



Bob Ferguson

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

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May 12, 2017

VIA UTC WEB PORTAL and ABC LMI

Steven V. King
Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Pk. Dr. S.W.
P. O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: Report on Puget Sound Energy's Notice to Customers on General Rate Case and Proposed Rate Changes,
Wash. Utils. & Transp. Comm'n v. Puget Sound Energy, Dockets UE-170033 and UG-170034 (*Consolidated*)

Dear Mr. King:

In accordance with the Procedural Schedule in the combined Dockets UE-170033 and UG-170034, the Public Counsel Unit submitted its first report on the status of Puget Sound Energy's ("the Company") Customer Notice regarding the General Rate Case filing on April 12, 2017, and submitted a second Customer Notice Report on April 28, 2017. In the second letter to the Commission, Public Counsel committed to submitting a third report by May 12, 2017. Public Counsel respectfully submits its third and final Customer Notice Report in this letter.

At the time of the second letter, April 28, the Company stated plans to provide parties with a third draft no later than May 3, 2017, which would provide ample time for additional comments, finalization, and eventual distribution to customers. The Company provided that draft to Staff and Public Counsel on May 10, 2017, and requested a final round of comments. Public Counsel and Staff promptly provided comments, and the Company provided a final draft of the Customer Notice on May 12, 2017.

The Company was generally receptive to Staff's and Public Counsel's comments and edits to drafts. In particular, the Company agreed to include language that clearly stated revenue and rate changes requested in their filing, in addition to the basis for the 2017 General Rate Case. In Public Counsel's view, initial language used to describe depreciation expenses would be unclear or inaccessible to customers, as the term "depreciation" describes a specific accounting concept



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that may be unfamiliar to many customers. Public Counsel agrees that the final Customer Notice provides necessary clarity around the depreciation issue, in addition to describing the basis for the Company's General Rate Case filing.

The Company should have adequate time to produce the notice, distribute it to their customers, and comply with the minimum requirement to provide at least 30 days' notice of Public Comment Hearings. The first Public Comment Hearing is in Bellevue on July 31, 2017, and the second public hearing will take place one month later in Olympia on August 31.

This is Public Counsel's third and final Customer Notice Report to the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LW Gafken', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

LISA W. GAFKEN
Assistant Attorney General
Public Counsel Unit
(206) 389-2055

LWG:cjd

cc: Service List (via E-mail and First Class Mail)