BEFORE THE
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY,

Respondent

PREFILED TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SETTLEMENT OF ENERGIZE EASTSIDE

NORM HANSEN

ON BEHALF OF THE
COALITION OF EASTSIDE NEIGHBORHOODS FOR SENSIBLE ENERGY
(CENSE)

SEPTEMBER 9, 2022
COALITION OF EASTSIDE NEIGHBORHOODS FOR SENSIBLE ENERGY

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I. INTRODUCTION

Q. Please state your name, business address, and position with CENSE

A. My name is Norm Hansen. My business address is 3851 136th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98005. I have served on the Board for CENSE since 2015. Since April of 2022 I have served as the President of CENSE and Representative for CENSE in this proceeding.

Q. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR BACKGROUND

A. I have a BSEE from Michigan State University. I have been involved in (a) the PSE Community Advisory Group, (b) PSE Integrated Resource Plan Technical Member, (c) Bellevue’s Annual PSE Reliability Workshop Review, (d) Bridle Trails Community Club Board Member serving 10,000 residents in Bellevue, Kirkland, and Redmond. My Professional business experience is: Retired 30 year Boeing Engineering Manager.
Q. Is anyone else providing cross answering testimony for CENSE at this time?

A. Yes, Mr. Lauckhart is also filing testimony in opposition to settlement of Energize Eastside for CENSE at this time. I will be providing background on CENSE, its activities over the years and the costs that have been incurred to date. These CENSE activities and costs have provided the background for Mr. Lauckhart’s testimony for CENSE in this case.

II. HISTORY OF CENSE INVOLVEMENT IN ENERGIZE EASTSIDE

Q. PLEASE PROVIDE A HISTORY OF CENSE INVOLVEMENT IN ENERGIZE EASTSIDE

A. The Coalition of Eastside Neighborhoods for Sensible Energy (CENSE) is a nonprofit organization established in 2014 with the mission of representing the public interest in the processing and permitting of Energize Eastside. We are an entirely volunteer organization with no paid staff. We have raised and spent over $725,000 over the last 8 years in representing the public interest in four Energize Eastside land use hearings in the cities of Renton, Newcastle, South Bellevue and Redmond. We became an intervenor in this rate case and filed for a grant of $80,000. However, we were only granted $15,000. This grant resulted in insufficient funds to pursue the Energize Eastside rate case with legal assistance. We currently have very limited funds after pursuing four land use permit hearings.

We have strived to obtain data for verification of the need for Energize Eastside. PSE has consistently declined to provide that information either directly or in their IRP and
permitting proceedings. Our Expert, Richard Lauckhart, has received CEII security

clearance from FERC but has been refused by PSE three times without justification.

Transparency is needed to serve the public interest and PSE accountability.

In 2014 PSE could have requested a permit from EFSEC (Energy Facility Site Evaluation
Council). Instead PSE choose to proceed with the arduous journey of time and

substantial economic and labor expense. It has been our experience that Cities and the

Courts do not have the technical expertise to rule on a technical basis. In addition, PSE

seemingly had a conflict of interest in paying for and editing expert witness reports, such

as the Newcastle Synapse Report (Testimony RL-1T, Page 18, Lines 34 and 35).

The estimated cost of Energize Eastside has mushroomed from $43,000,000 in 2011 to

over $300,000,000 today. All this could have been avoided by applying to EFSEC.

The PSE Board of Directors should have known to expedite the 12 month EFSEC process

for a permit decision. This would have resulted if there was a need for the project by

EFSEC expert review. This would have best served the public interest.

III. PRUDENCE RECOMMENDATION

Q. WHAT IS THE PRUDENCE RECOMMENDATION OF CENSE IN THIS CASE?

A. The WUTC Staff should have authorized their own technical need load flow study for

Energize Eastside prior to the signing of the Settlement Agreement. This accountability

and transparency is needed to satisfy the public interest of all 1.1 million PSE electrical

rate payers.
Mr. Lauckhart provides additional expert Prudency Recommendation of CENSE in this proceeding.

Q. Does this conclude your prefiled testimony in opposition to settlement of energize eastside?

A. Yes it does.