

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY,

Respondent.

DOCKETS UE-170033 and
UG-170034 (*Consolidated*)

ORDER 06

GRANTING MOTION FOR LEAVE
TO FILE REVISED TESTIMONY
AND EXHIBITS; SETTING DATE
FOR ANSWERING TESTIMONY
**(Setting August 21, 2017, as the date
for any answering testimony to be
filed)**

BACKGROUND

- 1 On January 13, 2017, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariffs for electric and natural gas services the Company provides in Washington. The effect of these filings would be to increase rates and charges for electric service and decrease rates and charges for natural gas service. The Commission suspended the as-filed tariffs and set the matters for hearing in Order 01 on January 19, 2017. In Order 03, the Commission, among other things, established a procedural schedule including dates for parties to file Supplemental testimony, Response testimony, Cross-Answering testimony, and Rebuttal testimony.
- 2 Commission staff (Staff) and other parties filed Response testimony on June 30, 2017, in accordance with the procedural schedule. Cross-Answering and Rebuttal testimonies were filed on August 9, 2017.
- 3 On August 8, 2017, Staff filed a Motion for Leave to File Revised Testimony and Exhibits. In its Motion, Staff explained that it discovered errors in the testimony and exhibits of Staff witnesses Betty A. Erdahl, Christopher R. McGuire, and Melissa C. Cheesman in the weeks since filing responsive testimony. The proposed corrections to Mr. McGuire's and Ms. Erdahl's testimony impact Staff's overall revenue requirement as presented in Ms. Cheesman's testimony. Mr. McGuire also seeks to correct a portion of his testimony that does not impact Staff's proposed revenue requirement, and Ms. Erdahl

seeks to change portions of her testimony related to investor-supplied working capital accounts due to information obtained through discovery after July 30.

4 Staff's proposed revisions change its recommended revenue requirement from negative \$46 million to negative \$35 million for PSE's electric operations, and from negative \$54 million to negative \$48 million for PSE's natural gas operations.

5 On August 9, 2017, the Commission issued a Notice of Deadline to Respond to Staff's Motion. The Notice required any parties that intended to respond to Staff's Motion to do so no later than August 11, 2017, at 2 p.m.

6 On August 11, 2017, Public Counsel filed with the Commission a letter stating it takes no position on Staff's Motion. No other party filed a response.

DISCUSSION

7 WAC 480-07-460(1)(a)(i) permits parties to seek leave from the presiding officer by written motion if they wish to revise prefiled testimony or exhibits with substantive changes, and WAC 480-07-460(1)(b) requires parties to file motions to make substantive changes as soon as practicable after discovering the need to make the change.

8 Staff explained in its Motion that it discovered the errors while responding to data requests from other parties. Staff noted that correcting the errors required coordination among multiple Staff members, which took additional time due to Staff vacation schedules in the month of July. Staff contends that August 8 was the soonest date by which it could move to request leave to file revisions to Staff testimony and exhibits.

9 No party objected to Staff's Motion. In addition, Policy Staff reviewed Staff's revisions and determined that accepting Staff's changes will create a more complete and meaningful record for the Commission's consideration. Policy Staff further determined that incorporating Staff's changes into its analysis would not be unduly burdensome.

10 In light of these circumstances, we find good cause to grant Staff leave to file supplemental testimony and to give other parties a reasonable opportunity to respond to the substantive changes in Staff's testimony. We emphasize our concern, however, that Staff's Motion was filed in such close proximity to the hearing. Although it does not appear that the revisions will prejudice any party or cause a significant disruption, we nevertheless encourage parties to identify and correct errors as soon as possible and note that vacation schedules are not an acceptable basis for creating an otherwise avoidable delay.

ORDER

11 **THE COMMISSION ORDERS That Staff's Motion for Leave to File Revised Testimony and Exhibits is GRANTED and Sets August 21, 2017, as the date by which other parties may file any testimony directly responsive to Mr. McGuire's, Ms. Erdahl's, and Ms. Cheesman's revised testimonies.**

Dated at Olympia, Washington, and effective August 14, 2017.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

RAYNE PEARSON
Administrative Law Judge