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April 25, 2002

VIA ELECTRONIC, FACSIMILE AND US MAIL

Honorable C. Robert Wallis
Administrative Law Judge
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive, SW
Olympia, Washington 98504

Re: WUTC v. Olympic Pipeline Company, Docket No. TO-011427

Dear Judge Wallis:

On April 18, 2002, an informal meeting took place regarding some scheduling issues in the above referenced docket. One issue left unresolved is whether there should be only a pre-hearing brief and a post-hearing oral argument, or if the normal practice of post-hearing briefs would be followed in this case. Olympic stated in a letter to you dated April 19, 2002 that it is seeking to delete post-hearing briefs in favor of a pre-hearing brief and an oral argument.

Tosco does not concur with Olympic's request to change the procedures in this case. Tosco believes that both briefing and oral argument would be most beneficial after the hearing takes place. Until cross-examination is finished, the record is not complete and thus briefing can not be thorough and reflect the record. Especially given the short time period between Olympic filing rebuttal testimony and the commencement of the hearings, it would not be appropriate to require the parties to file their only briefs prior to the hearing.

Thus, Tosco requests that simultaneous opening and reply briefs be allowed in this case. In addition, oral argument should be scheduled if the Commission believes that oral argument will shed light on the parties positions.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Edward A. Finklea

Of Attorneys for Tosco Corporation

cc: Robin Brena
Steven Marshall
Don Trotter