Exhibit MPP-1T Docket UE-070725 Witness: Michael P. Parvinen REDACTED VERSION

# BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

**DOCKET UE-070725** 

Complainant,

v.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.,

Respondent.

**TESTIMONY** 

**OF** 

MICHAEL P. PARVINEN

STAFF OF WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

January 28, 2010

HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL PER PROTECTIVE ORDER

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I		i. INTRODUCTION
2		
3	Q.	Please state your name and business address.
4	A.	My name is Michael P. Parvinen. My business address is The Richard Hemstad
5		Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, Washington
6		98504-7250. My e-mail address is mparvine@utc.wa.gov.
7		
8.	Q.	By whom are you employed and in what capacity?
9	A.	I am employed by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
10		("Commission") as the Assistant Director of Energy. In that capacity, I supervise the
11		members of the Energy Section that analyze electricity and natural gas filings and
12		issues. Before my current position, I was a Regulatory Analyst and later the Deputy
13		Assistant Director in the Energy Section.
14		
15	Q.	How long have you been employed by the Commission?
16	A.	I have been employed by the Commission since 1987.
17		
18	Q.	What are your educational and professional qualifications?
19	A.	I graduated from Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology in May of
20		1986, and received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration with a
21		major in accounting.
22		
23		

1	I have testified before the Commission in the following proceedings:
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Avista Corporation  Dockets UE-090134/UG-090135  Dockets UE-080416/UG-080417  Dockets UE-050482/UG-050483  Docket UG-021584  Docket UE-010395  Dockets UE-991606/UG-991607
9 10 11 12 13 14	Puget Sound Energy, Inc.  Dockets UE-090704/UG-090705  Dockets UE-072300/UG-072301  Dockets UG-040640/UE-040641  Dockets UE-011570/UG-011571  Docket U-89-2688
15 16 17 18	Cascade Natural Gas Docket UG-060256 Corporation Docket UG-911246
19 20 21	Washington Natural Gas Docket UG-931405 Company (now PSE) Docket UG-920840
22 23 24 25 26	The Washington Water Docket UE-900093 Power Company (now Avista)
27	I have also analyzed or assisted in the analyses of numerous other utility rate
28	filings, and I have presented Staff's position on many such filings at Commission
29	open public meetings. I have participated in utility-related rulemaking proceedings
30	before the Commission. I attended the Seventh Annual Western Utility Rate
31	Seminar in 1987, and the 1988 Annual Regulatory Studies Program, sponsored by
32	the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.
33	

1		II. SCOPE AND SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY
2		
3 .	Q.	What is this central issue in this docket?
4	A.	The central issue in this docket is the appropriate regulatory accounting treatment for
.5		the money Puget Sound Energy, Inc. ("PSE" or "the Company") has obtained and
6		will obtain from its sale of Renewable Energy Credits ("RECs") and Carbon
7		Financial Instruments ("CFIs").
8		
9	Q.	What is the purpose of your testimony in this docket?
10	A.	I provide Staff's recommendation regarding how the Commission should resolve that
11		issue in this docket. I also respond to the three-part proposal PSE offers in its
12		Amended Petition.
13		
14	Q.	How should the Commission resolve this docket?
15	Α.	The Commission should require PSE to book the net proceeds from the sale of RECs
16		and CFIs in a regulatory liability account, which will reduce rate base. PSE will
17		amortize the balance in the account over 10 years. We refer to this as the "regulatory
18		liability" approach.
19		Using this approach, PSE would return REC/CFI proceeds to those customers
20		who paid for the assets that generated those proceeds. All of PSE's retail customers
21		paid for, and are paying for, the resources that generated the RECs/CFIs. Therefore,
22		all retail customers should share the proceeds from the sale of these RECs/CFIs on

the same basis as the Commission allocates these resources in	the rate	making
	•	
process.		

As an alternative, the Commission could require PSE to pass the REC/CFI benefits to customers on a yearly basis, with each year's actual amount of REC/CFI revenue allocated to each customer class using a generator-based allocator. We refer to this as the "direct refund" approach. This is the way PSE treats the Production Tax Credits (PTC) associated with its wind facilities. However, that treatment arose from a Commission-approved settlement, so I am providing this example not as precedent, but to show that the direct refund approach can be implemented. I explain later why Staff prefers the regulatory liability approach.

The Commission should reject PSE's proposal. The Commission should not allow PSE to direct any REC or CFI proceeds exclusively to the benefit of any customer class or subset of customers, such as low income customers. The Commission also should not allow PSE to direct any REC or CFI proceeds to offset the California Receivable. Although Staff's regulatory liability approach is similar in concept to the third part of PSE's three-part proposal (PSE's Regulatory Asset proposal), Staff's approach more appropriately matches the allocation of benefits with the allocation of the costs of the resources generating those benefits.

#### 20 III. BACKGROUND

## 22 Q. What are Renewable Energy Credits, or "RECs"?

 $<sup>^1</sup>$  Utilities & Transp. Comm'n v. Puget Sound Energy, Inc., Docket UE-050870, Order 04 at 9-10,  $\P$  18 (October 20, 2005).

Ţ	Α.	Renewable Energy Cledits, of RECs, represent the monetary value of the
2		environmental attributes of the electricity PSE generates from its renewable energy
3	,	facilities, such as a wind farm.
4		
5	Q.	How are RECs created?
6	A.	RECs are created when PSE generates electricity from its renewable energy
7		facilities: The Hopkins Ridge, Wild Horse, and Klondike wind facilities. PSE owns
8		these facilities or has them under contract, and PSE operates these facilities. In my
9		testimony, I refer to these resources as PSE's renewable resources, or as the
10		resources or assets that give rise to the REC proceeds that are at issue in this case.
11		
12	Q.	How does PSE realize revenues from RECs?
13	A.	PSE sells to other utilities the attributes associated with the output of PSE's
14		renewable resources, and receives cash in return.
15		
16	Q.	In what markets is PSE able to sell RECs?
17	A.	As I understand it, there are two distinct markets; a "compliance market" and a "non-
18		compliance market."
19		"Compliance market" describes a market in which the utility purchasing
20		RECs must acquire certain amounts of renewable energy. These sorts of
21		requirements are often called "renewable portfolio standards", and they are contained
22		in a statute. Typically, a utility subject to such standards complies by buying or
23		building the renewable resource, acquiring its output, or purchasing RECs.

1		States without statutory renewable portfolio standards are called "non-
2		compliance markets". In these states, a utility may purchase RECs if it wishes to add
3		renewable resources to its portfolio, but no law requires it to do so.
4		
5	Q.	What are Carbon Financial Instruments, or "CFIs"?
6	A.	CFIs are similar to RECs in that the CFIs typically are derived from any reduction in
7		greenhouse gas emissions, as measured from a baseline. PSE's participation in the
8		Chicago Climate Exchange ("CCX") created an opportunity and a market for PSE.
9		As PSE has been acquiring renewable and lower emissions resources, PSE has sold
10		CFIs to gain additional benefits for its customers.
11		
12	Q.	How are CFIs generated?
13	Α.	To the extent PSE has lowered its production of greenhouse gases below a baseline,
14		it has been able to bank and sell excess CFIs to participating companies which are
15		unable to physically meet emission targets.
16		
17	Q.	How does PSE realize revenues for CFI?
18	A.	CCX has created a market where CFIs can be bought and sold. PSE has been a seller
19		in this market, and receives cash from such sales.
20		
21	Q.	For rate making purposes, how does the Commission treat the resources that
22		generate these RECs and CFIs?
23	A.	Each of these resources are owned or under contract by PSE, and operated by PSE.

1		The Commission includes the corresponding investment amounts for these projects
2		in PSE's rate base and power supply calculations for ratemaking purposes. The
3		Commission sets PSE's rates to allow PSE an opportunity to recover the operating
4		costs, taxes, and depreciation associated with these resources, as well as a return on
5		the money PSE invested to acquire the resources. The Commission allocates the cost
6		of these resources to the customer classes using a generation-based allocation factor.
7		
8	Q.	What is the current balance of RECs and CFIs on PSE's books?
9	A.	As of November 30, 2009, PSE had the following balances of net cash proceeds
10		from PSE's sale of RECs and CFIs: <sup>2</sup>
11		RECs:
12		CFIs:
13		
14	Q.	What is the estimated amount of PSE's contracted future proceeds from the
15		sales of RECs?
16	Α.	Based on PSE's contracts, PSE estimates that future REC sales from 2009 to 2015
17		will be in the amount of <sup>3</sup>
18		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The source of the REC balance is PSE's response to Public Counsel Data Request 30, Part C (CONFIDENTIAL). The source of the CFI balance is PSE's response to Public Counsel Data Request 31, Attachment A (CONFIDENTIAL).

This source of this figure is PSE's first revised response to Public Counsel Data Request 37, Attachment A

<sup>(</sup>HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL).

IV.	STAFF'S	RECOM	MENDATIO	N
1 V .	13 1 A 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1			<i>7</i> 1 7

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1.	

1

- How should the Commission treat the REC and CFI revenues PSE has received 3 Q. related to certain renewable resources PSE has in its rate base? 4
- The Commission should distribute these revenues in an equitable manner to the 5 A. ratepayers who have supported the assets that give rise to the REC and CFI revenues. 6 As I have explained, these ratepayers are paying rates based on the costs of these 7 assets, which includes a return on PSE's investment, plus all related operating 8 expenses, and taxes. It is entirely proper for those ratepayers to receive the benefits 9 generated by these assets on the same basis that their rates are set. This is the 10 conceptual basis for Staff's Regulatory Liability approach.

12

11

#### Staff's Regulatory Liability Approach Α.

14

13

- Please describe Staff's Regulatory Liability approach. 15 Q.
- Under the Regulatory Liability approach, PSE will book the proceeds from its sales 16 A. of RECs and CFIs in a regulatory liability account. In rate proceedings, this account 17 will be used as a rate base reduction, with the balance amortized over 10 years. This 18 regulatory liability will be allocated to customer classes on the same basis as the 19 Commission allocates the associated renewable resources in the ratemaking process. 20 In other words, the REC/CFI revenues are returned to PSE's customers in the same 21 way PSE recovers in rates the costs of the assets which gave rise to the REC and CFI 22 23 revenues.

1	Q.	What are the benefits to PSE's retail customers from Staff's regulatory liability
2		approach?
3	A.	All else equal, PSE's retail customers will receive the benefits of reduced rates due
4		to the lowering of PSE's rate base amount and negative amortization expense. The
5		effects will be long term. In effect, customers receive the benefits of the REC sales,
6		including the Company's rate of return, over 10 years.
7		±
8	Q.	Can you suggest an alternative approach that also would pass the benefits of the
9		REC/CFI revenues to PSE ratepayer on an equitable basis?
10	A.	Yes. An alternative is a direct refund approach. Under this approach, the Company
11		would pass the REC/CFI benefits to its customers on a yearly basis, with each year's
12		actual amount allocated to customer classes based on a generation-based allocator.
13		This approach also matches the distribution of REC/CFI benefits with the manner in
14		which the corresponding assets are allocated to customers in the ratemaking process.
15		This approach can be implemented. As I mentioned earlier, this is how PSE treats
16		certain tax benefits associated with its wind facilities.
17		
18	Q.	Please explain why Staff recommends the regulatory liability approach rather
19		than the direct refund approach in this case.
20	A.	The regulatory liability approach provides long term benefits to customers. While
21		the direct refund approach also fairly allocates the benefits to customers, it provides
22		benefits over a shorter term, and it will result in a direct rate increase when the
23		refund rate expires.

1		V. STAFF'S RESPONSE TO PSE'S THREE-PART PROPOSAL
2		
3	Q.	Please summarize the relief PSE seeks in its Amended Petition filed in this
4		docket on October 7, 2009.
5	A.	In its Amended Petition at pages 1 and 6-9, PSE requests an order from the
6		Commission allowing the Company to defer net revenues from the sale of
7		Renewable Energy Credits ("RECs") and Carbon Financial Instruments ("CFIs"),
8		and use those net revenues pursuant to the following three-part proposal:
9		1. Part One: Low Income Proposal. PSE proposes to use between \$10 million
10	ν.	and \$20 million of REC/CFI proceeds to fund energy efficiency and
11		renewable energy services for low income customers exclusively;
12		2. Part Two: California Receivable Proposal. PSE proposes to use \$21
13		million of REC/CFI proceeds to write down the same amount of an accounts
14		receivable, representing sums owed to PSE by several California utilities
15		which purchased power from PSE during the 2001 western energy crisis.
16		PSE calls this the "California Receivable"; and
17		3. Part Three: Regulatory Assets Proposal. PSE proposes to use the
18		remaining REC/CFI proceeds to provide a benefit to all PSE customers by
19		offsetting the REC proceeds against a regulatory asset on PSE's books.
20	`	
21	Q.	How should the Commission respond to PSE's three-part proposal?
22	A.	The Commission should reject PSE's proposal, for the reasons I explain next.
23		

1		A. Part One: PSE's Low Income Proposal
2		
3	Q.	Please explain the first part of PSE's three-part proposal, regarding the use of
4		between \$10 million and \$20 million in REC/CFI sales proceeds exclusively to
5		benefit low income customers.
6	A.	PSE proposes to use from \$10 million to \$20 million in REC/CFI proceeds for two
7		specific purposes: 1) To install efficiency measures and energy-related repairs for
8		low income customers exclusively (~ 80% of the total amount); and 2) To install
9		renewable energy systems exclusively for low income residential locations (~20% of
10		the total amount). <sup>4</sup> No other PSE customers would receive this money. The Joint
11		Parties <sup>5</sup> support this part of PSE's case. <sup>6</sup>
12		
13	Q.	Is PSE's low income proposal appropriate?

### Is PSE's low income proposal appropriate?

No. First, PSE's low income customers are not the only customers who paid for the 14 Α. assets that generated these RECs and CFIs. As I explained earlier, any REC/CFI 15 sales proceeds available for customers should be returned equally to the customers 16 paying for the assets generating the benefit. Giving \$10 million to \$20 million 17 exclusively to one group of customers violates this principle of fairness. 18

> Second, awarding low income customers \$10 million to \$20 million fails to provide a commensurate benefit to the remaining customers because the proposed

19

20

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Amended Petition at 7, ¶17; Exhibit Joint 1-T at 8-12. <sup>5</sup> The "Joint Parties" refers to the parties filing joint direct testimony: PSE, NW Energy Coalition, Renewable Northwest Project, and the Energy Project.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Joint Testimony Direct, Exhibit Joint 1-T.

1		measures contained in the low income proposal do not inect the Commission's
2		standard for an appropriate conservation program.
3		
4	Q.	What is the Commission's standard for conservation programs offered by PSE
5	A.	The Commission requires that PSE's conservation program be cost effective, based
6		on the total resource cost test. <sup>7</sup>
7		
8	Q.	Does PSE's low income proposal meet this standard?
9	A.	No. But, if it did, PSE would acquire the conservation under its existing program,
10		which is designed to meet the Commission's cost effectiveness standard. There
11		would be no need to apply an additional \$10 million to \$20 million of ratepayer
12		money for this purpose.
13	•	
14	Q.	Does PSE's low income proposal provide commensurate benefits to other rate
15		payers?
16	A.	No.
17		
18	Q.	Could PSE's current energy efficiency programs contain certain features of
19		PSE's low income proposal, such as repairing a customer's living unit?
20	A.	Yes. However, the repair work must be cost-effective within the Company's
21		program. Again, PSE's low income proposal fails this standard.
22		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Utilities & Transp. Comm'n v. Puget Sound Power & Light Co., Docket UE-920630, First Supplemental Order at 11-12 (September 24, 1992).

2		proposal: To install renewable energy systems for low income residential
3	,	locations.
4	A.	While this proposal is laudable, it is not a proper use of rate payer money, for the
5		same reasons I identified regarding the first component. This component also is not
6		cost-effective on the whole, and it does not provide cost-effective benefits to PSE's
7		other customers.
8		
9	Q.	Are there alternatives which PSE and the other Joint Parties could pursue to
10		achieve their low income goals and treat all PSE customers fairly and
11		equitably?
12	A.	Possibly. For example, the Company's shareholders could contribute additional
13		funds for these purposes; PSE could seek voluntary contributions from all customers
14		to help pay for these repairs and new measures; or perhaps the Joint Parties could
15		seek an additional appropriation from the Legislature to fund the low income
16		weather assistance account, which they testify is administered by the Department of
17		Commerce. <sup>8</sup>
18	,	
19		B. Part Two: PSE's California Receivable Proposal
20		
	0	Please explain the second part of PSE's proposal, regarding the California
21	Q.	
22		Receivable.

Please explain Staff's concerns with the second component of the low income

1

Q.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> See Joint Testimony Direct, Exhibit Joint 1-T at 6:25 to 7:4.

1	A.	The Company is proposing that 40% of the REC/CFI proceeds, up to \$21,062,800,
2		be used to offset what PSE calls the California Receivable. The California
3		Receivable is an amount on the Company's books held in reserve (as a receivable)
4		for potential recovery through litigation processes.
5		
6	Q.	What is an account receivable?
7	Α.	An account receivable is the amount to be collected by a business from a customer
8		for goods or services previously sold to that customer by the business.
9		
10	Q.	In the normal course of business, how does a business such as PSE account for
11		an account receivable?
12	A.	The business debits the amount of a sales transaction either to an account receivable
13		or a cash account, and credits the sale to a revenue account. In this instance, PSE
14		credited the sale to a Wholesale Revenue account.
15		
16	Q.	How does a business such as PSE treat an account receivable when the amount
17		is disputed?
18	A.	The business either writes off the sale to an uncollectibles account, or, if the business
19		anticipates future payments from the buyers, it may keep the account receivable on
20		its books pending final resolution of the matter. That is what PSE has done in this
21		instance; it has kept the California Receivable on its books.
22		

1	Q.	In the normal course of business, what is the appropriate accounting entry for
2		PSE to make if PSE determines that this \$21 million is uncollectible?
3	A.	PSE would have to write off the \$21 million account receivable. The accounting
4		entry would be a debit to the uncollectible account and a credit to the account
5		receivable account.
6		
7	<b>Q.</b>	If PSE wrote off the \$21 million California Receivable, would that have a rate
8		impact?
9	A.	Not under current practices and procedures. Currently, in rate making, PSE and
10		Staff use uncollectibles amounts in two contexts: This calculation of the net to gross
11		conversion factor; and in determining the test year level of uncollectibles expense.
12		In both contexts, PSE and Staff take the most recent five years of uncollectibles,
13		remove the amounts for the high year and the low year, and average the amounts for
14		the other three years.
15		In this instance, the \$21 million represents a very high level of uncollectibles.
16		Consequently, this amount would be within the high year amount that would be
17		removed in the process. Of course, there could still be some impact, because this
18		could promote another year into the three-year average that would otherwise have
19		been the removable high year.
20		
21	Q.	Please describe how the California Receivable came about.
22	A.	During the western energy crisis of 2000-2001, PSE sold power to the California
23		Independent System Operator ("ISO") and the California Power Exchange ("PX").

	The total of these sales was reduced by actual payments, accounting entry reversals,
	and other miscellaneous transactions, resulting in a net balance which is shown as
	the \$21 million receivable on PSE's books today.
Q.	Why haven't the California ISO and the California PX paid this \$21 million to
	PSE?
A.	Apparently, the amount is the subject of ongoing litigation. The Company indicates
	that the dispute involves market pricing issues during the turbulent time in the
	western energy markets during 2000-2001. More than seven years of litigation has
	taken place to determine 'who owes how much to whom'.
Q.	Should the Commission accept PSE's proposal and grant a compensated write
	off of the California Receivable using \$21 million of the proceeds from REC and
	CFI sales?
A.	No. The Commission should reject PSE's request to provide a compensated write
	off of the California Receivable.
Q.	Why?
A.	PSE needs to demonstrate that it received revenues in excess of fair market value for
	the RECs and CFIs it sold to the California utilities. If PSE had received money in
	excess of the market value for the RECs and CFIs it sold to the California utilities
	that indicates that the excess over market can be attributable to a PSE recovery of the
	California Receivable in the amount of such excess (up to \$21 million).
	A. Q.

1		On the other hand, if PSE did not receive any such excess, it indicates PSE
2		did not receive any compensation for the California Receivable. In that
3		circumstance, PSE simply would have received the same compensation it would
4		have had in a market transaction, whether or not there was an account receivable,
5		and there would be no reason for the Commission to give special regulatory
6		treatment to this account receivable.
7		
8	Q.	Has PSE demonstrated that it received revenues in excess of fair market value
9		for the RECs and CFIs it sold to the California utilities?
10	A.	No. While PSE has stated that the REC sales would not have occurred but for the
11		settlement regarding the power sales, 9 PSE has not shown the REC price exceeded
12		market price in the compliance market, or if so, by how much. In this case, the
13		relevant market is the "compliance market" because PSE sold the RECs and CFIs to
14		utilities located in California, which has statutory renewable portfolio standards.
15		Absent that demonstration by PSE, the Commission should not provide PSE
16		a compensated write-off of the California Receivable.
17		
18	Q.	Is there any other reason why the Commission should not allow the Company to
19		recover the California Receivable from the REC proceeds?
20	A.	Yes. At the time of the original power sales transactions that gave rise to the
21		California Receivable, the Company was under a five-year rate freeze as a condition
22		of the Commission-approved merger between Puget Sound Power & Light Company

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>DeBoer Direct, Exhibit TAD-1T at 7:19 to 8:2.

1		and Washington Natural Gas Company. During the rate freeze period, PSE bore the
2		risk and received the rewards for all of its transactions, including all of its wholesale
3		sales to California utilities. PSE should not be granted recovery from the REC
4		proceeds for a cost attributable to a time period where rate payers were not impacted
5		by those transactions, one way or the other.
6		
7		C. Part Three: PSE's Regulatory Assets Proposal
8		
9	Q.	Please explain the third part of PSE's proposal, regarding Regulatory Assets.
10	A.	The third part of the Company's proposal applies to all REC/CFI proceeds that
11		remain after funding the low income proposal and allowing a compensated write off
12		of \$21 million for the California Receivable. PSE proposes to use these remaining
13		REC/CFI proceeds to offset regulatory assets, specifically PSE's Storm Damages
14		regulatory asset.
15		
16	Q.	Apart from its connection to the other two parts of PSE's proposal, is PSE's
17		Regulatory Assets proposal appropriate in principle?
18	A.	Yes. As Mr. DeBoer testifies, all else equal, reducing a regulatory asset lowers
19		PSE's revenue needs by reducing the amount of revenue ratepayers pay for PSE to
20		recover the asset, and it reduces the Company's working capital allowance. 10 This is
21		very similar to the concept that underlies Staff's recommended outcome for this
22		docket, which I explained earlier.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> DeBoer Direct, Exhibit TAD-1T at 9.

1	Q.	Is PSE's Regulatory Assets proposal appropriate in calculation?
2	A.	No.
3		
4	Q.	Please explain.
5	A.	As I mentioned, PSE proposes to offset the Storm Damage regulatory asset with
6		REC/CFI revenues. The problem is that the Commission allocates storm damage
7		expenses to customer classes using the allocation factor relating to electric plant in
8		service. By contrast, the Commission allocates the assets that provide the REC/CFI
9		revenues to customers using only generation-based plant factors. This mismatch
10		creates disproportionate shares of the REC/CFI benefits among customer classes.
11		
12	Q.	Do any other regulatory assets on PSE's books meet the criterion of being
13		allocated in the same or similar manner as the resources that give rise to the
14		REC/CFI revenues at issue in this case?
15	A.	Yes. PSE has a number of regulatory assets that meet this criterion. However, a
16		significant portion of these regulatory assets will most likely be fully amortized
17		before the effective date of the Company's next general rate case. Therefore, using
18		REC/CFI proceeds to offset these regulatory assets would produce no long term
19	•	benefits for ratepayers. The other portion of PSE's regulatory asset accounts that
20		meet this criterion is not large enough to specifically identify and offset.
21		
22	Q.	Has the Commission previously ordered a utility to offset a regulatory asset
23		using a portion of the proceeds from sales of items similar to RECs or CFIs?

1	A.	Yes. Docket UE-001157 involved a PSE accounting petition for Commission
2		approval to defer revenues from the sale of excess sulfur dioxide (SO2) emission
3		allowances. These allowances are similar to the CFIs in this case. In that docket, the
4		Commission ordered the Company to credit the sales to FERC Account 254 - Other
5		Regulatory Liabilities, and amortize the deferred credits annually over 10 years to
6		FERC Account 411.8 – Gains from Disposition of Allowances. 11
7		
8	Q.	Is Staff proposing this same type of methodology in this proceeding?
9	A.	Yes. Staff is proposing to defer the revenues, thus creating a regulatory liability to
10		be included as a rate base reduction and amortized the remaining balance over 10
11		years.
12		
13		VI. CONCLUSION
14		
15	Q.	Please summarize Staff's recommendations in this docket.
16	A.	The Commission should accept Staff's case and require PSE to: 1) Book the net
17		proceeds from the sale of RECs and CFIs in a regulatory liability account; 2) Use the
18		account to reduce rate base; and 3) Amortize the balance in the account over a period
19		of 10 years. The Commission should reject PSE's three-part proposal.
20		
21	Q.	Does this conclude your testimony?
22	A.	Yes.
	11 In r	e Petition of Puget Sound Energy Inc., for an Order Regarding Authorization to Sell Sulfur Dioxide ions Allowances and an Associated Accounting Order, Docket UE-001157, Order at 2 (October 25,

2000).

Exhibit MPP-1T Page 20