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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON

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UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND )  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, )

5

Complainant, )

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) Docket No. UE-141141

vs. )

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PUGET SOUND ENERGY, )

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Respondent. )

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PREHEARING CONFERENCE, VOLUME I

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Pages 1 - 14

12

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE MARGUERITE FRIEDLANDER

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1:33 P.M.  
JULY 9, 2014

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A P P E A R A N C E S (Continued)

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OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON; JULY 9, 2014

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1:33 P.M.

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JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Let's go on the

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record. I am Marguerite Friedlander, an

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administrative law judge with the Washington Utilities

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and Transportation Commission. We are here today for

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a prehearing conference in Docket UE-141141, which is

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captioned a Power Cost Only Rate Case by Puget Sound

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Energy.

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We will start by taking appearances. Let's go

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ahead and have the company put in appearance first.

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Ms. Carson.

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MS. STROM CARSON: Good afternoon, Your

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Honor. Sheree Strom Carson with Perkins Coie,

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representing Puget Sound Energy.

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JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.

19

And appearing on behalf of Staff?

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MR. TROTTER: For the Commission Staff,

21

my name is Donald T. Trotter, Assistant Attorney

22

General.

23

JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.

24

And appearing today on behalf of Public

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Counsel?

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1 MR. FFITCH: Simon ffitch, Senior  
2 Assistant Attorney General, on behalf of Office of  
3 Public Counsel.

4 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.

5 And appearing today on behalf of ICNU, the  
6 Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities?

7 MR. COWELL: Yes, appearing on behalf of  
8 ICNU is Jesse Cowell.

9 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.

10 Are there any other individuals either on the  
11 conference bridge or in person who would like to put  
12 in an appearance today?

13 Okay, hearing nothing, we have one petition  
14 for leave to intervene before us, that's from ICNU. I  
15 have read the petition. Are there any objections to  
16 this petition being granted?

17 MS. STROM CARSON: No objections from  
18 PSE.

19 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Mr. ffitch, did you  
20 have something to add?

21 MR. FFITCH: No objection, Your Honor.

22 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Thank you.

23 I will go ahead and grant that intervention.

24 MR. COWELL: Thank you, Your Honor.

25 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: As this case

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1 involves the suspension of tariffs involving rates,  
2 the Commission's discovery rules are automatically  
3 available to the parties. We have already entered a  
4 protective order in this matter. I assume that the  
5 parties have already commenced discovery to some  
6 degree.

7 We should probably turn now to the procedural  
8 schedule. Have the parties had a chance to confer  
9 about potential dates?

10 MS. STROM CARSON: Your Honor, we have  
11 conferred some by e-mail. I don't think we have quite  
12 reached agreement, although I think we are perhaps  
13 close. We may have reached agreement, but we may need  
14 to confirm that.

15 MR. TROTTER: We just need a short time  
16 to discuss the details.

17 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: That's fine.

18 Before we go off the record to allow you guys  
19 to discuss that a little bit, I did want to mention  
20 that we have received an amended application in last  
21 year's PCORC, the UE-130617, from PSE. In reading the  
22 testimony, I was wondering if there is any overlapping  
23 issues here that we need to discuss, possible  
24 consolidation or if that's not on the table.

25 MS. STROM CARSON: Your Honor, are you

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1 referring to the Electron -- testimony regarding  
2 Electron's sale?

3 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Right. Although, my  
4 copy of Mr. Wetherbee's testimony actually had some  
5 Lower Baker information in there as well, requesting  
6 recovery for the Lower Baker floating surface  
7 collector and the Lower Baker new power house  
8 construction.

9 MS. STROM CARSON: So I believe  
10 Mr. Wetherbee's testimony is an exhibit and it's just  
11 supporting the revised proposal. It's not new  
12 testimony, it's an exhibit to incorporate some of the  
13 testimony. Lower Baker is not at issue.

14 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: In 130617?

15 MS. STROM CARSON: That's right.

16 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay. Because I was  
17 confused about that. In his testimony he is saying  
18 that PSE is requesting, in present tense, which made  
19 me think, okay, then there's some issues here that may  
20 be overlapping. What I am hearing now is that they  
21 are not, that 130617 is strictly limited to the  
22 Electron transaction.

23 MS. STROM CARSON: That's correct.  
24 Mr. Wetherbee's testimony in the last proceeding  
25 related to both Electron and Baker.

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1 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay.

2 MS. STROM CARSON: That's why it's a  
3 little bit confusing.

4 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Right.

5 MS. STROM CARSON: That's simply an  
6 exhibit.

7 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay, okay. I was a  
8 little bit confused because it was included with the  
9 amended application. That's helpful to know. If it's  
10 limited to the Electron project transaction, then I  
11 would imagine there's no need for consolidation.

12 MS. STROM CARSON: It's PSE's strong  
13 preference not to consolidate that and to have that  
14 addressed separately in July.

15 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay, that's fine.  
16 And we are receiving comments I believe on Friday, so  
17 we will go from there.

18 Why don't one of you come and get me when you  
19 are finished talking about the procedural schedule.  
20 We will be off the record. Thank you.

21 (A brief recess.)

22 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: We will go back on  
23 the record.

24 Have the parties reached let's say a  
25 compromise on a procedural schedule?



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1 MR. TROTTER: Yes, Your Honor. Just  
2 give me a second and I will get you a copy.

3 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Sure, thank you.

4 (Pause in the proceedings.)

5 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: And just so I can  
6 confirm, the December 1st date is when the company is  
7 requesting an order by, or is that when you want the  
8 rates effective? So in other words, we would need an  
9 order out --

10 MS. STROM CARSON: November 20th.

11 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Well, that makes my  
12 Thanksgiving better.

13 And then of course Staff has to have time to  
14 approve conforming tariffs, so it's possible. I mean  
15 the 20th would probably be ideal.

16 MS. STROM CARSON: We do have dates  
17 figured in for compliance filing and Staff's review of  
18 compliance filing.

19 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay, okay.

20 MR. TROTTER: You can go through that on  
21 the record or whatever you want.

22 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Yeah, why don't we  
23 do that. So we've got a workshop. We're having a  
24 workshop?

25 MR. TROTTER: It's for the parties, Your

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1 Honor.

2 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay, okay. I was  
3 beginning to thinking like a public comment hearing on  
4 a decrease. It might be a good PR --

5 MR. TROTTER: We have that scheduled in  
6 on the hearing.

7 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Oh, I see.

8 MS. STROM CARSON: If needed.

9 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Yes. I'll let the  
10 commissioners know it's a possibility. Yeah, it may  
11 not be necessary, but we'll see.

12 MR. TROTTER: It's a proposal.

13 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Exactly, exactly.

14 Okay. So possible supplemental testimony by  
15 August 1st, settlement conference on August 19th, and  
16 then testimony, response testimony from Staff, Public  
17 Counsel and ICNU on the 27th, and that would begin the  
18 four-day data request response turnaround time.

19 MR. TROTTER: That's four business days.

20 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Gotcha. And up to  
21 that point I assume it's still ten.

22 MS. STROM CARSON: It's five.

23 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Oh, it's five.

24 MS. STROM CARSON: For the PCORC it's  
25 five.

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1                   JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Five business day  
2 turnaround, gotcha. Which that makes sense, given the  
3 abbreviated time frame.

4                   And so from there we have rebuttal testimony  
5 and cross-answering due the 11th of September. And  
6 then we have discovery cutoff the -- is that the 22nd?

7                   MR. TROTTER: Yes.

8                   JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay, the 22nd of  
9 September. Cross-exam exhibits filed electronically  
10 on the 25th of September. Hearing the 30th, plus a --  
11 September 30th, plus a potential public hearing, and  
12 simultaneous initial briefs on October 24th.

13                   Do we think that two rounds are necessary? Do  
14 we want to just do simultaneous posthearing briefs on  
15 one -- one time or --

16                   MS. STROM CARSON: The Company having  
17 the burden of proof would like to have the opportunity  
18 to respond.

19                   JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay.

20                   MS. STROM CARSON: And I understand the  
21 others would too. We proposed to keep it a very short  
22 brief.

23                   JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay.

24                   MS. STROM CARSON: A maximum seven  
25 pages.

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1 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay.

2 MS. STROM CARSON: And a very short  
3 turnaround time.

4 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Okay. So initial  
5 briefs simultaneously filed October 24th, reply briefs  
6 simultaneously filed October 31st, seven-page max. An  
7 order out by November 20th, compliance filing tariffs  
8 by November 24th, with effective date for rates  
9 December 1st.

10 Well, I think given the time frame that we  
11 have and the existing workload, it's probably the best  
12 that we can do. I'm going to run it by the  
13 commissioners and let you all know. I should have the  
14 prehearing conference order out shortly.

15 Let's go ahead and -- I will let you know that  
16 we need to have filing an original and six copies. If  
17 there's nothing else...

18 MR. TROTTER: Well, Your Honor.

19 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Yes.

20 MR. TROTTER: Could you formally call  
21 for intervention, please, just in case there might be  
22 someone on the bridge or otherwise that wishes to  
23 intervene?

24 JUDGE FRIEDLANDER: Sure. So is there  
25 anyone else on the conference bridge who wishes to

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1 make a request for intervention in the 2014 PCORC?

2 Okay. Hearing nothing, we are adjourned.

3 Thank you.

4 (Signature reserved.)

5 (Deposition concluded 2:06 p.m.)

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STATE OF WASHINGTON

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COUNTY OF KING

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I, Sherrilyn Smith, a Certified

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Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Washington,

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and ability.

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SHERRILYN SMITH

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