

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**Dockets UE-190529 & UG-190530
Puget Sound Energy
2019 General Rate Case**

PUBLIC COUNSEL DATA REQUEST NO. 186:

Re: Financial Assistance Programs.

Please refer to PSE's response to Public Counsel Data Request No. 115, which shows declining enrollment in financial assistance programs. Is the Company aware of any reasons for the declining enrollment? If so, please discuss the factors the Company believes is responsible for the decline.

Response:

Based on conversations at Puget Sound Energy's ("PSE") Low Income Advisory Committee meetings, PSE believes the declining enrollment in financial assistance programs could be attributed to the fear of asking for assistance, the health of the economy, or weather-related, which would impact the average size of customer bills.