BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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| In the Matter of a Penalty Assessment Against PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC. in the Amount of $104,300 | DOCKET U-100182  COMMISSION STAFF’S RESPONSE TO PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.’S APPLICATION FOR MITIGATION AND REQUEST FOR HEARING |

1. Pursuant to WAC 480-07-370(1)(c), Commission Staff of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission submits this response[[1]](#footnote-1) to the Request for Hearing filed by Puget Sound Energy, Inc. (“PSE”).
2. On October 8, 2010, the Commission assessed a penalty of $104,300 against PSE for 3 violations of WAC 480-90-123(2), 11 violations of WAC 480-100-123(3), 951 violations of WAC 480-90-123(2) and 490-100-123(3), 4 violations of WAC 490-100-108(2)(d), 6 violations of WAC 480-90-128(1), 2 violations of WAC 480-90-128(9), 10 violations of 480-90-173(3)(a), 12 violations of WAC 480-100-173(3)(a), 11 violations of WAC 480-90-173(3)(c), and 33 violations of WAC 480-100-173(3)(c). On October 27, 2010, the Commission received an Application for Mitigation and Request for Hearing from PSE. In its Application for Mitigation and Request for Hearing, PSE admitted the violations occurred, but stated:

*After reviewing the factual and legal bases underlying the alleged violations, there appears to remain good faith disagreement between PSE and Staff over the interpretation of some of the Commission rules and factual disputes regarding a subset of the violations. PSE is continuing its review and anticipates engaging with Commission Staff after completing its investigation and prior to the hearing to attempt to resolve any remaining areas of disagreement.*

PSE requested a decision by an administrative law judge. Commission Staff does not oppose setting this matter for hearing, but opposes mitigation of the penalty amount at this time.

DATED this 15th day of November 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT M. MCKENNA

Attorney General

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SALLY BROWN

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Transportation Commission Staff

1. Please note that this response does not come from the Commission but from Commission Staff. Commission Staff is a party in this case and is separate from the Commission. The Commission will be the ultimate decision-maker in this matter. An administrative law judge will consider PSE’s statement and Commission Staff’s statement and will issue a decision. The Commission may accept, modify, or reject that decision. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)