

**BEFORE THE**  
**WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Joint Application of	)	DOCKET U-180680
	)	
Puget Sound Energy, Alberta Investment	)	
Management Corporation, British Columbia	)	RESPONSE OF THE ALLIANCE OF
Investment Management Corporation,	)	WESTERN ENERGY CONSUMERS
OMERS Administration Corporation, and	)	TO RICHARD LAUCKHART’S
PGGM Vermogensbeheer B.V.	)	PETITION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE
	)	REVIEW OF AN INTERLOCUTORY
For an Order Authorizing Proposed Sales of	)	ORDER DENYING INTERVENTION
Indirect Interests in Puget Sound Energy.	)	
_____	)	

1 Pursuant to WAC § 480-07-355 and § 480-07-810, the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (“AWEC”) files these comments opposing Richard Lauckhart’s petition for administrative review. Mr. Lauckhart’s petition to intervene was properly denied by the Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) in the November 21, 2018 Prehearing Conference Order (“Order”). Allowing Mr. Lauckhart’s intervention would unnecessarily and inappropriately broaden the scope of this case and, consequently, distract from the pertinent issue, which is whether the sale of an approximate 44% interest in Puget Sound Energy (“PSE”) is in the public interest.<sup>1/</sup>

2 Generally, AWEC believes that the public interest benefits from broad participation in Commission processes and supports the intervention of any party that has a legitimate interest in the subject matter of the proceeding. However, AWEC is also interested in ensuring that Commission proceedings remain efficient and reasonably focused on the matters at

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<sup>1/</sup> See Order 01 (Nov. 9, 2018).

issue. The Commission’s standard for granting intervention – whether the petitioner has a substantial interest in the subject matter of the hearing or if the petitioner's participation is in the public interest – effectively balances the need for public participation and orderly and prompt resolution of Commission business.<sup>2/</sup> AWEC concurs with the ALJ’s finding that Mr. Lauckhart’s petition to intervene did “not establish a nexus between his reasons for seeking intervention and a protected statutory interest,” and that his participation would not be in the public interest because “Public Counsel represents and appears on behalf of residential customers.”<sup>3/</sup>

3                   This proceeding should remain focused on the proposed sale of a 43.99 percent indirect ownership interest in PSE (“Proposed Transaction”). Mr. Lauckhart’s interest in participating in this proceeding appears to be related exclusively to his opposition to PSE’s Energize Eastside project, a transmission project wholly unrelated to the Proposed Transaction.

4                   Given the lack of connection between Mr. Lauckhart’s interests and the Proposed Transaction, he has no substantial interest in this proceeding and his intervention would harm the public interest by unnecessarily broadening the scope of this proceeding.

5                   WHEREFORE, AWEC respectfully requests that the Commission deny Mr. Lauckhart’s petition for administrative review.

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<sup>2/</sup> WAC 480-07- 355(3); In Re Joint Application of Verizon Communications, Inc. and Frontier Communications Corporation for an Order Declining to Assert Jurisdiction Over, or, in the Alternative, Approving the Indirect Transfer of Control of Verizon Northwest, Inc., Docket UT-090842, Order 05, ¶ 13 (Sep. 10, 2009).

<sup>3/</sup> Order 03, ¶¶ 28-29 (Nov. 21, 2018).

Dated this 3rd day of December, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

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