

**Exh. ECO-5  
Dockets UE-170033/UG-170034  
Witness: Elizabeth O'Connell**

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,**

**Complainant,**

**v.**

**PUGET SOUND ENERGY,**

**Respondent.**

**DOCKETS UE-170033 and  
UG-170034 (*Consolidated*)**

**EXHIBIT TO  
TESTIMONY OF**

**Elizabeth C. O'Connell**

**STAFF OF  
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

*PSE's response to Staff data request 279.*

**June 30, 2017**

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Dockets UE-170033 and UG-170034  
Puget Sound Energy  
2017 General Rate Case**

**WUTC STAFF DATA REQUEST NO. 279**

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**RE: Environmental Remediation Projects adjustment**

Please explain how PSE assesses and determines the most cost-effective method to comply with required environmental remediation. Provide in your answer any additional cost-effectiveness practices mandated by other state or federal agencies.

**Response:**

Both the State of Washington's Model Toxics Control Act ("MTCA") as well as the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act administered by the Environmental Protection Agency have established processes that guide responsible parties through the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study ("RI/FS") phase to properly characterize the site and develop appropriate remedial alternatives. PSE follows these established processes. As part of the RI/FS phase, there is a disproportionate cost analysis process that is used to identify the most protective and cost effective approach available to meet published cleanup levels. The purpose of this process is to identify a remedial approach that achieves the highest level of benefit versus cost. This process allows for the review and comment by both regulatory agencies as well as the public on the approach chosen. Additionally, for some sites, Independent Cleanup Actions are permitted by MTCA, and PSE analyzes these opportunities to enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness.