

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Proposal by )  
 )  
 PUGET SOUND POWER & LIGHT )  
 COMPANY ) DOCKET NO. UE-951270  
 )  
 to Transfer Revenues from PRAM Rates )  
 to General Rates. )  
 ..... )

In the Matter of the Application of )  
 )  
 PUGET SOUND POWER & LIGHT )  
 COMPANY and WASHINGTON NATURAL ) DOCKET NO. UE-960195  
 GAS COMPANY )  
 )  
 for an Order Authorizing the Merger of )  
 WASHINGTON ENERGY COMPANY and ) ELEVENTH SUPPLEMENTAL  
 WASHINGTON NATURAL GAS COMPANY ) ORDER GRANTING IBEW  
 with and into PUGET SOUND POWER & ) MOTION TO COMPEL  
 LIGHT COMPANY, and Authorizing the )  
 Issuance of Securities, Assumption of )  
 Obligations, Adoption of Tariffs, and )  
 Authorizations in Connection Therewith. )  
 ..... )

On October 23, 1996, IBEW Local No. 77 ("Local 77") filed with the Commission a motion asking the Commission to compel Puget Sound Power & Light Company and Washington Natural Gas Company (together "the applicants") to respond to certain data requests. The requests seek information relating to the number and severity of employee accidents for the period January 1, 1990 through December 31, 1995. Local 77 asks that the applicants be required to respond to their data requests by October 30, so that Local 77 may have sufficient time to review the data and prepare for cross examination.

The applicants responded to the data requests with the following objections. First, they argued that the requests are beyond the scope of the limited intervention status granted to Local 77, as defined in the Second Supplemental Order in these matters. Second, the applicants argued that a similar data request had been ruled to be beyond the scope of Local 77's limited intervention in a July 31, 1996 ruling, and that nothing has changed in the intervening period that should change this ruling.

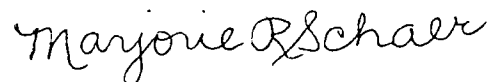
Local 77's participation in these matters has been limited to addressing issues regarding the safety and adequacy of the merger plan to meet the needs of customers. Since July 31, 1996, Public Counsel has prefiled the testimony of Barbara Alexander. Ms. Alexander proposes a service quality index containing ten factors. One of the ten factors is employee safety. This proposed testimony brings the issue of employee safety within the scope of "the safety and adequacy of the merger plan to meet the needs of customers." The applicant's objection is understandable, given the prior ruling. However, the change in the scope of this issue requires that Local 77 should now be allowed to make the inquiries contained in its data requests.

**ORDER**

The motion to compel is granted. The applicants shall deliver their responses to Local 77 no later than close of business on Wednesday, October 30, 1996.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 28th day of October 1996.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



MARJORIE R. SCHAER  
Administrative Law Judge