Steam Company:

Elaine L. Spencer Graham & Dunn PC Pier 70 2801 Alaskan Way, Suite 300 Seattle, WA 98121 Fax: ()

Phone: (206) 624-8300

E-mail: espencer@grahamdunn.com