

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**Docket No. UG-110723
Tariff Filing for Pipeline Integrity Program**

UTC STAFF INFORMAL DATA REQUEST NO. 05:

Referring to the PIP filing cover letter (Advice No. 2011-12),

- a) Please explain how the timely recovery of new investment through the tariff proposal enhances pipeline safety and reliability.
- b) How does the existing recovery method for new plant to implement gas system reliability, integrity and safety programs limit the company's ability and flexibility in addressing safety and compliance issues?
- c) Will the company be unable to increase investments that are required or mandated without the proposed tariff?

Response:

The proposed tariff will help PSE improve pipeline reliability, integrity and safety programs by providing for the timely recovery of the additional investments necessary to implement accelerated pipe replacement programs. Absent this tariff, PSE will continue to manage pipeline safety programs as it has done in the past. By providing certainty in the timing of the recovery of future investments for pipeline safety and reliability, the Company will be in a better position to pursue more aggressive replacement efforts. PSE and Commission Staff will be able to better collaborate more effectively and efficiently to respond to evolving pipeline integrity issues both locally and nationally. This collaboration is intended to ensure the ability to match pipe integrity funding consistent with improving system performance.