

September 9, 2005

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL & ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Carole Washburn
Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Pk. Dr. S.W.
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: WUTC v. PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.
Docket No. UE-050870

Dear Ms. Washburn:

After a thorough review of the company's filing, Public Counsel jointly recommends with the other settling parties that the Commission approve the proposed settlement. Public Counsel recognizes that the unprecedented prices for natural gas are affecting customer rates for electricity and power costs generally at this time. Public Counsel supports the acquisition of Hopkins Ridge as a reasonable and prudent acquisition that will provide an environmentally sustainable source of energy for Puget Sound Energy's customers. Public Counsel also supports a 2006 General Rate Case as a more prudent use of resources than two PCORCs in the same time frame. Public Counsel is filing this comment because our consultant is not available to testify in person on the 5th or 6th. However, Mr. Lazar can be available by telephone if the Commissioners so desire.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Cromwell
Assistant Attorney General
Public Counsel
(206) 389-2055

RCW:kez

cc: Service List (e-mail & first class mail)
Jim Lazar