

Service Date: May 10, 2016

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY,

Respondent.

DOCKETS UE-072300  
and UG-072301 (*consolidated*)

ORDER 28

SUSPENDING PROCEDURAL  
SCHEDULE; SETTING FILING  
DEADLINES

**(Multiparty Settlement to be filed  
by May 31, 2016; Public Counsel  
comments to be filed by June 9,  
2016)**

**MEMORANDUM**

1. On November 30, 2015, Puget Sound Energy, Inc. (PSE or Company) filed a Petition requesting an order from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) that authorizes permanent modifications to the Company's Service Quality Index (SQI) No. 3: System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI). The Commission's Regulatory Staff (Staff) answered PSE's Petition on December 21, 2015. Staff opposed PSE's Petition, in part, because in Staff's view the Company's proposed modifications would fail to ensure that PSE customers will not experience deterioration in quality of service. Public Counsel filed a letter on December 21, 2015, responding to, and opposing, PSE's petition. Public Counsel argued that "the company's Petition raises several issues that will require further investigation and review from stakeholders."
2. The Commission convened a prehearing conference in this docket at Olympia, Washington on January 22, 2016, before Administrative Law Judge Dennis J. Moss. The Commission entered Order 27 Prehearing Conference the same day, establishing a procedural schedule that included the date of May 11, 2016, for Company direct testimony and exhibits. The presiding officer encouraged the parties to work cooperatively together with the goal of reaching agreed results via negotiations.

3. On May 10, 2016, PSE filed a letter with the Commission stating that PSE and Staff have reached agreement on a multiparty settlement with respect to the SQI-3 SAIDI benchmark petition. According to the letter, “Staff and PSE will file a settlement agreement and supporting testimony/narrative in the next few weeks.” PSE asks that the procedural schedule be suspended the interim. PSE states in addition that Public Counsel participated in the settlement discussions with Staff and PSE, is aware of the multiparty settlement, but has elected not to join in the settlement. Public Counsel plans to submit a letter stating its position, after Staff and PSE file the multiparty settlement.
4. The Commission may grant an untimely,<sup>1</sup> yet unopposed, request for continuance unless inconsistent with the public interest or the Commission’s administrative needs. In addition, the Commission may grant procedural motions that are supported by good cause. Suspending the procedural schedule in this proceeding will provide the parties additional time and opportunity to prepare and file their proposed settlement, and will afford Public Counsel an opportunity to be heard. We accordingly determine we should grant PSE’s request.
5. Although PSE does not suggest a deadline for the Company and Staff to file their settlement agreement and supporting documents, the Commission finds it appropriate to set May 31, 2016, as the deadline date. We encourage an earlier filing, if this can be accomplished. The deadline for Public Counsel to file a letter stating its position on the multiparty settlement will follow by seven business days the date on which PSE and Staff file their settlement agreement and supporting documents. The Commission will consider whether additional process is required once all of these documents are filed and given due consideration.

#### **NOTICE**

6. **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE THAT Staff and Puget Sound Energy must file their multiparty settlement agreement no later than May 31, 2016. The Commission prefers that they file sooner, if possible, to accommodate the Commission’s administrative needs.**

---

<sup>1</sup> WAC 480-07-385(3)(a) requires that a request to continue a procedural date must be filed five business days prior to the current deadline, with simultaneous service to the parties.

7. **THE COMMISSION GIVES FURTHER NOTICE THAT Public Counsel is required to file its comments concerning the multiparty settlement within seven business days following the date on which the multiparty settlement is filed.**

Dated at Olympia, Washington, and effective May 10, 2016.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DENNIS J. MOSS  
Administrative Law Judge