

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of	)	DOCKET UE-121373
)	
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.,	)	ORDER 06
)	
For Approval of a Power Purchase	)	CONTINUING THE DEADLINE
Agreement for Acquisition of Coal	)	DATE FOR PARTIES TO FILE
Transition Power, as Defined in RCW	)	ANSWERS TO PUGET SOUND
80.80.010, and the Recovery of Related	)	ENERGY'S PETITION FOR
Acquisition Costs	)	RECONSIDERATION AND MOTION
	)	TO REOPEN THE RECORD
	)	(Due by May 30, 2013)
)	
	)	AND
)	
	)	REVISED NOTICE OF INTENTION
	)	TO ACT
	)	(By June 28, 2013, subject to further
.....	)	notice)

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 or Company) 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. According to Staff's motion:

Staff and PSE agree that this continuance will allow the parties time 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-13[0137] and UG-

13[0138]), which Staff anticipates will be filed by PSE [on February 1, 2013]. The requested continuance should not prejudice any of the parties to this case. Furthermore, the requested extension of time is not inconsistent with the public interest or the Commission's administrative needs. Indeed, the public interest will be served by a global resolution of the five dockets referenced above. Good cause, therefore, exists for the Commission to grant the requested extension of time.

The Commission granted Staff's motion over the objections of Public Counsel and ICNU, continuing the date for responses until March 8, 2013.

3 Staff filed its motion for a second extension on Wednesday, March 6, 2013. Staff stated essentially the same rationale as in its previous motion for continuance. Given the shortness of time between Staff's filing and the deadline it sought to postpone a second time, the Commission acted on its own motion to continue the March 8, 2013, procedural date until March 15, 2013. The Commission gave parties until March 12, 2013, to respond to Staff's second motion and set it for oral argument on March 14, 2013.

4 The Commission also placed the decoupling dockets and the ERF dockets on its open meeting agenda for March 14, 2013. This juxtaposition of the hearing and the open meeting processes would provide the opportunities necessary to determine how best to proceed in a rational and deliberate manner to resolve expeditiously all of these pending matters. Following discussion at the open meeting, the Commission suspended and set for hearing the ERF tariff filing.¹ The Commission also set for hearing the decoupling dockets.²

5 Immediately after the open meeting, the Commission convened the hearing on Staff's second motion for continuance. Considering the parties' arguments and its actions

¹ *In the Matter of Puget Sound Energy, Inc.'s Expedited Rate Filing*, Dockets UE-130137 and UG-130138, Order 01-Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions (March 14, 2013).

² *In the Matter of the Petition of Puget Sound Energy, Inc. and NW Energy Coalition, for an Order Authorizing PSE to Implement Electric and Natural Gas Decoupling Mechanisms and to Record Accounting Entries Associated with the Mechanisms*, Dockets UE-121697 and UG-121705, Order 01-Order Setting for Hearing Puget Sound Energy, Inc., and NW Energy Coalition's Joint Petition To Implement Electric and Natural Gas Decoupling Mechanisms (March 14, 2013).

taken during the open meeting, the Commission acted on its own motion to continue the date for filing responses to PSE's pending petition for reconsideration and motion to reopen until March 27, 2013. This was to allow time for the undersigned administrative law judge to conduct a joint prehearing conference in the five pending dockets on March 22, 2013,³ one purpose of which was to establish process and procedural schedules to ensure their expeditious resolution while protecting all interested stakeholders' procedural rights.

6 This goal was achieved and the Commission set a common procedural schedule for the decoupling and ERF dockets, including a May 16, 2013, hearing date and setting May 30, 2013, as the date for parties to file simultaneous post-hearing briefs. The Commission intends to enter its final order, or orders, in these dockets by June 28, 2013, barring unforeseen changes in circumstances that prevent the Commission from achieving this goal.

7 All things considered, including the stipulation proposing resolutions in all five dockets, filed by PSE, Staff and NWEA shortly before the March 22, 2013, prehearing conference, it now appears most prudent and administratively convenient to resolve all of these matters, including the pending petition for reconsideration and motion to reopen in this Docket UE-121373, on a common schedule. The Commission accordingly determines that it should continue the deadline for filing responses to PSE's pending petition for reconsideration and motion to reopen the record until May 30, 2013, the date established for briefs, following hearing, in the decoupling and ERF dockets. The Commission also determines it should give notice revising the date by which it intends to take final action with respect to the petition and motion. We set that date at June 28, 2013, subject to revision by further notice, if appropriate in light of developments.

8 **THE COMMISSION ORDERS** That Staff's Motion for 30-Day Extension of Time to File Answers to Puget Sound Energy's Petition for Reconsideration and Motion to Reopen the Record is DENIED. The Commission, on its own motion, continues the deadline for filing such answers to May 30, 2013.

³ This was the earliest date possible for such a prehearing conference considering the minimum statutory notice requirement of seven days. RCW 34.05.434(1).

- 9 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE** That it intends to take final action with respect to PSE's pending Petition for Reconsideration and Motion to Reopen the Record in Docket UE-121373 no later than June 28, 2013, unless such date is revised by further notice in light of developments subsequent to the date of this Order and Notice.

Dated at Olympia, Washington, and effective March 22, 2013.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DENNIS J. MOSS
Administrative Law Judge