

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET UE-121373
)	
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.,)	ORDER 05
)	
For Approval of a Power Purchase)	ORDER CONTINUING
Agreement for Acquisition of Coal)	PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE TO
Transition Power, as Defined in RCW)	ALLOW A REASONABLE
80.80.010, and the Recovery of Related)	OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTIES TO
Acquisition Costs)	RESPOND TO STAFF’S MOTION
)	FOR SECOND EXTENSION OF
)	TIME
.....)	

MEMORANDUM

- 1 The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) entered Order 03 - Final Order Granting Petition, Subject to Conditions, on January 9, 2013. Puget Sound Energy Inc. (PSE), filed its Petition for Reconsideration and Motion to Reopen the Record on January 22, 2013. The Commission gave notice on January 23, 2013, that parties could file answers to PSE’s petition and motion by February 6, 2013.

- 2 On February 1, 2013, Commission Staff filed its Motion for 30-Day Extension of Time to File Answers to Puget Sound Energy’s Petition for Reconsideration and Motion to Reopen the Record. PSE authorized Staff to represent the Company’s agreement with this request, but other parties opposed any extension of time. The Commission granted Staff’s motion over these parties’ objections, continuing the date for responses until March 8, 2013. The Commission also gave notice that it intends to act on the pending petition for reconsideration by March 29, 2013.

- 3 Staff counsel stated during a recessed open meeting on Tuesday, March 5, 2013, that it would ask for a second extension of time in this docket. The Commission, not deeming the open meeting convened to discuss procedural options for managing dockets other than Docket UE-121373 to be a proper forum for an oral motion in

Docket UE-121373, informed Staff that it would be necessary for Staff to file a written motion in the subject docket.

- 4 Staff filed its motion for a second extension on Wednesday, March 6, 2013. Staff states in its motion that:

A continuance until April 5, 2013 will allow the parties additional time to endeavor to reach a resolution of not only the TransAlta Centralia power purchase agreement docket (Docket UE-121373), but also PSE's decoupling dockets (Dockets UE-121697 and UG-121705), as well as PSE's expedited rate filing (ERF) dockets (Dockets UE-130137 and UG-130138)

Even were parties to Docket UE-121373 to respond today, this would not provide adequate opportunity in the time available for the Commission to give this important matter the measured consideration it requires. Moreover, given that Staff's motion implicates dockets in addition to Docket UE-121373, it is important to offer to persons with substantial interests in one or more of the additional dockets an opportunity to comment.¹ The Commission accordingly determines it should act on its own motion to continue the March 8, 2013, procedural date until March 15, 2013. Parties must respond to Staff's motion for continuance by March 12, 2013. Considering the broader implications of Staff's motion for other pending dockets, as established by the rationale it states as grounds for continuance, the Commission also invites comments from any persons with substantial interests in the outcome of these other dockets (*i.e.*, Dockets UE-121697, UG-121705, UE-130137 and UG-130138).

- 5 **THE COMMISSION ORDERS** That the date for answers to Puget Sound Energy's Petition for Reconsideration and Motion to Reopen the Record is continued to **March 15, 2013**.

¹ The Northwest Industrial Gas Users filed such comments with respect to Staff's first motion for continuance, stating its concern that Staff was engaged with PSE in settlement negotiations that might affect the resolution of Dockets UG-121705 and UG-130138.

- 6 **THE COMMISSION ORDERS FURTHER THAT** responses to Staff's Motion for Second Extension of Time to File Answers to Puget Sound Energy's Petition for Reconsideration and Motion to Reopen the Record, and any comments from other interested persons, must be filed by **3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2013.**

Dated at Olympia, Washington, and effective March 7, 2013.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DENNIS J. MOSS
Administrative Law Judge