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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of Application of AVISTA CORPORATION, for Authority to Sell Its Interest in the Coal-Fired Centralia Power Plant

DOCKET NO. UE-991255

In the Matter of the Application of PACIFICORP for an Order Approving the Sale of Its Interest in (1) the Centralia Steam Electric Generating Plant, (2) the Ratebased Portion of the Centralia Coal Mine, and (3) Related Facilities, for a Determination of the Amount of and the Proper Ratemaking Treatment of the Gain Associated with the sale; and for an EWG Determination

DOCKET NO. UE-991262

In the Matter of the Application of PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC., for (1) Approval of the Proposed Sale of PSE's Share of the Centralia Facilities, and (2) Authorization to Amortize Gain Over a Five-Year Period

DOCKET NO. UE-991409

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WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

ANSWER TO PUBLIC COUNSEL MOTION TO REOPEN

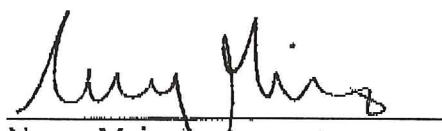
The International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 612 opposes Public Counsel's Motion to Reopen the Docket in the matter. The Motion is baseless. The Parties have already engaged in, and completed, discovery in this matter. The Commission has received evidence and testimony, and has conducted a public hearing. The Commission has ruled on the applications for the sale of Centralia, has concluded that the sale is in the public interest, and has adopted a formula for apportionment. Accordingly, the Motion of the Public Counsel should be denied.

Public Counsel's motion is based solely on a perceived inconsistency between an aspect of Avista's testimony in its pending rate proceeding and the evidence submitted in the current Dockets. The inconsistency does not affect either PacifiCorp or Puget Sound Energy. While we do not take a position on the impact, if any, of this testimony, we believe that the appropriate forum to address this issue is in the Avista rate proceeding. If the Commission concludes that a monetary adjustment is required, it can best make such adjustments in the Avista rate case.

There is no reason whatsoever to disturb the commercial expectation of the selling utilities, TransAlta, or to jeopardize the jobs of several hundred employees at Centralia. The sale approval should be final immediately to avoid jeopardizing the sale by delaying it beyond the May 7, 2000 deadline.

In addition, we request that the Commission rule promptly on the other outstanding petitions filed by the applicants.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 14th day of April, 2000.



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SERVICE LIST

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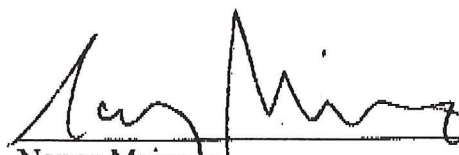
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