

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET UE-070565
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
)	
Complainant,)	ORDER 02
)	
v.)	
)	PREHEARING CONFERENCE
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.,)	ORDER
)	
Respondent.)	
.....)	

- 1 **PROCEEDINGS:** On March 20, 2007, Puget Sound Energy, Inc. (PSE or the Company), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-60. The stated effective date of the revised tariff sheets is April 20, 2007. This filing is a proposal by PSE to increase electric rates to recover additional power costs and costs associated with the acquisition of a 277 MW gas-fired combined cycle electric generation facility in Goldendale, Washington. This power cost only rate case (PCORC) filing is authorized by the Settlement Stipulation approved by the Commission in Dockets UE-011570 and UG-011571. With this filing, the Company requests an increase in electric rates of \$64,680,804 or 3.67 percent.

- 2 PSE expressed no objection to entry of a Commission complaint and order suspending the tariff pages filed on March 20, 2007, without consideration at an open public meeting. The Commission entered Order 01 Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions; Instituting Investigation on March 27, 2007, and issued notice of a prehearing conference.

- 3 The Commission conducted a prehearing conference on April 11, 2007, before Administrative Law Judge Dennis J. Moss.

4 **PARTY REPRESENTATIVES:** Sheree Strom Carson and Jason Kuzma, Perkins Coie LLP, Bellevue, Washington, represent PSE. Michael L. Kurtz and Kurt J. Boehm, Boehm, Kurtz & Lowry, Cincinnati, Ohio, represent Kroger Co. (Kroger), S. Bradley Van Cleve and Matthew Perkins, Davison Van Cleve, P.C., Portland, Oregon, represent the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities (ICNU). Norman J. Furuta, Federal Executive Agencies Associate Counsel, San Francisco, California, represents the Federal Executive Agencies (FEA). Simon ffitch, Assistant Attorney General, Seattle, Washington, represents the Public Counsel Section of the Washington Office of Attorney General. Robert D. Cedarbaum, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Olympia, Washington, represents the Commission’s regulatory staff (Commission Staff or Staff).¹

5 **PETITIONS TO INTERVENE:** Kroger filed a petition to intervene on April 4, 2007. ICNU filed a petition to intervene on April 11, 2007. FEA made an oral petition to intervene during the prehearing conference. No one objected to these petitions. The Commission finds that Kroger, ICNU and FEA have each demonstrated their substantial interest in this proceeding and that their participation will be in the public interest. The petitions to intervene by Kroger, ICUN and FEA are granted.

6 **DISCOVERY; PROTECTIVE ORDER:** Discovery will continue pursuant to the Commission’s procedural rules, WAC 480-07-400, et seq. The parties request shortened response periods for data requests. The response time for data requests will be reduced to seven business days, effective on the date of this order. The response time for data requests will be further reduced to five business days beginning on June 15, 2007. In addition, to further expedite the exchange of potentially relevant information, all parties are required to provide all work papers, including model runs and source documents, at the time they prefile testimony and exhibits, or as soon thereafter as possible. The Commission urges the parties to work cooperatively together to avoid having to bring discovery matters forward for formal resolution.

¹ In formal proceedings, such as this case, the Commission’s regulatory staff functions as an independent party with the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities as any other party to the proceeding. There is an “*ex parte* wall” separating the Commissioners, the presiding ALJ, and the Commissioners’ policy and accounting advisors from all parties, including Staff. *RCW 34.05.455*.

7 The Commission will enter a Protective Order in this proceeding pursuant to WAC 480-07-420 and -423, to facilitate the filing and exchange among parties, during discovery and otherwise, of information that is designated “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential” by the party in whose custody and control the information is held.

8 **PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE:** The Commission establishes the procedural schedule that is attached to this Order as Appendix 1, which is incorporated into the body of this Order by this reference.

9 **FILING; COPIES OF MATERIALS:** Parties must submit the original and 15 copies of all documents filed. All filings must be mailed to the Commission Executive Secretary, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, P.O. Box 47250, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive, S.W. Olympia, Washington 98504-7250, or delivered by hand to the Commission Executive Secretary at the Commission’s records center at the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive, S.W., Olympia, Washington, 98504. Both the post office box and street address are required to expedite deliveries by U.S. Postal Service.

10 An electronic copy of all filings must be provided by e-mail delivery to <records@wutc.wa.gov>. Alternatively, Parties may furnish an electronic copy by delivering with each filing a 3.5-inch IBM-formatted high-density diskette including the filed document(s). The Commission prefers that parties furnish electronic copies in .pdf (Adobe Acrobat) format, supplemented by a separate file in MS Word 6.0 (or later), or WordPerfect 5.1 (or later) format.

11 All paper copies of testimony, exhibits, and briefs must conform to the publication guidelines included in the Commission’s procedural rules governing filings (*i.e.*, WAC 480-07-145, -395, -423, and -460). The Commission may require a party to refile any document that fails to conform to these standards.

12 **NOTICE TO PARTIES: Any objection to the provisions of this Order must be filed within ten (10) days after the date of mailing of this statement, pursuant to WAC 480-07-430(3). Absent Commission action on any objection, this prehearing conference order will control further proceedings in this matter.**

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective April 12, 2007.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DENNIS J. MOSS
Administrative Law Judge

APPENDIX 1

PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
DOCKET UE-070565

<i>EVENT</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>INTERVAL</i>
PSE's Prefiled Direct Testimony	Filed March 20, 2007	
Responses to PSE Motion	April 20, 2007	
Settlement Conference	May 21 and 30, 2007	
Staff, Public Counsel, and Intervenor Response Testimony	June 15, 2007	87
PSE Rebuttal Testimony	June 29, 2007	14
Evidentiary Hearing	July 23 – 27, 2007	24
Public Comment Hearing	July 25, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.	
Simultaneous Initial Briefs	August 8, 2007	12
Simultaneous Reply Briefs	August 15, 2007	7
Requested Effective Date for any authorized tariff changes	September 1, 2007	16

APPENDIX 2

**PARTIES' REPRESENTATIVES
DOCKET NO. UE-070565**

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