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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND )  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, )  
Complainant )  
vs. ) DOCKET UE-111048  
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC. ) DOCKET UG-111049  
(Consolidated)  
Respondent. )

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PUBLIC HEARING - VOLUME V

Pages 561 - 610

CHAIRMAN JEFF GOLTZ

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Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive Southwest  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

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A P P E A R A N C E S

COMMISSIONERS: Jeffrey D. Goltz, Chairman  
Patrick J. Oshie, Commissioner  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

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1           CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Good evening. I'll call  
2 this meeting of the Washington Utilities and  
3 Transportation Commission to order. My name is  
4 Jeff Goltz. I'm chairman of the commission. With  
5 me is my colleague, Pat Oshie, as commissioner.  
6 Our other colleague, Commissioner Phil Jones, has  
7 been coming down with a pretty bad cold, so we gave  
8 him a pass for tonight, but I -- but rest assured  
9 that he will both talk to us about this meeting,  
10 and he will also read the transcript before we  
11 reach a final decision in this matter.

12           We're here in docket numbers UE-11148 and  
13 UG-11149. The UE stands for the utilities  
14 electric, and UG stands for utilities gas. This is  
15 a combined rate case -- rate increase proposal by  
16 Puget Sound Energy for both their gas utility and  
17 their electric utility.

18           I'm going to go through -- before we get  
19 to the public testimony, I'm going to go through a  
20 little bit of what we are doing here today,  
21 tonight, and what we've been doing here during the  
22 days this week, and what we'll continue through  
23 tomorrow and -- and the next day, with a formal  
24 rate -- rate case.

25           The legislature has assigned or delegated

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1 to the Utilities and Transportation Commission the  
2 responsibility of setting rates for investor-owned  
3 utilities, like Puget Sound Energy, and the  
4 standard that we have is that the rates must be  
5 fair, just, reasonable and sufficient, and that  
6 determination involves a large amount of  
7 information which was put into evidence in a formal  
8 proceeding, which the legislature has also required  
9 us to hold, about the costs of the company, what  
10 their expenses are, what their anticipated revenues  
11 are, what their -- what facilities they -- they  
12 need or are constructing to better -- to serve and  
13 provide safe and reliable electric and gas  
14 service.

15           So starting on Tuesday of this week, we've  
16 had formal hearings in this hearing room involving  
17 that formal rate case, and those will continue  
18 tomorrow and the next day. If any of you wish to  
19 come and observe some of that, feel free to do so.  
20 We've got a few chairs left in the room, although  
21 the hearing room has been pretty crowded in the  
22 last couple of days.

23           In its initial request, Puget Sound Energy  
24 said that it needed to collect additional revenue  
25 for customers, and they requested, on an annual

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1 basis, an extra \$160.7 million in revenues, or an  
2 8.1 percent increase for its electric utility. The  
3 typical residential customer, using about a  
4 thousand kilowatt hours per month, if that request  
5 had been granted, would see their bill go up by  
6 about \$8.37.

7           The company also requested an additional  
8 31.8 million in revenues, or about a 3 percent  
9 increase, for its natural gas utility. In an  
10 average residential customer using 68 therms per  
11 month would experience an increase of about \$2.84  
12 under that scenario.

13           There are several parties to this case.  
14 In addition to the utility, we have the commission  
15 staff in this case, represented by Mr. Robert  
16 Cedarbaum, who is there on the right. He'll  
17 introduce himself more in a moment, who is from the  
18 Attorney General's Office, and they represent the  
19 commission regulatory staff, which serves as a  
20 separate party, and they make a recommendation.

21           Mr. Simon ffitch, who is next to him, is  
22 also with the Attorney General's Office, but  
23 represents the Office of Public Counsel, which is  
24 the ratepayer advocate in this proceeding, and they  
25 also make a recommendation in this case.

1           Next to him is Ms. Donna Barnett, who is  
2 an attorney for the -- for the utility.

3           The commission staff recommended that  
4 Puget be allowed to collect \$40.2 million for  
5 electric, or a 2.02 percent increase, and 1.5  
6 million for its gas operations, which is a 0.1  
7 percent increase.

8           After that case -- the responsive case was  
9 filed, the utility reduced its request, and so in  
10 the latest run of testimony, Puget modified its  
11 request and is now requesting 126 million, or 6.34  
12 percent for its electric operations, and 28.6  
13 million, or 2.7 percent for its gas operations.

14           Now, you don't have to write those down,  
15 if you're interested, because we have --  
16 Mr. ffitch, our public counsel, has in the back a  
17 summary sheet of -- of what -- of what's going on  
18 in this case and what the various requests are.

19           On the front page, he has listed what the  
20 utility has requested, and on the back side, he has  
21 what the recommendation is of commission staff, and  
22 also, the revised request by the utility. It also  
23 has a lot of other information about the process in  
24 -- in general.

25           Now, as I said, we have formal evidentiary

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1 hearings, you know, court reporters and witnesses  
2 sworn to tell the truth and lots of documentary  
3 evidence. You see behind me, this -- shelves full  
4 of binders of all the evidence in this case, and  
5 that's what we're doing from about 9:00 to 5:00  
6 during the -- during the workday.

7           Tonight is a different purpose, and as  
8 much as we enjoy hearing from the various  
9 accountants and economists presented by the utility  
10 and others, the public comment hearings gives us an  
11 opportunity to get a different perspective, and  
12 that's why we're here tonight, to hear from you  
13 all. And we also had another public comment  
14 hearing in Bellevue a couple of -- a couple of  
15 weeks ago.

16           I can assure you that the comments we get  
17 in these public sessions are very important and  
18 very useful, because we do hear real world stories  
19 about how this impacts -- the -- the utility rates  
20 impact the customers. And sometimes, we also get  
21 good ideas for questions to ask the utility or  
22 other parties during the evidentiary hearing. So  
23 they're good for that purpose as well.

24           So in about a minute or two, we're going  
25 to -- you've been signing up in the back. I want

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1 to introduce Mr. Roger Kouchi, who you maybe met at  
2 the door. He's with our consumer involvement  
3 staff, and he is here not just to help run the  
4 logistics of this meeting, but also, if you've got  
5 a specific question about your bill, a specific  
6 dispute you have with the utility, or for that  
7 matter, any investor utility -- you might have a  
8 phone bill issue, you can talk to Mr. Kouchi, and  
9 he can help get you -- either get you the  
10 information or get someone to get you the  
11 information.

12 We also have -- maybe we can just ask the  
13 other people who are here. I don't want to  
14 introduce everybody, but do you want to introduce  
15 yourself? Go ahead and -- Mr. Applegate, who is  
16 with commission staff.

17 MR. APPLGATE: Hi, I'm Mr. Applegate.  
18 Rick Applegate.

19 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: He's not used to being  
20 called Mr. Rhonda Hillback is in the back, as  
21 well, and David Nightingale with commission staff.  
22 Ms. Barnett, do you want to introduce Puget people  
23 here tonight?

24 MS. BARNETT: Yes. Thank you, Chairman.  
25 Tom DeBoer is here with PSE tonight.



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1           CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Mr. ffitch, do you  
2 want --

3           MR. FFITCH: Thank you, your Honor. I'm  
4 Simon ffitch with the Public Counsel Office, and  
5 also here from our staff, we have Stephanie  
6 Johnson, our regulatory analyst.

7           CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Now, if you have specific  
8 questions about your bill, about some specific  
9 issue, talk to one of these people. Because we are  
10 now sitting, in effect, as judges in this case, and  
11 so we are -- we can get comments in this public  
12 comment hearing.

13           If you have a side issue with your  
14 utility, a side issue with your bill, please talk  
15 to the utility representatives, the public counsel  
16 representatives or the staff representatives, and  
17 they can try to help you.

18           Now, as I said, this is a formal hearing,  
19 so those people who wish to give comments will be  
20 put under oath, and it's not quite as formidable as  
21 you might see on Law & Order on television, but we  
22 will ask you to stand up and swear to tell the  
23 truth, because this is an evidentiary hearing, and  
24 this will be considered in our proceedings.

25           Is there anything else that I missed,

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1 Mr. Oshie?

2 COMMISSIONER OSHIE: I think not.

3 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: So I may have missed  
4 something, and Mr. Kouchi is going to tell me.

5 Okay. Is there somebody on the bridge line? We  
6 have a call-in line.

7 MS. DURGA: Yes. Hello?

8 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Yes. I just wanted to  
9 make sure, now, are you going to wish to make a  
10 comment tonight?

11 MS. DURGA: Yes, please.

12 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: So what I'm going to do  
13 now is I'm going to ask everybody who wishes to  
14 give testimony tonight to stand up, and I'll give  
15 -- administer the oath.

16 And for you, and those of you on the  
17 bridge line that want to do it, we'll just trust  
18 you to stand up and raise your right hand, and  
19 we'll give you the oath that way. So all those who  
20 wish to give testimony tonight, or even are  
21 thinking about it, stand up.

22 (Various people stand.)

23 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: And do you swear or  
24 affirm that the testimony you give in this  
25 proceeding will be the truth, the whole truth and

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1 nothing but the truth?

2 (Various people so swear.)

3 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Maybe for -- what I'm  
4 going to do is I'm going to call people's names in  
5 the order they signed up. I am going to take the  
6 person on the bridge line first. Now, we have  
7 about -- this is a fairly healthy crowd for these  
8 purposes.

9 Typically, we ask people to -- to hold  
10 their comments to three minutes. We usually find  
11 that's plenty. If you -- if the person who speaks  
12 before you says something that is kind of what you  
13 wanted to say, it serves everybody's interest to  
14 say, I agree with that speaker.

15 We want to be sensitive to everybody's  
16 time here. I know it's a tough time of the day.  
17 Some of you are either rushing off to dinner or  
18 coming in from work, so we want to be able to be  
19 respectful of your time.

20 If for -- also, what I'd like you to do is  
21 stand -- we have a court reporter, so be sure to  
22 talk at a reasonable pace so the court reporter can  
23 get down your -- what you say. Also, state your  
24 name and spell your last name for the -- for the  
25 court reporter.

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1           And then also, if you would, say if you  
2   are a Puget Sound Energy customer, if it's electric  
3   or gas, or both, and if you are presenting on  
4   behalf of yourself, or sometimes people come and  
5   they represent a neighborhood association or a  
6   business, or something like that. So go ahead and  
7   -- and give us that preliminary information, and  
8   then just give us your comments.

9           I'm not going to be too strict on the time  
10   clock, but if it starts to go over, I will kind of  
11   suggest that people wrap it up, if you can't read  
12   body language to that effect.

13           We'll start with the woman who is on the  
14   bridge line. Could you state your name, please,  
15   and spell your last name, please?

16           MS. DURGE: Yes, it's Sharon Durga.

17           CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: I'm, sorry, you're going  
18   to have to speak up a little bit more.

19           MS. DURGA: Sharon Durga, D-u-r-g-a.

20           CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Okay. Are you a customer  
21   of Puget Sound Energy?

22           MS. DURGA: Yes.

23           CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Go ahead and make your  
24   statement.

25           MS. DURGA: Okay. First of all, I want to

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1 say that it wasn't well written out that people  
2 could do this phone bridge thing. I had to do a  
3 lot of little calls to find out I could even do  
4 this. So the information wasn't clear. You might  
5 have more calls, had there been better  
6 communication.

7 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Okay. Thank you.

8 MS. DURGA: I wanted to say that.

9 Also, I am an electric user. I live in  
10 Port Townsend, and I speak for myself and my  
11 clients who all had conversations about what --  
12 what the cost of living is today. I want to say  
13 that I, too, could make a huge case for why I need  
14 more money, which is what is happening with Puget  
15 Sound Energy, and everyone out there in the world  
16 it seems, but I have nowhere to go to get that  
17 money. The buck stops here.

18 The economy, the way it is, it's -- I'm on  
19 a limited income, I have some handicaps, and  
20 there's limited help out there for those of us who  
21 can't do this, and this is a huge hardship on those  
22 of us who are, you know, using Puget Power, by no  
23 choice of our own.

24 I believe the levels of the use should be  
25 better defined, who uses what energy, how much.

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1 Those of us who conserve and scrape and barely get  
2 by and try to stay warm, you know, without using  
3 much electricity, we're at a level where it's too  
4 high for us. Whereas people who are using an  
5 abundance of energy, the definition between them  
6 and us isn't that great. They should be paying the  
7 bulk of the energy.

8 Let's see. So that's my biggest concern.  
9 We're hurting at the bottom down here at this time  
10 on the plan, and we're asking for you to take that  
11 into huge consideration, whenever you do.

12 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Okay. Thank you. Does  
13 that conclude your statement?

14 MS. DURGA: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Okay. Thank you very  
16 much, and --

17 MS. DURGA: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: -- I'll make note, and  
19 I'll talk with our consumer affairs staff about the  
20 -- this bridge line availability. We'll check into  
21 that. So thank you for bringing -- bringing that  
22 to our attention.

23 MS. DURGA: You're welcome.

24 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Is there anyone else on  
25 the bridge line who wishes to make a comment?

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1 Okay. Thank you. So we go to Ms. Jan Welker.

2 MS. WELKER: Yes. My name is actually  
3 Janice, J-a-n-i-c-e, Welker, W-e-l-k-e-r, and I am  
4 a gas and power user in Tumwater. And fortunately,  
5 I've been able to absorb the increases that we get  
6 every year, but I know my time is coming when I'm  
7 going to be between a rock and a hard place, if I  
8 live long enough.

9 But anyway, what I want to tell you is  
10 what's been bothering me for a number of years, and  
11 I've never said anything about it, but I think now  
12 is the time. I used to work at St. Peter Hospital  
13 in the social service area, and I heard patients  
14 there saying how comfortable they were in the  
15 hospital, because they -- it's the first time they  
16 could be warm and have enough to eat, both. And  
17 this was a number of years ago, and it's gotten  
18 worse and worse and worse.

19 But at the same time I'm hearing this, I'm  
20 acquainted with the lady whose son was chief  
21 financial officer at Puget Sound Energy, and he  
22 received a bonus sufficient to buy himself a new  
23 Jaguar, his wife a new SUV, and both of their sons  
24 new vehicles -- and I saw two of the vehicles, so I  
25 know it's true -- and still had money left over.

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1           And I'm wondering, well, if this is a  
2   bonus, how much money must he make and how much  
3   bonuses are the others getting, and what money must  
4   they make? I'm not against a person making a good  
5   salary, if they spend the time and energy to go to  
6   school, and the money, but I think this is a little  
7   excessive, when it's on the backs of people who can  
8   hardly make it. And shame on Puget Sound Energy  
9   for even asking for an increase.

10           CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Thank you, Ms. Welker.  
11   Bob Jacobs. Good to see you again.

12           MR. JACOBS: Good evening. I'm Bob  
13   Jacobs. I live at 720 Governor Stevens in  
14   Olympia. I've been a ratepayer since 1974,  
15   currently have electric and gas service, and I'm  
16   speaking for myself.

17           There are three reasons that I oppose the  
18   proposed rate increases for both electric and gas.  
19   The first one applies to both of them. The  
20   proposed rate of return is way too high. PSE wants  
21   8.4 percent return on investment, and the staff is  
22   recommending 7.6 percent.

23           I don't understand rates like that. I  
24   think half of that would be generous. This is a  
25   very, very stable investment. Profits are



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1 guaranteed by the state. Where do they get off  
2 with 8 percent? 4 percent maybe, 3 percent maybe,  
3 but nothing like this.

4 My second comment refers to electric. The  
5 rates subsidize growth. They should not. If  
6 growth were truly to pay for growth, which is what  
7 most people believe ought to be the case, and which  
8 a number of state laws allow in many cases, then  
9 there would be hookup fees for all new connections  
10 that would cover all capital expenses needed to  
11 serve those connections. That would include  
12 electric generation, transmission and distribution  
13 facilities.

14 In fact, we don't have hookup fees that  
15 cover those. So we subsidize, out of our rates,  
16 the construction of those facilities. We shouldn't  
17 be doing that. We have enough negative impacts  
18 from growth. We don't need to pay to have these  
19 negative impacts. I don't know if this applies to  
20 gas. If it does, I would ask that the same  
21 principle be applied.

22 My third concern also applies to electric  
23 only, and that has to do with a recent storm and  
24 outages. PSE's failure to use available resources  
25 to shorten our power outages during these storms, I

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1 think, is deplorable.

2           They used only crews from other private  
3 utilities. There were crews from public utilities,  
4 like PUDs and co-ops from nearby that were  
5 available, because they didn't have such severe  
6 weather, but apparently, PSE refused to use those  
7 crews.

8           This is a shameful situation. We had to  
9 suffer day after day without electric power, and I  
10 think PSE ought to suffer, too. I think they  
11 should not get the rates of return -- the increases  
12 that they're requesting. And in fact, if you apply  
13 the principles that I am suggesting, I think you'd  
14 find that it would result in a very significant  
15 decrease in the rates that we should be charged.

16 Thank you.

17           CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Mr. Jacobs, occasionally,  
18 I get to ask a couple questions. I just want to  
19 get this clarified. You said that -- which crews  
20 were you saying that PSE refused to use?

21           MR. JACOBS: Crews of public utilities,  
22 like PUDs and co-ops. There are a number of PUDs  
23 and co-ops fairly close to here, some of which did  
24 not experience such severe weather, whose crews  
25 would have been available. But PSE, from my

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1 understanding, did not use those.

2 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: We'll check into that.

3 MR. JACOBS: These people all belong to  
4 the same union, they all have the same training,  
5 but there's this thing about, oh, no, the public  
6 people, you know, that's a different class of  
7 people, and we want to just use the private.

8 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: We'll look into that.

9 Just FYI, there's a house energy committee is  
10 having a hearing on this storm on next Tuesday --

11 MR. JACOBS: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: -- as I recall. Thank  
13 you, Mr. Jacobs. Mr. Walt Jorgensen.

14 MR. JORGENSEN: Good evening,  
15 commissioners. Thank you for taking our comments.  
16 Walt Jorgensen, I live at 823 North Street  
17 Southeast in Tumwater, commenting on the electric  
18 only, and I'm speaking for myself and several of my  
19 tenants, who depend on electric heat.

20 With a reminder that this is an  
21 evidentiary hearing, and having sworn us in, I hope  
22 you're going to give us a little wiggle room on any  
23 factual representations. My -- I thank you for the  
24 -- supplying the additional material, the info  
25 sheet and media advisory. That was very useful.

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1           CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Public counsel, thank  
2 Mr. ffitich for this -- for this sheet.

3           MR. JORGENSEN: It -- it modified some of  
4 my comments. I -- my initial understanding was  
5 that PSE was requesting a 10.8 percent return on  
6 investment. I don't want to toss that number out  
7 too casually, someone pick it up. I see now, of  
8 course, that it's been -- it's 8.4 percent, with  
9 the staff recommending it to be amended to 7.59.

10           My initial reaction to that was that I'd  
11 be thrilled to get that on my stock portfolio,  
12 especially continuing and, you know, guaranteeing  
13 virtually risk-free investment.

14           PSE is a private corporation and a  
15 monopoly on supplying electric power to this area.  
16 As far as I know, we can't buy our electricity  
17 anywhere else. Asking ratepayers to underwrite  
18 that kind of locked-in profit to a business entity  
19 with no competition is outrageous. Okay. So I'll  
20 amend that alert to outrageous to darn good for a  
21 risk-free investment.

22           Perhaps we need to move to a public  
23 utility so that we all can share in that profit. I  
24 agree with Mr. Jacobs on the two points, and he did  
25 a very good job explaining both of them, I might

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1 just add. Growth should pay for growth, and there  
2 is just no excuse for charging current ratepayers  
3 for expenses incurred to take on new business.

4           And then, unfortunately, it seems like the  
5 power industry culture -- and again, this is where  
6 I need a little wiggle room on this evidence --  
7 maybe it's not true, but it seems that there's an  
8 industry culture that seems to include a tabu  
9 against stepping across that private-public line,  
10 even when it would benefit both sets of  
11 organizations.

12           And I would just point out that if, in  
13 fact, that was the case, then both organizations on  
14 both sides, if you will, lost out, because  
15 certainly, there was the incurring of unnecessary  
16 extra expense both in the cost of assistance from  
17 other -- from a considerable distance, in some  
18 cases, and the cost of customers who were left  
19 without service somewhat beyond the point of gross  
20 inconvenience. I think, myself, it was about four  
21 and a half days. Thank you.

22           CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Thank you very much.  
23 It's either -- I don't know if it's a Mr. or  
24 Ms. Shaw.

25           MS. SHAW: I'm Dee Shaw. I live in

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1 Lacey. I'm a Puget Sound Energy customer for  
2 electric, and I don't know if this is the right  
3 forum or not, but I'm questioning the increased  
4 administrative, the increased return on investor --  
5 investor investment, generation and other capital  
6 investments.

7 I'm just wondering if those things could  
8 be segregated so that what they really are is more  
9 transparent to the consumer. I wrote some notes  
10 out that I won't get carried away.

11 I'm a single occupant. I purchased a heat  
12 pump in 2002, but was told it was not the month PSE  
13 was offering a rebate. I got no credit for the  
14 large purchase I did a refinance on my home for. I  
15 programmed my thermostat for 60 degrees at night  
16 when -- and when I'm not at home, and 68 degrees  
17 when I am home.

18 I also purchased a new energy efficient  
19 hot water heater and set it at a low energy  
20 setting. I'm down to showering about every three  
21 to four days. I'm only doing laundry every two  
22 weeks. I'm using the dishwasher once every two and  
23 a half to three weeks. I unplug my microwave, DVD  
24 player and computer when not in use.

25 I use CFL bulbs on lights I absolutely

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1 need to have on, but have Christmas lights in each  
2 room, which are the primary sources of light. I  
3 don't turn my porch light on. I'm not sure how I  
4 can cut back even further.

5           Is my point is I live like a miser because  
6 I cannot afford for my PSE bill to go up. I've  
7 just been informed my power bills will be \$216 more  
8 this year than last year, and I'm using less energy  
9 than last year.

10           This December alone, I used 78 kilowatt  
11 hours less than last December. I took a wage cut  
12 last year, but the price of everything is going  
13 up. I have \$3.00 left over from each paycheck  
14 after I pay for necessities. I am now relying on  
15 the food bank. I have recently been diagnosed with  
16 a health issue and qualify the hospital's charity  
17 program based on my income.

18           According to recent information, at the  
19 close of 2011, Congress designated 10.9 million PSE  
20 customers, and PSE's help is 14.8 million. The  
21 monies for these funds are not really from PSE.

22           I am told that they were disbursed by PSE,  
23 but the monies are actually from every PSE  
24 customer, a portion of every PSE customer's bills  
25 is -- bill is required to go into this energy

0584

1 assistance fund. We have no choice in this. This  
2 is so that PSE is assured of receiving their entire  
3 billed amount from each customer, even those who  
4 cannot pay their bills.

5 When PSE raises their rates, I, as well as  
6 every PSE customer, am also being charged more for  
7 this involuntary contribution. With the economy  
8 the way it is, why is it that every PSE customer is  
9 still being required to pay into this fund?

10 I am living so frugally, and I'm barely  
11 able to pay my own bill now. Why am I expected to  
12 help pay for others, who may not even live has  
13 frugally?

14 With yet another rate increase in PSE's  
15 rates, I am going to be caught in a situation where  
16 I can no longer afford to pay my bill, and also,  
17 help to pay for someone else's bills, and I will  
18 not qualify for the energy assistance program that  
19 I have paid into for so many years. Please address  
20 this issue for myself and countless others who will  
21 be in this situation. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Ms. Shaw, you said you  
23 don't -- you don't qualify for the low income  
24 assistance program?

25 MS. SHAW: No. According to the Community



0585

1 Action Council, your income has to be \$1,134 to  
2 receive that. My electric bill, I don't know how  
3 they base per thousand kilowatt hours, but I am  
4 living so frugally, and my kilowatt amount was  
5 1,764 kilowatt hours, which is pretty low.

6 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Do you have electric  
7 heat?

8 MS. SHAW: No, I have a heat pump. I have  
9 a heat pump. I mean, I used to go to the library  
10 in the evenings so that I would be warmer than I am  
11 at home. The library shuts down early, because I  
12 can't afford to pay their electric bills either.  
13 There aren't too many resources that we have. We  
14 don't have an alternative.

15 You know, I hate to think of having to use  
16 a flashlight in my house because I can't afford the  
17 increases, but if you're single and if you live  
18 alone and you have to pay for all of your -- your  
19 utilities -- I work for the state. We just  
20 received a pay cut.

21 I don't have a degree, so I don't have a  
22 real high paying job, but I do try to carry my own  
23 weight. I'm one of those in between people. I  
24 don't qualify for the energy assistance, but I'm  
25 still paying into the energy assistance fund to

0586

1 help other people.

2 Are they walking around in the cold, and  
3 do they have Christmas lights in their rooms? Do  
4 they live as frugally as I do? Why am I helping to  
5 pay into this fund when I am not able to access any  
6 of the benefits? Why is it only a one time only  
7 deal? One time only payment on a fund?

8 If there are \$28 million of this energy  
9 assistance funds that are available, why is it so  
10 hard to get assistance? Why -- why do we even have  
11 to ask for assistance? I mean, we're all working  
12 and we're trying hard to make it as citizens. I  
13 don't mind helping someone out, but when I need the  
14 help, I need the help.

15 I can't afford to keep paying for someone  
16 else to have their bills paid to PSE. PSE needs to  
17 stop increasing the rates, with the economy the way  
18 it is. I mean, everyone has to cut back, so -- so  
19 should they.

20 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Thank you very much.

21 MS. SHAW: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Mr. Donald McLean.

23 MR. McLEAN: Hi, my name is Donald  
24 McLean. I live in Yelm. I'm an electrical user,  
25 but I have a question. And if the answer is yes, I

0587

1 will explain. If not -- is there really a need for  
2 green -- for green clean energy?

3 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Well, Mr. McLean, I don't  
4 think we can answer those questions. You're  
5 welcome to address them both to the -- the parties  
6 here. Some of those issues are -- we do talk about  
7 in the case and we talk about the state law.  
8 They're actually -- state law does require  
9 utilities to have a certain amount of renewable  
10 energy, that's correct.

11 MR. McLEAN: Okay. Well, should I just go  
12 talk to them, then?

13 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: You're welcome to tell us  
14 whatever you want. I'm just not going to be able  
15 to enter into a dialogue with you about that. But  
16 if you want to make a case about why that shouldn't  
17 be or why that should be, that's fine.

18 MR. McLEAN: Well, about two years ago, I  
19 come up with a generator that is self-sustained,  
20 and I went -- when the stimulus come out, I went to  
21 Senator Murray and Senator Cantwell, and they said  
22 there was no money.

23 So I went to Senator Murray's office and  
24 talked to a young man, and he was very interested,  
25 and I think I told him more than I should, because

0588

1 two weeks later, they gave someone \$3 million to do  
2 what I proposed.

3 And I was just wondering if there was any  
4 real need to try to proceed on with this or not.  
5 Because what I wanted to do was build a bigger  
6 generator, and I didn't have the money. So --

7 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Well, that's -- I can  
8 guarantee, that issue is not before us in this --  
9 in this rate proceeding, but you're welcome to talk  
10 to the company and see what they have to say, but  
11 -- or you can -- you know, I think you did the  
12 right thing by talking to your elected  
13 representatives.

14 MR. McLEAN: Okay. So this man over here,  
15 and the one in the back?

16 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: The one in the back, yes.

17 MR. McLEAN: Okay. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Ms. Kathleen Downey.

19 MS. DOWNEY: My name is Kathleen Downey.  
20 I live in Olympia, Washington on Governor Stevens  
21 Court Southeast. I am a ratepayer of both gas and  
22 electric. I always thought that we gave raises to  
23 people that deserved them, people that did a very,  
24 very good job.

25 I don't think PSE served us properly

0589

1 during this last storm. I have a 90 year old  
2 mother that was without power for five days. I  
3 stopped in the office of PSE. Your people were  
4 very, very gracious and said, my mother would get  
5 \$50 back.

6 My response to them was big deal Lucille,  
7 \$50 and she froze for five days. So I'm opposed to  
8 the increase. I'm getting no increase in my  
9 retirement, and I hope you'll take that into  
10 consideration.

11 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Thank you very much.  
12 Mr. Christopher Stearns.

13 MR. STEARNS: My name is Christopher  
14 Stearns. I live at 2910 36th Avenue Northwest,  
15 Olympia, speaking for myself, speaking specifically  
16 this time about the electrical case.

17 And as I understand, this board is  
18 involved also in maintaining electric reliability,  
19 and I think the previous comments, especially  
20 people who have been affected by it, but also,  
21 people who realize that growth has been a priority  
22 of this company, over maintaining its system, is  
23 beginning to see why that is a concern and should  
24 be addressed by this board.

25 None of the residents of South Puget Sound

0590

1 ever have seriously -- ever have plans to have a  
2 seriously long power outage. Thurston County has  
3 become a place where a backup generator for major  
4 storms has become necessary. Why is this the  
5 case?

6 Over 25 years, each time that I've seen an  
7 ice storm, the differences between types of  
8 utilities in our region has come into sharper  
9 focus. The consumer-owned utilities have continued  
10 to make capital improvements in their systems,  
11 surveyed their poles, given new emphasis to  
12 maintenance of hook-ups and have conducted  
13 in-house, year round tree trimming crews.

14 The emphasis results in better  
15 performance, outages are fixed more rapidly, and I  
16 left -- I can't give it to you all here, but a  
17 survey of just the local utilities that didn't make  
18 it into the paper. Some of this is from the paper  
19 on PSE, the rest from the Source Book, and my  
20 personal communications with adjacent PUDs to  
21 Thurston County.

22 Basically, to summarize, Grays Harbor had  
23 about 19 percent outages in this most recent  
24 storm. Lewis PUD, about 8. Mason PUD Number 3,  
25 adjacent to the Thurston County, had 11 percent.

0591

1 Tacoma Power and Seattle, due to the published  
2 figures in the paper, around 29 percent. And PSE,  
3 in this county, over 90, and the rest of Pierce  
4 County, 50 or more percent.

5 The total outages in Western Washington  
6 published in the paper was 457,000. These outages  
7 show that PSE needs to upgrade its infrastructure,  
8 dedicate resources towards maintenance and  
9 generally improve its equipment failure rates.

10 A good place to start would be to  
11 eliminate the use or substitution of used or  
12 secondhand components in its repairs. Cutting  
13 costs has gotten them into this situation, and that  
14 approach must change.

15 Attention to service efficiency must be  
16 emphasized. Why are smaller utilities outclassing  
17 our state's largest one? I don't know why. The  
18 company needs to rethink the dispatch of its  
19 emergency repair operations. Renton has a  
20 centralized dispatch. It's basically failing the  
21 peripheral service areas for PSE.

22 What are the symptoms of this failure?  
23 Counties to the periphery have citizens groups  
24 organizing to leave PSE service area. In Skagit,  
25 Island, Jefferson in 2008, and now Thurston County

0592

1 this year. All these counties do not feel best  
2 served from a facility in Renton.

3 Having our state's largest utility rely on  
4 the help of out-of-state crews puts us at risk in  
5 two principled ways. This over-reliance puts our  
6 state's largest grid out of order if the emergency  
7 disrupts our transportation system, as a major  
8 subduction zone earthquake would.

9 Also, this over-reliance will not work if  
10 these crews are already busy should a massive  
11 snowstorm impact the entire region, Oregon, the  
12 whole area all at once, keeping them busy at home,  
13 unable to come and immediately help PSE.

14 Out-of-state crews unnecessarily run up  
15 costs due to difficulty to coordinate them and  
16 properly dispatch them where they are needed. A  
17 great deal of this service was idling, either  
18 waiting or trying to ascertain where to go. This  
19 cost-plussed approach adds 10 percent, or whatever  
20 the cost of profit is, more for poor management to  
21 a ratepayer's cost. Please consider this.

22 Finally, why are we relying on out-of-  
23 state repairmen when we should be employing our own  
24 local work force? PSE -- is PSE trying to avoid  
25 the dependable union work force inside our state?



0593

1 This makes no economic sense.

2 My last comments are on the company's  
3 actions that you may or may not be aware of  
4 regarding municipalization and the company's  
5 resources that are dedicated to it. The next year,  
6 or on or before April 1st, 2013, PSE will be  
7 receiving a cash payment well over 103 million in  
8 non-operating revenue for the sale of its system in  
9 eastern Jefferson County.

10 I would ask that amount to be accounted  
11 for in any future test case -- test year in this  
12 rate case. PSE, due to the agreement, as signed  
13 with Jefferson PUD, is actively engaged in system  
14 upgrades currently under way in that county.

15 What accounting for costs of the sale is  
16 separated from the remaining actual rate base after  
17 4-1-13, when it no longer owns the utility? PSE,  
18 although it is a three year transition, and I'm  
19 cognizant of that and appreciate their cooperation  
20 in that adjustment.

21 PSE's municipalization unit covers the  
22 rate-of-way issues in relationships with local  
23 governments. It should not be using the staff time  
24 for fighting off efforts inside its service area  
25 that chooses to go public.

0594

1           Ratepayers should not bear the costs,  
2   these costs by company -- by the company, which  
3   includes staff time, public relations work,  
4   excessive advertising budgets and public activities  
5   to gather up support for its continued operations.  
6   This is an expense to be borne by its two  
7   shareholders, not the ratepayers it serves.

8           Thank you for your interest and careful  
9   consideration of these issues. And be mindful, you  
10   know, we have -- you know, 75 percent of our  
11   country has investor-owned utilities, and they do  
12   really good jobs. I don't want to discount their  
13   work in the community, but when I see them  
14   extolling what they do and how they prepare for  
15   storms, at the end of their public service message,  
16   they mention that the shareholders have paid for  
17   that advertisement. I think PSE needs to look  
18   around and see what it's not doing. Thank you.

19           CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Thank you, Mr. Stearns.  
20   Now, I notice you passed out a written statement.

21           MR. STEARNS: That was the same as my  
22   comments.

23           CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: You don't want that  
24   necessarily in the record?

25           A. Yes, I do want it in the record.

0595

1           CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Mr. ffitch, can you make  
2 sure that gets in?

3           Also, FYI, I mentioned this to Mr. Jacobs,  
4 but in addition to the hearing that's going to be  
5 held next Tuesday in front of the house energy  
6 committee, this commission will be holding a  
7 proceeding, a hearing on the storm response where  
8 we will, no doubt, get -- get into some of the  
9 details that Mr. Stearns is talking about, and that  
10 is yet to be -- yet to be scheduled.

11           Mr. James Blake.

12           MR. BLAKE: Good evening, commissioners.  
13 My name is James Blake, B-l-a-k-e. I live in  
14 Rainier, Washington at 205 Montana Avenue North.  
15 I'm a PSE electric customer, and I'm speaking for  
16 myself.

17           I'm reading this letter to you tonight to  
18 express my concerns over the proposed Puget Sound  
19 Energy rate increase scheduled for July 2012. The  
20 home I live in was built in 1974, and although it's  
21 not as energy efficient as newer homes and does  
22 have electric baseboard heat, prior to 2011, I've  
23 added additional attic insulation and programable  
24 thermostats and insulated entry doors and added  
25 storm doors and gas-filled double-paned windows,

0596

1 which have improved and reduced my energy use.

2           While my power was out January 19th  
3 through the 21st of this year, I received the  
4 notice of requested rate increase and public  
5 hearing, and I decided that I would do my own  
6 analysis of the rate increase to determine the  
7 effect on my 2013 electric bill.

8           I assumed the same electric use by month  
9 that I had during 2011, and this analysis showed  
10 that electric cost portion of my monthly bill would  
11 increase over 19 percent, which was a far cry from  
12 the PSE flier stated increase of 8.3 percent for  
13 residential customers.

14           If you're interested, I did an Excel  
15 spreadsheet, and I've got it on a flash drive that  
16 you can download, if you're interested. And I  
17 encourage you to have one of your analysts check my  
18 work.

19           Please take a hard look at the effect the  
20 magnitude that this increase will have on actual  
21 homeowners. While I understand that PSE's costs  
22 are going up, as mentioned in their flier, a 19  
23 percent yearly increase in my electric bill is  
24 impossible for me to justify.

25           The single largest source of my income

0597

1 that I have is my State of Washington retirement,  
2 which has not increased since I retired over ten  
3 years ago. So thank you for the opportunity to  
4 speak this evening.

5 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Thank you, Mr. Blake. I  
6 should -- you said something -- I forgot to mention  
7 in my opening, and I'll say it again at the end, or  
8 I'll try to remember it, too. If you wish to send  
9 your spreadsheet in, you can go to our web site,  
10 and there is a space for comments. I don't know if  
11 you can do an attachment on that.

12 MR. BLAKE: Well, I -- I also -- I felt so  
13 strongly about this, that I also responded via  
14 e-mail, on which I did attach my spreadsheet.

15 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Okay. That's great.  
16 That will get -- if you went through and you --  
17 that should make it into the record, then.

18 MR. BLAKE: Okay.

19 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: I'll just say this now.  
20 If any of you, after tonight say, oh, darn, there's  
21 something else I wanted to say, or you have some  
22 other information, or your friends or neighbors  
23 have something to say, you have until the close of  
24 business on Friday, this Friday the 17th.

25 You can go to the web site, or you can

0598

1 send an e-mail to the commission, and the e-mail  
2 address will be there. Actually, I think  
3 Mr. Ffitch has the comment process on his form.

4 MR. FFITCH: That's correct.

5 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Yes, he does. And the  
6 best thing to do is to also mention docket numbers  
7 111048 and 111049, and make sure it gets into the  
8 case file.

9 MR. BLAKE: I did on my e-mail, so I'm  
10 sure I'm covered.

11 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: That's great. Thank  
12 you.

13 MR. BLAKE: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Mr. R.C. Jacobson.

15 MR. JACOBSON: I'm R.C. Jacobson. I have  
16 a cattle ranch and horse ranch in South Thurston  
17 County. I've been an electric user for  
18 approximately 38 years at that location.

19 We had severe tree damage along my county  
20 road, and as a result of that, power was out for  
21 approximately seven days at the ranch, impacting  
22 the availability of stock water for the animals on  
23 my ranch.

24 We did survive with some emergency  
25 measures, but it brings to mind, in sharper focus,

0599

1 Mr. Stearns' comments and I heartily applaud him  
2 for his diligent work.

3 I'm a graduate engineer from the  
4 University of Washington, and ran for PUD  
5 commissioner in Thurston County during the 1990s.  
6 My program at that time was the initiation of a  
7 program to have the PUD assume the purchase and  
8 debt of Puget Sound Energy in Thurston County.

9 And the result of that, according to my  
10 calculations at that time, was approximately a 20  
11 percent decrease in electric rates in Thurston  
12 County by connecting to the Bonneville Power  
13 administration lines.

14 My second program at that time was  
15 beginning the underground construction of power  
16 lines in the most effected areas, where I have  
17 observed during this last storm, were severe in  
18 just about all of the residential and outlying  
19 areas of Thurston County.

20 Now, I bring that to your attention,  
21 because I'm still interested in pursuing a program  
22 of having the Thurston County PUD assume the  
23 responsibilities of providing electric power to the  
24 residents of Thurston County.

25 One side comment that I could make is on

0600

1 my rural Thurston County road, many trees were down  
2 on the hillside adjacent to my ranch. In talking  
3 to the crews that were standing by waiting for  
4 permission from activity from Bellevue head  
5 offices, I learned that the power crews could not  
6 access -- access the road, which were impassable  
7 due to trees and branches on the road.

8           The -- the road crews, who were also there  
9 to clear the roads, could not access the roads  
10 where the power lines were down on the road because  
11 of the danger. However, I did come in contact with  
12 some of my neighbors, who had relatives stranded  
13 and needed rescue further up the hill from my  
14 ranch, and I did use some of my equipment to  
15 provide a single passage for automobile traffic at  
16 that time.

17           This was approximately three days prior to  
18 the clearing of the road by the -- the -- the  
19 additional clearing of the road by the Thurston  
20 County road crews, which I fully appreciate their  
21 efforts.

22           And therefore, due to what I would call  
23 poor planning of Puget Sound Energy in their  
24 program of anticipating damages caused by this  
25 storm and prior storms, I would oppose a rate



0601

1 increase for Puget Sound Energy and encourage their  
2 focus on better management of their storm related  
3 policies. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Thank you very much,  
5 Mr. Jacobson. We have Mr. Mike Pelly, signed up as  
6 maybe. I guess not. Okay. So that -- unless  
7 Mr. Kouchi has more signup sheets, that includes  
8 the ones that --

9 MR. CUMBERLAND: I didn't sign yes, but I  
10 put my name on.

11 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Okay. Would you like to  
12 -- obviously, you want to say something?

13 MR. CUMBERLAND: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: That's great. If you  
15 would stand up, and I can give you the oath.

16 MR. CUMBERLAND: Yes, I did already.

17 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Okay. You did? Great.  
18 By the way, if any of the rest of you are thinking,  
19 gosh, I wish I had checked yes instead of no, we  
20 have time for you.

21 MR. CUMBERLAND: My name is Ralph  
22 Cumberland, like the road, I guess, a customer of  
23 Puget Sound -- is that right? Puget Sound Energy,  
24 just electric only.

25 Our house was built probably about two

0602

1 years ago. We've only lived in the area  
2 probably -- I want to say six years. We moved from  
3 Denver, Colorado. Some of the things that, you  
4 know, we did was -- you know, our house is pretty  
5 energy efficient.

6 We signed up for the wind option. We  
7 thought it would be a good idea to, you know, pay a  
8 little bit of extra money and help out with trying  
9 to provide some better options for the state, and  
10 stuff like that, for energy.

11 One of the things that is bothersome to  
12 me, though, is I get charged for, I think --  
13 engineering-wise, I'm not sure what the number is  
14 for every household, but I think it's about 1,800  
15 kilowatt hours. Does that sound right? Per  
16 household per month is what's allocated by an  
17 engineering standpoint, when you go to calculate  
18 how many houses you conserve with an energy  
19 system.

20 We get charged -- what is it? 600. At  
21 600, there's a rate increase of about -- I don't  
22 know what the percentage is, but from 8.3 to  
23 10.27. Does that sound right? I think I'm paying  
24 14 cents right now on the -- for the -- for the  
25 wind energy one. I wasn't -- I'm not very happy

0603

1 about the -- about the disparity.

2 I think -- I think, years ago, in the  
3 '70s, or something like that, maybe that was done  
4 for that -- that change in rate, that I've heard  
5 from some people as well. I think that's one of  
6 the things that should be eliminated.

7 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Are you referring to a  
8 change in rate -- there's one rate for kind of the  
9 first 800 --

10 MR. CUMBERLAND: 600, or something like  
11 that.

12 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: 600? There's a higher  
13 rate for that. Is that what you're talking about?  
14 Or are you talking about your wind energy?

15 MR. CUMBERLAND: No, no, I'm talking  
16 specifically about that -- that change in the  
17 rate. Because the wind energy is on top of that.  
18 It's something like four cents, or something goofy  
19 like that.

20 It seems like that has kind of fallen out  
21 of vogue, if you want to call it that. It was a,  
22 you know, kind of a '70s morass, or whatever you  
23 want to call it, where we thought, you know, if we  
24 could make people use less energy, we would save  
25 the world kind of thing.

0604

1           And I think that -- in these times, that  
2 would be a good thing to get rid of. You know, for  
3 me even, there's no possible way I could get the  
4 600. I mean, I've tried everything from throwing  
5 down the heat to 58 or lower. We have little box  
6 heaters in this house that we're in, so we all  
7 huddle around one when we turn one on, but they're  
8 usually off.

9           When the power went out, we decided we'd  
10 be a little bit forward thinking, and we knew the  
11 power was going to go out, because we -- I've been  
12 here six years, and the power always goes out.

13           And -- and so in the comments that I heard  
14 before about people having to go buy generators and  
15 stuff, I was one of them that wished I had bought a  
16 generator, because power always seems to go out  
17 when there's bad weather here. It doesn't seem  
18 like the energy company knows how to plan in  
19 advance for that.

20           CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: That didn't happen in  
21 Denver?

22           MR. CUMBERLAND: No.

23           CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: What were your rates in  
24 Denver compared to here, do you recall?

25           MR. CUMBERLAND: I could reproduce them,

0605

1 but they're -- they're probably less than eight  
2 cents a kilowatt hour easily, and -- and, you know,  
3 there's different -- there's a lot of different  
4 mechanisms here, so it's a different environment.

5           But we never experienced any kind of power  
6 outage like this ever in the Denver area, even in  
7 three feet of snow. So I mean, we were downtown.  
8 We got trapped, because the bus got stuck, and we  
9 ended up spending the night in a hotel, and the  
10 house was with the grandparents, but we never, ever  
11 lost any power in Denver. So, you know, ice or  
12 snow, or whatever.

13           Here, it seems like the trees aren't  
14 really being taken care of on the lines. It's  
15 pretty easy, just to drive down through downtown  
16 Olympia, and see that they're still covering the  
17 lines there, over there by the -- what's the tire  
18 place, and the new pier they just built there?

19           Those things are still covering, you know,  
20 major power lines, I would think, for the city. We  
21 saw crews come in after the fact, when power was  
22 up, trimming trees, but they only trimmed some of  
23 the trees, so I guess where they had brought down  
24 the lines.

25           So I cleared lines as well, because power

0606

1 was out in my neighbor's place, and the lady  
2 there. I didn't know -- that wasn't a bright idea,  
3 but I did it.

4 8 percent, I don't think, is a very good  
5 idea. I think I'd like to see them be a little bit  
6 more compassionate about that whole idea, thinking  
7 about, you know, where we're at. I have not had a  
8 pay increase since 1998, probably. I've -- you  
9 know, my 401-K hasn't really gotten any bigger. It  
10 seems that it's lost money over time.

11 So I got myself a degree. You know, now  
12 I'm a degreed person. I've got a degree at this  
13 point. It's a masters in nursing. But still,  
14 we're -- we're struggling, and the future doesn't  
15 look very good for the next several years.

16 I think, country-wise, I think we kind of  
17 need to lock down a little bit. You know,  
18 everybody takes a little bit on the chin and help  
19 out everybody. That's it.

20 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Thank you very much,  
21 Mr. Cumberland. That's the last person who is  
22 signed up, or who didn't sign up and wanted to  
23 speak. Is anyone else interested in making  
24 comments?

25 MR. KOUCHI: I just spoke to Mike Pelly,

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1 and he didn't want to talk.

2 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Thank you. Thank you.

3 MR. FERRIER: Yes, I'll say something  
4 here. My name is Roger Ferrier. I've already  
5 signed in.

6 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Were you -- before you  
7 come up here, were you able to -- were you here  
8 when I gave the oath to people?

9 MR. FERRIER: No I wasn't.

10 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Well, we'll do that right  
11 now, then, if that's okay.

12 MR. FERRIER: That's fine.

13 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Do you swear or affirm  
14 that the testimony that you give in this proceeding  
15 will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but  
16 the truth?

17 MR. FERRIER: I do.

18 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Thank you. All right.  
19 Thank you. Please state your name and spell your  
20 last name, and if you're testifying for yourself or  
21 an organization.

22 MR. FERRIER: I'm talking for myself, my  
23 own concerns. My name is Roger Ferrier,  
24 F-e-r-r-i-e-r.

25 I would just like to state that I disagree

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1 with the power increase. Every time you turn  
2 around, PSE wants a power increase. If you -- if  
3 you go back in time when I become an adult here in  
4 Olympia, we paid -- we paid less than two cents a  
5 kilowatt hour for electricity.

6 And you take wages over that period of  
7 time, people's wages, on general, the average  
8 income hasn't gone up 500 percent in that period of  
9 time like -- like the power cut rates have gone  
10 up.

11 They want to, you know -- basically, so I  
12 have to object to the power increase based on that  
13 and the fact that PSE is a -- is a -- no longer a  
14 -- which they have never been, a -- a proactive  
15 company, as far as maintenance goes, or -- they're  
16 reactive. All they do is react to the situation,  
17 because all they care about is the bottom line.  
18 That's all I have to say.

19 CHAIRMAN GOLTZ: Thank you, Mr. Ferrier.  
20 So unless there's one more -- anymore -- anyone  
21 else who wants to raise their hand? Then we'll  
22 conclude the testimony part of this proceeding.

23 And again, for those of you that -- or who  
24 have friends or neighbors that may wish to make  
25 comments, look at the handout that Mr. ffitich



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1 provided in the back, and on the back side of that  
2 and in the whole right-hand corner, there's the  
3 e-mail address and the web form.

4           You can either just e-mail something,  
5 include the docket number, or go on the web form  
6 and it will guide you through it. And then that --  
7 do that by the end of Friday, the 17th, because  
8 that's when our -- our hearing will -- will close,  
9 and we'll make a decision after that.

10           So again, I really want to thank you all  
11 for taking the time to come and help us out with  
12 this, both Commissioner Oshie and I. I know he's  
13 been taking notes. I've been taking notes.  
14 Commissioner Jones will talk to us about this, and  
15 he'll also read the transcript.

16           And we really appreciate the -- the points  
17 that you make, and we'll take those into account as  
18 we try to figure this thing out. So again, thank  
19 you. Good night. Travel safely. We'll be  
20 adjourned.

21           (The proceedings concluded at 7:05 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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4 STATE OF WASHINGTON

5 COUNTY OF KING

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I, Mary M. Paradise, a Certified Shorthand  
Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do  
hereby certify that the foregoing transcript of the  
proceedings on February 15, 2012, is true and  
accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill and  
ability.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
hand this 21st day of February, 2012.

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MARY M. PARADISE, CSR

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