## WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION DOCKET NOS. PG-030080 & PG-030128

## **AGREEMENT TO MEDIATE**

This is an agreement between the Staff of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission ("Commission Staff") and Puget Sound Energy, Inc. ("PSE"), hereinafter "parties," and Ann E. Rendahl, assigned by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission ("Commission") pursuant to WAC 480-07-700(2), hereinafter "mediator," to enter into mediation with the intent of resolving issues related to the Complaint filed by the Commission against PSE in Docket Nos. PG-030080 and PG-030128.

The parties and the mediator understand and agree to the following:

- Mediation is a process of negotiation and reaching agreement in which the mediator assists the parties to reach a voluntary settlement. No party will be bound to a result unless that party voluntarily consents to be bound. No agreement to elements of a less-than-complete settlement is binding without the express written commitment of the participant.
- 2. The mediator has no power to decide disputed issues for the parties and cannot approve or disapprove any proposal. Matters that require Commission approval must be submitted to the Commissioners for approval.
- 3. The parties, with the mediator's concurrence, will determine the scope of the mediation, and do so early in the mediation process.
- 4. Statements during the mediation on the following topics are confidential and privileged, and may not be disclosed in any judicial or administrative proceeding, pursuant to RCW 5.60.070 and subject to the limitations set out in the statute: any communications made or materials submitted in or in conjunction with, the mediation, including, without limitation, statements of position, offers of settlement, tentative agreements to settle, admissions of fact or law, and similar statements.
- 5. Parties will make a good faith effort to resolve differences and to find a resolution acceptable to each party.



6. Parties will treat each other with respect.

Each person signing represents that she or he has authority to sign on behalf of the party and that he or she has the power to bind all of that party's representatives and participants in the mediation to the provisions of this agreement.

Dated and effective this 21 day of December, 2004, at Olympia, Washington

Commission Staff, by

Puget Sound Energy, Inc., by

Steve King

Mediator

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission