

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**Docket Nos. UG-110723
Puget Sound Energy, Inc.'s
Tariff filing for Pipeline Integrity Program**

WUTC STAFF DATA REQUEST NO. 005

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In Mr. Story's Exhibit Nos. JHS-5, JHS-6 and JHS-7, plant balances by month from July 2010 to December 2012 are shown for various categories of pipe (i.e., Wrapped Steel Assessment, Wrapped Steel Mains and Older Polyethylene Plastic Pipe). Please explain why plant balances for any one category of pipe reflect monthly investments in other types of pipe (e.g., Wrapped Steel Mains shown in Exhibit No. JHS-6 includes investment in DST Main-Plastic and DST Services-Plastic).

Response:

The material of choice for Puget Sound Energy, Inc.'s ("PSE") pipe replacement programs is polyethylene ("PE") plastic pipe. However, due to operational considerations, such as operating pressure, proximity to other buried facilities, and ground temperature, other materials, such as cathodically protected wrapped steel, may be used as the replacement material. In addition, as new mains are installed, PSE considers the need to replace attached steel or older plastic service lines at the same time, resulting in a more homogenous system in the area and to minimize the impact on the neighborhood from future replacement needs.