

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

Washington Utilities and Transportation  
Commission,

Complainant,

v.

Puget Sound Energy, Inc.

Respondent

Dockets UE-111048 and  
UG-111049 (consolidated)

**SIERRA CLUB’S LATE-FILED  
PETITION TO INTERVENE**

Pursuant to WAC 480-07-355, Sierra Club hereby requests permission to intervene in the above- referenced proceeding. This late-filed petition to intervene is made pursuant WAC 480-07-355(1)(b) and for good cause. In support thereof, Sierra Club asserts the following:

**I. GOOD CAUSE FOR LATE-INTERVENTION**

Sierra Club respectfully requests leave of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (“Commission”) to intervene late in the above captioned proceeding. The prehearing conference for this proceeding was held on July 20, 2011. Pursuant to 480-07-355(1)(a), the deadline for a written petition to intervene expired three days earlier.

Prior to the prehearing conference, Sierra Club intended to participate in the upcoming Integrated Resource Plan (“IRP”) proceeding for Puget Sound Energy, Inc. (“PSE”). In the interests of efficiency, Sierra Club determined that its limited resources would be most efficiently applied to participate in the IRP as opposed to this general rate case. As a non-profit organization, Sierra Club must carefully consider the most efficient use of its limited resources. In this instance, Sierra Club decided not to pursue intervention in the above captioned proceedings in favor of focusing on the IRP proceeding.

Subsequent to Sierra Club’s initial decision not to intervene, Sierra Club continued informal discussions with local Sierra Club members and other stakeholders,

including representatives of PSE. As a result of these discussions, Sierra Club learned that the general rate case proceeding would include important issues related to the long-term electric generating resources the PSE relies on, including substantial investments in the Lower Snake River Wind Project. These issues are present now, and Sierra Club learned that it may lose an important opportunity to represent its members' interests if it delayed its participation until the next IRP proceeding. As a national environmental organization with extensive expertise related to the environmental, health and economic impacts related to energy generation, Sierra Club's intervention in this general rate case proceeding will have a beneficial impact for its members, the Commission, and the public regarding PSE's proposed investments in the Lower Snake River Wind Project as an alternative to continued reliance on fossil fuel based forms of electric generation.

Pursuant to the Commission's schedule laid out in the prehearing conference, the deadline for intervenor testimony is December 7, 2011. Sierra Club's late-filed petition to intervene therefore comes at a very early stage in the proceeding, and intervention at this time would provide ample time for Sierra Club to conduct discovery and prepare testimony that will be beneficial to the Commission. The Commission has previously granted late filed petitions to intervene in such circumstances. (*See Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Puget Sound Energy, Inc.*, Docket No. UE-090704, Order 05, July 30, 2009 ("the case is at a relatively early point in its development insofar as dates for testimony and hearings are concerned...and the public interest may benefit from having the perspective of a major natural gas transportation customer brought to bear"); *In the Matter of the Joint Application of Qwest Communications International, Inc. and Centurytel, Inc. For Approval of Indirect Transfer of Control of Qwest Corporation, Qwest Communications Company LLC, and Qwest LD Corp.*, Docket UT-100820, Order 06, July 13, 2010 (granting intervention where T-Mobile had a substantial interest in the matter, agreed not to broaden the issues, and agreed to abide by the established schedule).) Sierra Club's late intervention will not prejudice any of the parties in this proceeding, nor will Sierra Club seek to broaden the issues in this proceeding. Sierra Club will not file any motions or otherwise seek any extensions or delays of deadlines that could affect the schedule of this proceeding and commits to working with the other parties to minimize impacts to resources and time.

Given the substantial interest Sierra Club has in this proceeding, and the fact that this late-filed intervention request comes only two weeks after the prehearing conference, Sierra Club respectfully requests that the Commission grant this request. If the Commission grants intervention, Sierra Club commits to being a constructive and solution-oriented party throughout this proceeding.

## **II. BASIS FOR SIERRA CLUB INTERVENTION**

Sierra Club will accept service at the following business address:

Travis Ritchie  
Sierra Club Environmental Law Program  
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
[travis.ritchie@sierraclub.org](mailto:travis.ritchie@sierraclub.org)

Sierra Club will be represented in this matter by attorney Travis Ritchie (CA Bar No. 258084). Mr. Ritchie is an attorney in good standing and admitted to practice law by the Supreme Court of California. Mr. Ritchie has separately filed a notice of appearance with the Commission, as required by WAC 480-07-345(2). Mr. Ritchie will accept service of all documents in this proceeding. Mr. Ritchie can be reached at 415-977-5727, email: [travis.ritchie@sierraclub.org](mailto:travis.ritchie@sierraclub.org).

Sierra Club is a national, non-profit environmental and conservation organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California. The Sierra Club is dedicated to the protection of public health and the environment. Sierra Club petitions to intervene in this proceeding on behalf of itself and its approximately 23,000 Sierra Club members who live and purchase utility services in Washington, many of whom are residential customers of PSE. Sierra Club's Washington members have a direct and substantial interest in this proceeding because both the proposed investments by PSE in both the Lower Snake River Wind Project and the continued operation of the Colstrip coal-fired electric generation facility will have health and economic consequences for Sierra Club members who are customers of PSE. These Sierra Club members have a right to participate in this proceeding to inform the Commission of their interests, both environmental and

economic, that relate to the type of electric power generation that PSE chooses to invest in.

Sierra Club has a substantial interest in this docket because its members who live within PSE service territory will be directly and substantially affected by PSE's proposals related to the Lower Snake River Wind Project and the continued operation of the Colstrip coal-fired electric generation facility. Sierra Club intends to examine the issues presented by PSE related to the Lower Snake River Wind Project and Colstrip to ensure that PSE is pursuing a strategy that best meets the environmental, health, and economic needs of its customers.

Sierra Club has extensive experience in the environmental benefits, the public health benefits, and the associated utility economics related to the increased use of renewable generation facilities to replace outdated coal-fired and other fossil fuel generation technology. Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign advances the development of energy conservation and renewable energy policies, which eliminate or reduce global climate change emissions, reduce utility bills, and generate renewable energy. Sierra Club's work includes advocating for the implementation of robust incentive programs that assist its members and utility consumers generally to generate their own renewable energy and increase energy efficiency. The Sierra Club's work includes intervening in efficiency and renewable energy dockets at public utility commissions nationwide, and submitting comments in numerous state and federal agency energy-related proceedings and rulemakings. Sierra Club members work tirelessly to reduce reliance on carbon emitting energy sources such as the Colstrip plant by promoting clean energy alternatives, including projects such as the Lower Snake River Wind Project, and energy efficiency measures.

Sierra Club has no intention of unreasonably broadening the issues, burdening the record or delaying the proceeding through its intervention. Sierra Club intends to abide by the procedural schedule included in the *Prehearing Conference Order* issued by the Commission on July 22, 2011.

For the foregoing reasons and for having shown good cause, Sierra Club asks the Commission to grant its late-filed petition to intervene in this matter.

August 2, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Travis Ritchie* \_\_\_\_\_  
Travis Ritchie  
Sierra Club Environmental Law  
Program  
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
415-977-5727  
travis.ritchie@sierraclub.org