



However, providing audited financial statements for 2001 will not changed the lack of results for 1999 and 2000.

Ever since it received its interim rate increase, Olympic has attempted to delay this proceeding, resulting in an unnecessarily complex and expensive rate case. Olympic's motion is the latest in a series of attempts to delay the case. Previous requests were denied and this one should be similarly denied. If Olympic is truly not prepared for hearings that commence tomorrow, Olympic is free to withdraw its tariff and refile its case with the Commission. Neither the shippers nor the public interest is served by continuing uncertainty in Olympic's rates brought about by further delay in deciding this request for a 62 percent general rate increase.

Olympic also cites possible settlement discussions as justification for delay. Tosco has and continues to be willing to discuss settlement. However, Tosco agrees with Staff's position that settlement is unlikely. Furthermore, parties are always free to discuss settlement during the course of the hearings. Thus, merely noting the possibility of settlement discussions is not justification for delay of this proceeding. The case is ready for hearing and should progress toward a resolution on the current schedule.

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Respectfully submitted,

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