# BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Complainant

DOCKET NOS. UE-130137/UG-130138 (Consolidated)

VS.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.

Respondent

PETITION TO INTERVENE OF THE KROGER CO. ON BEHALF OF THE FRED MEYER STORES AND QUALITY FOOD CENTERS

Pursuant to WAC 480-07-355, The Kroger Co., on behalf of its Fred Meyer Stores ("Fred Meyer") and Quality Food Centers ("QFC") divisions, hereby petitions the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission ("Commission") for leave to intervene in this proceeding, as an intervenor with full party status as described in WAC §480-07-340 and states in support as follows:

## 1. Name and Addresses of Petitioner:

Quality Food Centers, Inc. 10116 N.E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bellevue, WA 98004

Fred Meyer Stores, Inc. 3800 Southeast 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Portland, OR 99202

The Kroger Co. 1014 Vine Street, G-07 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

As required by WAC §480-07-145(2)(d), The Kroger Co. has provided this Petition by electronic mail.

# 2. Name and Address of Attorney and Consultants Representing Petitioner:

Kurt J. Boehm, Esq.
Jody Kyler Cohn, Esq.
BOEHM, KURTZ & LOWRY

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Energy Strategies, LLC

Parkside Towers

215 South State Street, Suite 200

Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

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E-mail: khiggins@energystrat.com

#### 3. **Identify the Petitioner:**

Petitioner is a retail electric customer of Puget Sound Electric, Inc. ("PSE"). Petitioner has approximately 66 grocery stores and other facilities that purchase their electric supply from PSE.

#### 4. Petitioner's Interest in this Proceeding:

Kroger is a corporation engaged in the business of selling groceries at retail throughout the United States. One of the largest retail food companies in the United States, Kroger operates approximately 130 grocery stores in the state of Washington under the Fred Meyer and QFC banners. Of that total, 66 purchase their electric supply from PSE. These stores purchase more than 185 million kWh of electricity from PSE annually under various rate schedules and have a peak demand in excess of 27 MW. Petitioner is one of the largest commercial customers served by PSE. The grocery stores operated by Fred Meyer and QFC are high load factor facilities that use energy for food storage, lighting, heating, cooling and distribution, often on a 24 hour a day, 7 day a week basis. If PSE's rate increase request is granted, then the cost for electric power service to Petitioner will substantially increase. Accordingly, Petitioner has a substantial and vital interest in the outcome of this electric rate case which cannot be adequately represented by any other party.

#### 5. Issues To Be Raised:

Petitioner will examine whether the relief sought by PSE is just and reasonable and whether the proposed tariffs are just and reasonable.

### 6. <u>Testimony of Witnesses</u>:

If Petitioner submits written direct testimony or exhibits, it will be prepared by Mr. Kevin C. Higgins, a principal in the firm Energy Strategies, LLC of Salt Lake City, Utah. Petitioner also intends to cross-examine the witnesses called by the other parties to this proceeding and to submit written briefs as appropriate.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons set forth above, Petitioner respectfully requests that this Petition to Intervene be granted.

DATED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt J. Boehm, Esq. Jody Kyler Cohn, Esq.

BOEHM, KURTZ & LOWRY

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COUNSEL FOR THE KROGER CO.