

**Exh. DCG-14
Dockets UE-170033/UG-170034
Witness: David C. Gomez**

**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**

David C. Gomez

**STAFF OF
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

***WUTC v. Puget Sound Energy, Inc.*, Dockets UE-111048 and UG-111049, prefiled rebuttal testimony of David E. Mills, Exhibit No. __ (DEM-11CT), pages 39 through 40**

1 adjustment of \$0.9 million and administrative and general expense adjustment of
2 \$0.9 million).

3 **I. AURORA Model Inputs**

4 **Q. Please describe ICNU's adjustment to the thermal operating assumptions in**
5 **the AURORA model.**

6 A. ICNU proposes to modify the AURORA model inputs for the minimum up times
7 for PSE's Goldendale, Mint Farm and Sumas combined cycle combustion
8 turbines. This adjustment would reduce power costs by approximately \$0.4
9 million. Exhibit No. ___(MCD-1CT) at page 13, lines 3-23.

10 **Q. What are the thermal operating assumptions in the AURORA model?**

11 A. The AURORA model makes commitment and dispatch decisions on an hourly
12 basis utilizing the resource characteristics of the thermal generators and the costs
13 of fuel. These characteristics include items such as operating capacity, base load
14 heat rates, minimum up times and minimum down times. The thermal operating
15 assumptions represent PSE's operating information used to dispatch and operate
16 PSE's combustion turbine fleet.

1 **Q. Please describe ICNU's proposed changes to the AURORA model minimum**
2 **up times.**

3 A. Based upon actual hourly operating data, ICNU proposes to impose a 10-hour
4 minimum up time for Goldendale, Mint Farm and Sumas rather than the
5 AURORA model inputs of 24-hours for Goldendale and Mint Farm and 16-hours
6 for Sumas. Exhibit No. ___(MCD-1CT) at page 13, lines 18-21.

7 **Q. Do you agree with ICNU's proposed changes to the AURORA model**
8 **minimum up times?**

9 A. No. ICNU's proposal to adjust the AURORA model minimum up times reflects
10 only a portion of the changes to the operating characteristics of the combustion
11 turbines. PSE's asset management group, in concert with PSE plant managers,
12 maintain and review actual plant operating statistics to ensure PSE's gas fired
13 combustion turbines are operating efficiently and reliably given the operating and
14 maintenance constraints of the individual turbines. Over the years, as the
15 combustion turbines age and receive normal and major maintenance, the thermal
16 operating characteristics of the combustion turbines will vary. PSE's thermal
17 operations group provides updates to the thermal operating characteristics on an
18 ongoing basis such that the operators are using the most current information to
19 make plant dispatch decisions. At this time, several of the thermal operating
20 characteristics associated with PSE's combustion turbines have been updated. In
21 addition to the minimum up times noted by ICNU, PSE's thermal operations