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April 30, 2020

Via Electronic Filing Only

Mark L. Johnson
Executive Director
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Attn: Filing Center

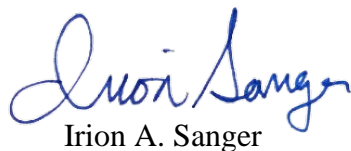
Re: Puget Sound Energy General Rate Case – Post-Hearing Reply Brief
Docket Nos. UE-190529, UG-190530, UE-190274, UG-190275, UE-190991, UG190992,
UE-171225, and UG-171226 (*Consolidated*)

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned docket, please find the NW Energy Coalition's Response to Bench Request No. 15. No hard copies will be sent at this time but can be provided upon request.

Thank you for your assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Irion A. Sanger

Enclosure

cc. ALJ Rayne Pearson via email
Master Service List via email

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UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant, v.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY,

Respondent.

DOCKET NOS. UE-190529, UG-
190530, UE-190274, UG-190275, UE-
190991, UG-190992, UE-171225, and
UG-171226 (*Consolidated*)

RESPONSE TO BENCH REQUEST NO. 15

NW ENERGY COALITION

April 30, 2020

The NW Energy Coalition (“NWECC”) hereby respectfully submits this Response to Bench Request No. 15 and to aid the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (“UTC” or “Commission”) in its decision regarding whether Puget Sound Energy’s (“PSE”) General Rate Case and consolidated dockets will result in rates and services that are fair to both PSE and its ratepayers.

As explained in NWECC’s testimony and briefing, NWECC’s primary concerns in this docket have been to ensure that the public interest is adequately protected, consistency with state public policy goals, and to mitigate the impacts of the rate increase. As noted in Bench Request No. 15, the COVID-19 pandemic and related Governor Proclamations have significantly changed the circumstances since the evidentiary hearing in this docket and resulted in a need to explore further options to mitigate the impact of any rate increase.

In briefing, NWECC noted that the pandemic will mean there are many more low-income and jobless customers and therefore many more customers who will be more

significantly impacted by a rate increase.¹ NWECC therefore recommended that existing recommendations in this docket to increase energy efficiency, increasing bill assistance, and minimize disconnections be adopted.² NWECC understands that Bench Request No. 15 does not ask parties to re-litigate contested issues in this docket, but simply highlights those recommendations for Commission consideration.

PSE has a significant interest in ensuring that it does not saddle its customers with overly burdensome rate increases in light of this pandemic. NWECC does not have any specific recommendations at this time beyond what was noted in briefing, but looks forward to hearing PSE and other parties' recommendations. NWECC reserves the right to submit reply comments to such recommendations.

¹ NW Energy Coalition Post-Hearing Reply Brief at 6-8.

² *See id.*