EXHIBIT NO. ___(JHS-1T)
DOCKET NO. UE-07___
2007 PSE PCORC
WITNESS: JOHN H. STORY

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,	
Complainant,	
v.	Docket No. UE-07
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.,	
Respondent.	

PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY (NONCONFIDENTIAL) OF JOHN H. STORY
ON BEHALF OF PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.

PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY (NONCONFIDENTIAL) OF JOHN H. STORY

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Q. What is the nature of your testimony in this proceeding?

A. My testimony describes: (1) adjustments to PSE's power supply costs that have prompted PSE to seek the proposed Power Cost Rate; (2) the rate impact of adding a new resource, the Goldendale Generating Station, to PSE's power supply portfolio; and (3) the calculation of PSE's new Power Cost Rate, which accounts for the addition of new power cost resources to PSE's power supply portfolio, updates expenses to account for current costs, and corrects the tax impact of the Tenaska regulatory asset amortization. The total rate increase resulting from these adjustments is \$64,680,804, an average 3.67% increase over the rates set in January 2007.

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE POWER COST RATE

Q. Please explain what is meant by the Power Cost Rate.

A. The Power Cost Rate is the product of the parties' settlement of PSE's 2001 general rate case, Docket Nos. UE-011570 and UG-011571. In June 2002, the Commission approved the parties' Settlement Stipulation for Electric and Common Issues in that docket ("Settlement Stipulation"). See Commission's Twelfth Supplemental Order (dated June 20, 2002) ("Twelfth Supplemental Order"). Among other things, the Twelfth Supplemental Order authorized the use of a Power Cost Adjustment Mechanism ("PCA") as a method for adjusting PSE's power costs. See Settlement Terms for the Power Cost Adjustment Mechanism, Exhibit A to the Settlement Stipulation, attached as Exhibit No. ___(JHS-3).

As described in the Settlement Stipulation, the PCA sets forth an annual accounting process for a sharing of costs and benefits between PSE and its customers over four graduated levels, or "bands," of power cost variances, with an overall cap of \$40 million (+/-) over the four year period July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2006. *See* Exhibit No. ___(JHS-3) at 1. The PCA distinguishes between power costs and all other costs included in general rates and allows PSE to file an application seeking adjustment of only PSE's power costs. *See* Exhibit No. ___(JHS-3) at 2. The Settlement Stipulation includes a table that shows the allocation of costs between costs that can be adjusted through the PCA, and other, non-power costs, which are not adjusted through the PCA. Two categories of costs comprise the Power Cost Rate: variable rate components and fixed rate components. *See* Exhibit No. ___(JHS-3) at 4.

- Q. Have there been changes to the PCA and the method of determining the Power

 Cost Rate since the Settlement Stipulation was approved by the Commission?
- A. Yes. On Exhibit No. ___(JHS-4), I have modified Exhibit A to the Settlement Stipulation to show the changes that have been made to the PCA since the Settlement Stipulation was approved by the Commission. As shown on Exhibit No. ___(JHS-4), these include: (i) revising the accounting period for the PCA accounting process to a calendar year; (ii) eliminating Schedule E (effective January 2007); (iii) including interest costs and commitment fees associated with electric hedging activities in the Power Cost Rate, and (iv) computing rate spread based on the peak credit methodology utilized in computing the rate spread in the

Company's most recent general rate case proceeding rather than referencing the peak credit methodology used in the 2001 general rate case.

Q. When are the accumulated PCA costs and benefits allocations reviewed?

A. For each of the past four years, PSE filed an annual PCA report in August, which reviewed the accumulated PCA costs and benefits allocations for the preceding year (July 1 through June 30). In Docket No. UE-050870, the Commission approved changing the annual accounting process to a calendar year, January through December. With this change, PSE will file an annual report each March detailing the power costs included in the deferral calculation for the annual period ending December 31 of the prior year. The March 2007 report will cover the July 1, 2006, through December 31, 2006, period. *See* Exhibit No. ___(JHS-4).

Q. How is the Power Cost Rate adjusted?

- A. Independent of the yearly accounting and adjustment for power cost variances, PSE may also apply to the Commission to true up the Power Cost Rate to all power costs identified in the Power Cost Rate. In order to true up the Power Cost Rate, the Settlement Stipulation requires, among other things, testimony and exhibits that include
 - Adjustments to the fixed rate components of the Power Cost Rate;
 - Adjustments to the variable rate components of the Power Cost Rate;
 and
 - A calculation of pro forma production cost schedules that are

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consistent with the costs presented in this docket, including power supply and other adjustments impacting production costs.

See Exhibit No. ___(JHS-4) at page 5. My testimony provides this required information in support of PSE's present application to true up its Power Cost Rate.

Q. Would you please describe the adjustments used to determine the new Power Cost Rate?

Exhibit No. ___(JHS-5) to my testimony summarizes the adjustments used to A. determine the new Power Cost Rate. As stated earlier, the PCA makes a distinction between: (i) power costs, which may be determined in a power cost only rate case; and (ii) all the other costs, which are determined in a general rate case. In a general rate case, the Company uses a future rate year to determine certain power costs and then pro forms those costs back to the test year. Using this methodology for the present case, we have summarized the power cost adjustments, plus restating adjustments, associated with production costs in Exhibit No. ___(JHS-5). The proposed rate year used for these adjustments is September 2007 through August 2008. For this proceeding we used the test year ended December 31, 2006. In addition to the above power cost adjustments, we have provided a pro forma adjustment to account for changes to PSE's ratebase and operating expenses associated with: (i) the purchase of the Goldendale Generating Station, which is discussed in more detail in the testimonies of Mr. Eric Markell, Mr. Roger Garrett, and Mr. James Elsea; and (ii) the Wild Horse Wind Project, which went into service

December 20, 2006. Section 8 of the Settlement Stipulation authorizes the

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Company to initiate a power cost only proceeding to add costs of new resources to the Power Cost Rate.

Please explain what Exhibit No. ___(JHS-5) represents.

A. The first column of Exhibit No. ___(JHS-5) shows the ratebase and production costs from the test year that will be considered in setting the Power Cost Rate. The first column, titled "Test Year Actual 12 months ended December 31, 2006", sets forth the ratebase and actual production costs for the test year ended December 2006. The columns to the right of this first column show the impact of the pro forma and restating power cost adjustments PSE is proposing for the pro forma rate year. These adjustments are presented in more detail on the succeeding pages referenced in the title of a particular column; the work papers supporting these adjustments have been provided to Commission Staff and intervenors. The total of the test year amounts plus the pro forma and restating adjustments is shown in the column titled "Adjusted 12 months ended December 31, 2006" on page 2 of Exhibit No. (JHS-5). This column represents the costs to be used in determining the Power Cost Rate used to calculate the required rate increase. These are the same amounts shown in the first column of Exhibit No. ___(JHS-6C), "Exhibit A-1 Power Cost Rate".

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III. ADJUSTMENTS TO TEST YEAR POWER COSTS

Q. Please describe each of the adjustments presented in Exhibit No. ___(JHS-5).

The adjustments are: A.

> 1. <u>Power Cost</u> – **ADJUSTMENT-1** presents the rate year pro forma power costs discussed in the testimony of Mr. Mills, Exhibit No. ___(DEM-1CT), and presented in Exhibit No. ___(DEM-4). These costs are the projected rate year fixed and variable power operating and maintenance costs for PSE's existing power supply portfolio that are adjusted to test year levels using the relationship of normalized test year delivered load to rate year delivered load ("production factor"). These projected costs are a pro forma adjustment to the test year costs shown on the first page of Exhibit No. ___(JHS-5). This adjustment decreases cost by \$48,606,412.

- 2. <u>Sales for Resale</u> – **ADJUSTMENT-2** pro forms the rate year secondary sales presented in Exhibit No. ___(DEM-4) to test year secondary sales. This adjustment decreases secondary sales revenue by \$80,273,154.
- 3. <u>Transmission Income</u> – **ADJUSTMENT-3** pro forms the forecast transmission income for the four transmission lines identified in the power cost rate to the expected rate year levels. The rate year revenues reflect the average of the last three years of revenues. This adjustment decreases transmission revenue by \$545,355.

- 4. <u>Goldendale</u> **ADJUSTMENT-4** pro forms the cost of the Goldendale

 Generating Station for both ratebase and operating expenses. The costs

 used in this adjustment are explained later in my testimony.
- Property Taxes ADJUSTMENT-5 restates test year property taxes for known changes in the levy rates and production plant balances for Montana,
 Oregon and Washington. This adjustment increases expense by \$311,624.
- 6. Montana Energy Tax **ADJUSTMENT-6** pro forms the tax that is assessed on Colstrip generation. This adjustment compares the forecast generation of the Colstrip plants to the actual generation in the test year, and the difference is priced at the appropriate tax rate. This adjustment reduces expense by \$2,713.
- 7. <u>Property Insurance</u> **ADJUSTMENT-7** restates production property insurance to current levels and increases expense by \$94,512.
- 8. Wild Horse ADJUSTMENT-8 pro forms plant costs of the Wild Horse
 Project, which was placed in-service during December 2006. This
 adjustment reflects these plant costs plus the additional 2007 costs expected
 to be incurred to complete the plant addition. This pro forma adjustment is
 necessary so that a full year of plant costs is properly recognized for this
 plant as allowed in Docket UE-060266 and UG-060267. This adjustment
 calculates the ratebase and costs for the plant during the PCORC rate year.
 These costs are then adjusted to test year amounts in the Production

Adjustment, Adjustment-11. Mr. Garratt discusses the additional 2007 capital costs, which will be trued up during this proceeding, and the expected operating costs associated with this plant in his direct testimony, Exhibit No. ___(RG-1HCT). This adjustment increases ratebase by \$292,941,891 and operating expense by \$47,182,453.

- 9. <u>Baker River Relicensing</u> **ADJUSTMENT-9** pro forms the relicensing costs for the Baker River Relicensing for both ratebase and operating expenses as approved in Docket UE-060266 and UG-060267. The license for this project is estimated to be issued in the second quarter of 2007. This adjustment increases ratebase by \$27,776,685 and operating expense by \$3,650,664.
- 10. Regulatory Assets and Liabilities **ADJUSTMENT-10** pro forms the rate year ratebase and amortization for the regulatory assets associated with Tenaska, Cabot buyout, White River Plant Costs, White River Relicensing, and Bonneville Exchange Power ("BEP") as well as for the CanWest regulatory liability. This adjustment reduces ratebase by \$44,993,019 and increases expense by \$1,786,790.
- 11. <u>Production Adjustment</u> **ADJUSTMENT-11** pro forms the production related ratebase and expenses that have not been included in the Power Cost Adjustments. As with the Power Cost Adjustments, these costs are adjusted to test year levels using the production factor, the ratio of test year delivered

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load to rate year delivered load, so that the test year level of costs are collected in the rate year. This adjustment reduces ratebase by \$35,384,934 and expense by \$7,380,133.

- 12. Hedging Line of Credit – **ADJUSTMENT-12** pro forms in the commitment costs associated with the line of credit for hedging. In Docket UE-060266 and UG-060267, the Commission approved recovery of costs associated with a line of credit supporting hedging transaction in the PCA and Purchased Gas Adjustment mechanism. As discussed in the prefiled direct testimony of Mr. Don Gaines, Exhibit No. ___(DEG-1CT), the Company is expecting to finalize a line of credit by the end of March, 2007. This adjustment pro forms in the electric portfolio share, 61%, of the rate year costs for this line of credit. As the Company gains experience with the line of credit, the fees will be allocated to gas or electric based on actual experience as to which energy portfolio used the line of credit. For purposes of this first adjustment, we have used a 61-39 percent split between electric and gas based on an analysis of the portfolios and how the line of credit would be utilized. This adjustment increases expense by \$308,050.
- 13. Tenaska Flow Through Tax True-up – **ADJUSTMENT-13** corrects a tax calculation error associated with the amortization of the principal payment on the Tenaska regulatory asset. As discussed below, the tax amortization, rather than book amortization, of the Tenaska regulatory asset should be

reflected in rates. However, in the last three general rate case proceedings, the increased rate year book amortization associated with the Tenaska regulatory asset has been treated as tax deductible. This has caused tax benefits to be overstated.

The amortization of the regulatory asset was treated as a flow through item in Docket UE-971619, and it is the tax benefit associated with the tax amortization of this asset that should be reflected in rates. This amortization is reflected correctly in the Company's general rate case pro forma tax adjustment. The adjustment in this PCORC filing corrects the calculation from the last general rate case on a prospective basis through the rate year and increases costs, net of production factor, by \$4,283,296.

- Q. Would you please explain this overstatement of tax benefit associated with the Tenaska regulatory asset in more detail?
- A. In the original proceeding associated with the buy down of the Tenaska fuel prices, Docket UE-971619, the principal buy down amount of \$215 million was treated as a flow through item for rate recovery. Because the IRS would only allow a straight line amortization of the \$215 million over 15 years, the customer receives the tax benefit associated with this tax amortization and not the book amortization actually recorded for the \$215 million. When the PCA was implemented in 2002, one of the adjustments made was to move to the rate year both the ratebase impact of the regulatory asset and its amortization. When this adjustment was made, all the

regulatory asset amortizations for the rate year were treated as tax deductible. This was an inadvertent error for the Tenaska amortization. Because the tax amortization does not change, there should not have been any additional tax benefit associated with the increasing book amortization associated with Tenaska. Erroneously calculating a tax benefit for this increasing book amortization, rather than straight line tax amortization, for the Tenaska regulatory asset understates the revenue deficiency associated with this amortization.

Included in Exhibit No. ___(JHS-8) are copies of the pro forma income tax adjustment workpapers: (i) from the 2001 general rate case, which appear at pages 1-3 of Exhibit No. ___(JHS-8); (ii) from the 2003 general rate case, which appear at pages 4 through 6 of Exhibit No. ___(JHS-8); and (iii) from the 2006 general rate case, which appear at pages 7 through 9 of Exhibit No. ___(JHS-8). The amounts included in the drawn in boxes on pages 3, 6, and 9 of Exhibit No. ___(JHS-8) show the Company's pro forma tax adjustments used in the 2001 general rate case, the 2003 general rate case, and the 2006 general rate case, respectively. These pages show that in each of these three general rate cases the adjustment from book amortization to the tax amortization of the Tenaska regulatory asset was calculated and the tax benefit associated with the tax amortization was being passed through to the customer. When the book amortization was changed to the rate year and the resulting increased book amortization was tax effected, this overstated the tax benefit actually received for the principal amortization.

Page 10 of Exhibit No. ___(JHS-8) is a copy of the Tenaska Regulatory Asset

Amortization that is being followed for rate purposes. As can be seen on line 5, page 10, of Exhibit No. ___(JHS-8), the federal income tax ("FIT") benefit is \$5.017 million per year until year 14, the end of the contract, when both years 14 and 15 can be written off for tax purposes. (Because there is no longer a contract after year 14, all remaining tax deductible costs can be recognized in the final year.) Dividing the \$5.017 million by 35%, the applicable tax rate, provides the tax amortization per year of \$14.3 million that is allowed for tax purposes.

Page 11 of Exhibit No. ___(JHS-8) is a copy of the Regulatory Assets and Liabilities pro forma adjustment from Docket No. UE-060266 and UG-060267 that is the same adjustment that was accepted in Order No. 08, Table 8, page 41, line 30 of that docket. This calculation shows that the change in amortization for Tenaska was included in the total change in amortization of regulatory assets on line 9 and tax affected on line 11.

- Q. Please explain the last two pages of Exhibit No. ___(JHS-5).
- A. ADJUSTMENT-14, the second to last page of Exhibit No. ___(JHS-5), presents the adjustment to test year load for the difference in temperature between the test year and a normal temperature year. Because the test year was warmer than normal, on average, this adjustment adds 42,569 MWhs to the actual load after adjusting for system losses. This adjustment is required to determine normal delivered load in the test year, which is used in the production adjustment and is used in determining the Power Cost Rate. This adjustment is also used to determine

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Q. Please explain how the ratebase addition was calculated for rate purposes.

A. The acquisition price, less the average of monthly averages accumulated depreciation and IRS allowed average deferred taxes, were calculated for each of the months August 2007 through August 2008 time period. The elements of this calculation are described below.

For book depreciation purposes, the Company is proposing that the asset be depreciated over 28 years. Although this type of plant is normally depreciated over 30 years, the plant had already been operational for two years under the prior ownership. Because the purchase date of this asset was February 21, 2007, we have calculated depreciation from that date through the end of the rate year for purposes of determining the rate year revenue requirement for the Goldendale Generating Station.

The effective depreciation rate used is 1.39% per year and is applied to the total original construction cost of the plant. The depreciation rate is designed to recover the costs PSE paid for the plant by dividing that cost, less land cost, by 28 years and then dividing that result by the prior owner's total original cost of the plant. This calculation is mandatory, because FERC required that the prior owner's original cost of the plant be booked in the appropriate plant accounts and the accumulated depreciation associated with the plant be booked in Account 108 (Accumulated Depreciation). This accounting created a negative acquisition adjustment, which FERC requires PSE to clear to Account 108 (Accumulated Depreciation). This

- Q. Please explain the other expenses associated with the Goldendale Generating

 Station on Exhibit No. ___(JHS-5) Adjustment 4.
- A. I explained depreciation expense (shown on page 6, line 10, of Exhibit
 No. ___(JHS-5)) above. The basis for the property insurance and property taxes are discussed in Mr. Garratt's testimony, Exhibit No. ___(RG-1HCT).

Natural gas fuel, purchased and interchanged, wheeling, secondary sales and production O&M expenses were included with the power costs presented by Mr. Mills and are shown in Exhibit No. ___(DEM-4). For presentation purposes, these expenses have been removed from the power cost adjustment and are presented on this adjustment so that all the costs of the Goldendale Generating Station are shown together.

- Q. Are the capitalized costs of acquiring the Goldendale Generating Station subject to change?
- A. The costs of the acquisition are known and the other costs that have been capitalized should be known and trued up during this proceeding. For purposes of the PCA calculation following the implementation of any rate change from this proceeding, it is proposed that there not be any true up on the Goldendale capital costs. If the Commission would like us to true these costs up to actual following the implementation of any rate change, we would follow the same procedures used in prior cases.

manner between fixed and variable costs, and the total costs are adjusted for revenue sensitive items. Following the same methodology set forth in Exhibit A to the PCA, this result is then divided by the test year delivered load to calculate the new Power Cost Rate of \$59.617 per MWh.

- Q. Please explain the column labeled "Adjustment to Power Cost Rate" in Exhibit No. ___(JHS-6C).
- As I explained earlier in my testimony, there is an overstatement of tax benefits associated with the Tenaska regulatory asset in the Company's 2006 general rate case. This overstatement reduced the revenue requirement associated with amortization for this regulatory asset. The Adjustment to Power Cost Rate column includes the MWh rate impact of the understatement of revenue requirement on the Power Cost Rate that is used for calculating the current revenue deficiency. The Power Cost Rate used for calculating the revenue deficiency is \$62.64 per MWh after revenue sensitive items.

For PCA true up purposes, the Power Cost Rate before the Adjustment of Power Cost Rate, \$59.617 per MWh, is the new Power Cost Rate that the Company will use in the PCA settlement process. This rate is used because it tracks the actual power costs being approved in this proceeding and will be tracked in the subsequent PCA period.

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Q. What happens to the revenues associated with the difference between the two **Power Cost Rates?**

- These revenues become part of general rates that are not power cost related. This A. procedure for truing up tax issues associated with power cost items is similar to the procedure used in PSE's 2005 power cost only rate case, Docket UE-050870, where deferred tax expense had been inadvertently included in the calculation of the Power Cost Rate. In that proceeding it was determined that the Power Cost Rate had been understated by approximately \$1.8 million. To correct for this, the lower Power Cost Rate was used to calculate the revenue deficiency and the higher Power Cost Rate, after the removal of the \$1.8 million, was used for PCA settlement purposes. This, in effect, lowered the revenues associated with non power cost recovery by the \$1.8 million.
- Q. Has the Company included any interest costs in this PCORC filing for the line of credit mechanism the Commission approved in Docket UE-060266 and UG-060267?
- A. No, we have only included the fixed commitment costs that I explained earlier in my testimony. As discussed by Mr. Gaines in his prefiled direct testimony, the Company is in the process of finalizing the line of credit. Actual costs, including costs associated with draws under the line of credit, will be included in the true up of costs associated with the PCA and PGA mechanism.

In other words, the algebraic total of each month's variance for the PCA period will determine if there is any refund or collection of power costs required for the PCA period, after consideration of the various PCA bands.

VI. RATE INCREASE

- Q. Please explain how the Company calculated the rate increase required after taking into consideration the pro forma and restating adjustments.
- A. As the Company is only requesting that a portion of its rates be adjusted using the power cost only rate filing, we have calculated the required change in rates using the difference between the Power Cost Rate currently being used and the proposed Power Cost Rate after the Adjustment of Power Cost Rate discussed earlier (each grossed up for revenue sensitive items). This calculation is shown in Exhibit No. ___(JHS-7) and, as shown on line 16, the new rate is \$62.640 per MWh and the current rate is \$59.583. The difference between these two rates is multiplied by the normalized delivered load for the test period. The result of this calculation is the requested change in revenue deficiency of \$64,680,804 after revenue sensitive items. This change in rates results in an average increase of approximately 3.67%. Mr. Hoff discusses how this revenue deficiency is allocated to each of the customer classes in his testimony.

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