

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

The PUBLIC COUNSEL Section of the
Office of the Washington Attorney
General

Complainant,

v.

CASCADE NATURAL GAS
CORPORATION; PACIFICORP dba
PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

Respondents.

DOCKET NO U-030744

PUBLIC COUNSEL RESPONSE TO
PETITIONS TO INTERVENE

The Public Counsel Section of the Office of the Washington Attorney General (Public Counsel), complainant in this proceeding, files this response to the petitions to intervene filed by City of Toppenish and by Elaine Willman et al.

Public Counsel does not object to either petition to intervene. Intervenors' petitions establish a direct interest in the subject matter and outcome of the case. Accordingly, it is appropriate that they be allowed an opportunity to participate in the Commission's first formal proceeding on the issues raised in the complaint. While it is possible there may be some overlap with Public Counsel's general role of public representation, there is ample precedent in Commission proceedings for multiple intervenors representing related interests, such as consumers or CLECs. Public Counsel's involvement has not ordinarily been a basis for precluding intervention by other consumers. Where necessary, the presiding officer can address concerns about duplication by directing parties to be efficient in their presentations.

Public Counsel disagrees that there is a valid concern about expanding the scope of the issues. The issues raised in the petitions regarding appropriate collection of the tribal charge are corollary issues implicit in the case, and understood by all parties to be part of the underlying

dispute. Allowing intervenors who have these concerns will, therefore, not unduly broaden the scope of the case in any real sense.

DATED this 7th day of August, 2003.

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Attorney General

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