

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

Carole Washburn
Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Pk. Dr. S.W.
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: Puget Sound Energy Least Cost Plan

Dear Ms. Washburn,

The NW Energy Coalition respectfully requests that the Commission schedule an evening hearing, centrally located in Puget Sound Energy's (PSE's) service territory (e.g., Kirkland, Redmond, Bellevue), to provide an opportunity for stakeholders, ratepayers and other interested parties to comment on the utility's Least Cost Plan. A centrally located evening hearing, especially on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, will facilitate attendance of PSE ratepayers. The Least Cost Plan envisions significant resource acquisition in the near- and long-term. As a result, we anticipate strong interest on the part of stakeholders and ratepayers in commenting on the Plan. In addition, the Commission recently issued a notice of rulemaking regarding least cost plans. A well-attended public hearing can provide the Commission with perspectives that also may be relevant to that rulemaking.

I have been authorized by Public Counsel, The Energy Project and Renewable Northwest Project to indicate their support for a centrally located evening hearing. In addition, George Pohndorf, PSE's Director of Regulatory Initiatives, provided his support for this request.

Finally, the Coalition concurs with Public Counsel's request in its May 1 letter for a hearing no earlier than June 2 with written comments due subsequently. Adequate notice is essential to ensure parties have an opportunity to review the Plan and prepare comments. Stakeholders will benefit from hearing remarks from other parties and the public prior to submitting final written comments.

We understand that the Commission has many demands on its schedule and we appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Danielle Dixon, Policy Associate

Cc: Service list (via e-mail)