

March 12, 2008

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING & FIRST CLASS MAIL

Carole Washburn
Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Pk. Dr. S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: In the Matter of the Joint Application of Puget Holdings LLC and Puget Sound Energy, Inc., For an Order Authorizing Proposed Transaction
Docket No. U-072375

Dear Ms. Washburn:

Public Counsel is filing this “status report” pursuant to paragraph 14 of the Prehearing Conference Order, Order No. 01, entered January 17, 2008.¹ At this time, Puget Sound Energy, Inc. (PSE), Public Counsel, and Commission Consumer Affairs staff have reached a consensus on the content and format of the required individual customer notice.² (A copy of the individual customer notice is attached.) It is our understanding that PSE will distribute individual customer notices with its March-April 2008 bills, and will additionally notify at least one: (1) newspaper of general circulation, (2) radio station, *and* (3) television station, in each affected area.³ We understand that PSE will file a separate declaration with the Commission, as required by rule, confirming that it has provided all required notice.⁴

Beginning in January 2008, PSE, Public Counsel, and Commission Consumer Affairs staff engaged in discussions regarding the content and format of the individual customer notice in this case. On March 4, 2008, PSE circulated a final draft and informed the parties that they would print and circulate the notice shortly.

¹ The Prehearing Conference order does not provide a specific filing date for this report. The Order states, “[t]he status report must be filed at least five business days prior to the intended date of first publication of the notice.” Based on information received from PSE, Public Counsel is filing this report at least five days before the first date we anticipate PSE customers will receive the notice.

² See WAC 480-90-197 (adjudicative proceeding notice requirements for gas companies); WAC 480-100-197 (adjudicative proceeding notice requirements for electric companies).

³ See WAC 480-90-197(4) and 480-100-197(4).

⁴ See WAC 480-90-198(1) and 480-100-198(1).

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PSE, Public Counsel, and Commission Consumer Affairs staff are in agreement that the individual customer notice meets statutory requirements. Additionally, Public Counsel believes that this notice contains a number of improvements from prior notices, including: (1) simpler language in headings and in the explanation of the proposed transaction; (2) a detachable comment card; and, (3) more prominent listing of the dates and locations of the public hearings. These changes are intended to make the notice easier to understand and increase customer feedback and participation.

Sincerely,

SARAH A. SHIFLEY
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(206) 464-6595

SAS:cjw
Enclosure
cc: ALJ Dennis Moss (E-mail only)
Service List (E-mail & First Class Mail)