



Rob McKenna

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

Utilities and Transportation Division

1400 S Evergreen Park Drive SW • PO Box 40128 • Olympia WA 98504-0128 • (360) 664-1183

August 8, 2011

David W. Danner, Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
P. O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

RE: *Puget Sound Energy 2011 General Rate Case*
Dockets UE-111048 and UG-111049 (Consolidated)

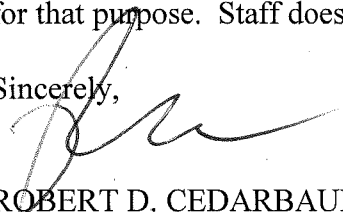
Dear Mr. Danner:

This letter responds for Commission Staff to the Notice Concerning Appearance of Fairness, issued by the Commission on August 1, 2011. In its Notice, the Commission advised the parties that it wishes its accounting advisor to communicate directly with Company witnesses and their staff for the limited purpose of obtaining technical support when using electronic spreadsheets underlying Company exhibits and responses to bench requests.

Commission Staff does not object to these direct communications given that they will be technical in nature and will occur with due respect to the prohibition against ex parte communications. Staff also assumes that information derived from these communications will be included in the evidentiary record to the extent the Commission relies upon that information in rendering its order in these dockets.

However, Staff should have the opportunity to participate directly in these discussions. Therefore, the Commission should require its accounting advisor to invite Staff to all discussions with Company personnel. He can communicate directly with Mr. Mike Parvinen for that purpose. Staff does not object if other parties wish to make the same arrangements.

Sincerely,


ROBERT D. CEDARBAUM
Assistant Attorney General

RDC:klg
cc: Parties