Docket No. UE-200115 - Vol. I

In the Matter of the Application of Puget Sound Energy

March 13, 2020



COURT REPORTING AND LEGAL VIDEO

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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON	1 A P P E A R A N C E S (Cont.)
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION	FOR AWEC:
In the Matter of the)DOCKET UE-200115 Application of) PUGET SOUND ENERGY) For an Order Authorizing) the Sale of All of Puget) Sound Energy's Interests) in Colstrip Unit 4 and) Certain of Puget Sound) Energy's Interests in the) Colstrip Transmission) System) PREHEARING CONFERENCE, VOLUME I Pages 1-67 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANDREW J. O'CONNELL March 13, 2020 9:30 a.m. Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission 621 Woodland Square Loop Southeast Lacey, Washington 98503 REPORTED BY: TAYLER GARLINGHOUSE, CCR 3358 Buell Realtime Reporting, LLC	FOR AWEC: (Via bridge) BRENT COLEMAN Davison Van Cleve, PC 1750 SW Harbor Way, Suite 450 Portland, Oregon 97201 (503) 241-7242 FOR SIERRA CLUB: (Via bridge) JESSICA YARNALL LOARIE Senior Attorney Sierra Club Environmental Law Program 2101 Webster Street, Suite 1300 Oakland, California 94612 (415) 977-5636 POR NWEC & RENEWABLE FOR NWEC & RENEWABLE FOR NWEC & RENEWABLE YOU NORTHWEST: (Via bridge) MARIE BARLOW Sanger Law P.C. 16 1041 SE 58th Place Portland, Oregon 97215 17 (503) 420-7734 marie@sanger-law.com B POR NATURAL RESOURCES DEFFENSE COUNCIL: Via bridge) KATE WHITE TUDOR
1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 1840	21 2417 Capitol Way South Olympia, Washington 98501
Seattle, Washington 98101 (206) 287-9066 Seattle (360) 534-9066 Olympia (800) 846-6989 National www.buellrealtime.com	22 (360) 402-1272 kate@whitetudor.com 23 24 25
Page 2	Page 4
1 A P P E A R A N C E S 2 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE 3 ANDREW J. O'CONNELL 4 - 5 FOR COMMISSION STAFF: 6 JOE DALLAS 7 Assistant Attorney General Attorney General's Office 8 PO Box 47250 0/ympia, Washington 98504 9 (360) 664-1192 joe.dallas@utc.wa.gov 10 11 FOR PUBLIC COUNSEL: 12 (Via bridge) 13 Attorney General's Office 800 - 5th Avenue, Suite 2000 14 Seattle, Washington 98104 (206) 464-6595 11 FOR PUGET SOUND ENERGY: 12 DAVID STEELE JASON KUZMA 19 Perkins Coie, LLP 10885 NE Fourth Street, Suite 4900 20 Bellevue, Washington 98004 (206) 359-8000 (206) 359-8000 21 (425) 635-1400 23 jkuzma@perkinscoie.com 23 jkuzma@perkinscoie.com	1 APPEARANCES(Cont.) 2 FOR AVISTA: 3 (Via bridge) MICHAEL ANDREA 3 Senior Counsel 4 Avista Corporation dba Avista 0 Utilities 5 1411 East Mission Avenue, MSC-23 5 Spokane, Washington 99220 6 (509) 495-2564 michael.andrea@avistacorp.com 7 FOR PACIFICORP: 9 (Via bridge) AJAY KUMAR 825 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 1800 Portland, Oregon 97232 (503) 813-5161 (503) 813-5161 11 ajay.kumar@pacificorp.com 7 FOR PORTLAND GENERAL 12 ELECTRIC: 14 (Via bridge) LORETTA MABINTON 9 Oregon 97204 16 (503) 464-8926 17 Portland, Oregon 97204 16 (503) 464-8926 17 Ioretta.mabinton@pgn.com 17 12 18 13 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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1	LACEY, WASHINGTON; MARCH 13, 2020	1	MR. ANDREA: This is Michael Andrea,
2	9:30 A.M.	2	in-house counsel for Avista.
3	000	3	JUDGE O'CONNELL: PacifiCorp?
4	PROCEEDINGS	4	MR. KUMAR: Yes, Your Honor. This is Ajay
5		5	Kumar, appearing on behalf of PacifiCorp.
6	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Let's be on the record.	6	JUDGE O'CONNELL: And Portland General
7	Good morning. The time is approximately 9:30 a.m.	7	Electric?
8	My name is Andrew O'Connell. I'm an	8	MS. MABINTON: Loretta Mabinton with
9	administrative law judge with the Washington Utilities	9	Portland General Electric.
10	and Transportation Commission, and I will be presiding	10	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.
11	in this matter along with the Commissioners.	11	So I have a couple preliminary questions.
12	We're here today for a prehearing conference	12	First for PSE, my question is about Northwestern. Is
13	in Docket UE-200115, which is the sale of PSE's interest	13	Northwestern going to have counsel of their own
14	in Colstrip plant Units 3 and 4.	14	participate in this proceeding or participating at all?
15	Let's move forward with appearances starting	15	MR. KUZMA: I I don't believe that
16	with PSE.	16	they're going to participate in the proceeding, Your
17	MR. STEELE: Good morning. This is David	17	Honor. They may be phoning in just to hear. I don't
18	Steele with Perkins Coie on behalf of PSE.	18	know if anybody's online for Northwestern. They can
19	MR. KUZMA: I'm Jason Kuzma as well.	19	respond directly.
20	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.	20	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. My curiosity came
21	And Staff?	21	from the fact that, you know, they're purchasing, and I
22	MR. DALLAS: Joe Dallas, Assistant Attorney	22	just wanted to know if we should expect that PSE will be
23	General.	23	in contact with them throughout this proceeding.
24	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Public Counsel?	24	MR. KUZMA: Yes, Your Honor. I am in
25	MS. GAFKEN: Lisa Gafken, Assistant Attorney	25	contact with Northwestern frequently on this. I did let
	Page 6		Page 8
1	Page 6	1	Page 8
1	General, appearing on behalf of Public Counsel.	1	them know we were having the prehearing conference today
2	General, appearing on behalf of Public Counsel. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.	2	them know we were having the prehearing conference today and provided them with the call-in information. I don't
2 3	General, appearing on behalf of Public Counsel. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you. For the Alliance of Western Energy	2 3	them know we were having the prehearing conference today and provided them with the call-in information. I don't know if anybody's online, though.
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2 3	General, appearing on behalf of Public Counsel. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you. For the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers?	2 3	them know we were having the prehearing conference today and provided them with the call-in information. I don't know if anybody's online, though. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you. Next, there's a case before the Montana
2 3 4 5	General, appearing on behalf of Public Counsel. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you. For the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers? MR. COLEMAN: Brent Coleman of the law firm of Davison Van Cleve on behalf of the Alliance of	2 3 4 5	them know we were having the prehearing conference today and provided them with the call-in information. I don't know if anybody's online, though. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you. Next, there's a case before the Montana Commission and I'm curious as to whether any of the
2 3 4 5 6	General, appearing on behalf of Public Counsel. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you. For the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers? MR. COLEMAN: Brent Coleman of the law firm of Davison Van Cleve on behalf of the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers.	2 3 4 5 6	them know we were having the prehearing conference today and provided them with the call-in information. I don't know if anybody's online, though. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you. Next, there's a case before the Montana Commission and I'm curious as to whether any of the interested parties here have also intervened in that
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	General, appearing on behalf of Public Counsel. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you. For the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers? MR. COLEMAN: Brent Coleman of the law firm of Davison Van Cleve on behalf of the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you. And Sierra Club? MS. YARNALL LOARIE: This is Jessica Yarnall Loarie on behalf of Sierra Club. JUDGE O'CONNELL: And Northwest Energy Coalition? MS. BARLOW: Marie Barlow with Sanger Law, appearing for Northwest Energy Coalition. JUDGE O'CONNELL: And, Ms. Barlow, are you also appearing for Renewable Northwest? MS. BARLOW: Yes, Renewable Northwest as well. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you. Natural Resources Defense Council?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	them know we were having the prehearing conference today and provided them with the call-in information. I don't know if anybody's online, though. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you. Next, there's a case before the Montana Commission and I'm curious as to whether any of the interested parties here have also intervened in that Montana case. So first, I'm just going to go down the list of intervenors. Sierra Club, did you also petition to intervene in the Montana case? MS. YARNALL LOARIE: No, we have not. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Northwest Energy Coalition? MS. BARLOW: Yes, both Northwest Energy Coalition and Renewable Northwest have intervened there. JUDGE O'CONNELL: And was your intervention granted? MS. BARLOW: Yes. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Natural Resources Defense Council?
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	General, appearing on behalf of Public Counsel. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you. For the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers? MR. COLEMAN: Brent Coleman of the law firm of Davison Van Cleve on behalf of the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you. And Sierra Club? MS. YARNALL LOARIE: This is Jessica Yarnall Loarie on behalf of Sierra Club. JUDGE O'CONNELL: And Northwest Energy Coalition? MS. BARLOW: Marie Barlow with Sanger Law, appearing for Northwest Energy Coalition. JUDGE O'CONNELL: And, Ms. Barlow, are you also appearing for Renewable Northwest? MS. BARLOW: Yes, Renewable Northwest as well. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you. Natural Resources Defense Council? MS. WHITE TUDOR: Kate White Tudor,	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	them know we were having the prehearing conference today and provided them with the call-in information. I don't know if anybody's online, though. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you. Next, there's a case before the Montana Commission and I'm curious as to whether any of the interested parties here have also intervened in that Montana case. So first, I'm just going to go down the list of intervenors. Sierra Club, did you also petition to intervene in the Montana case? MS. YARNALL LOARIE: No, we have not. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Northwest Energy Coalition? MS. BARLOW: Yes, both Northwest Energy Coalition and Renewable Northwest have intervened there. JUDGE O'CONNELL: And was your intervention granted? MS. BARLOW: Yes. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Natural Resources Defense Council? MS. WHITE TUDOR: Yes, we have intervened in

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	Page 9		Page 11
1	MR. ANDREA: No, we have not.	1	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.
2	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. PacifiCorp?	2	Ms. Yarnall Loarie?
3	MR. KUMAR: We have not intervened in the	3	MS. YARNALL LOARIE: That's correct. I
4	Montana case, Your Honor.	4	think it's early on in this case, so I'm not sure if our
5	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.	5	positions are aligned just yet or not. You know, I
6	Portland General Electric?	6	think time will tell. We've had some initial
7	MS. MABINTON: No, we have not.	7	discussions as Ms. Barlow stated, but not not much.
8	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. And, PSE, I'm	8	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.
9	curious if you have intervened.	9	And, Ms. Mabinton?
10	MR. KUZMA: No, we have not, Your Honor.	10	MS. MABINTON: PGE?
11	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Next question for	11	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Oh, I'm sorry. I I
12	Northwest Energy Coalition and Renewable Northwest, I	12	apologize. I looked at the wrong list. Apologize.
13	see that obviously, Ms. Barlow, you have the same	13	Ms. White Tudor?
14	attorneys for these two entities, to what extent are	14	MS. WHITE TUDOR: Yes, similarly we are
15	Northwest Energy Coalition and Renewable Northwest	15	working on organizing outreach to some of the others in
16	aligned in this matter?	16	the environmental community, but at this point, we don't
17	MS. BARLOW: I believe they are pretty much	17	have a specific position in this case. We know we need
18	fully aligned on their positions. One or the other may	18	to explore some more of the facts and more of the
19	take some position in this matter, but they committed to	19	discovery as it comes out to establish that position.
20	work together to sort of not not oppose some of	20	And at this point, we are looking forward to those
21	you know, some of the other positions that they that	21	conversations and finding alignment where it appears.
22	one may take over the other. But they both in this case	22	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.
23	and in Montana have retained one attorney for both of	23	So at this point, typically at prehearing
24	them, and they are going anticipating on submitting	24	conferences, we proceed to petitions to intervene. I'm
25	sort of the testimony and everything jointly.	25	going to rearrange the items that we usually address
	D		
	Page 10		Page 12
1	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you. That	1	Page 12 here in a prehearing conference. I expect to have quite
1 2		1 2	-
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3 (Pages 9 to 12)

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	Page 13		Page 15
1	this year. And so also there is the issue of, you know,	1	this case. I know we have some interested persons
2	when does the order become final. There's there's a	2	before us today that may not be familiar with our filing
3	30-day period after the hearing after the issuance of	3	and service rules. I want to remind everyone that
4	the order.	4	filing and service are done electronically now according
5	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.	5	to the Commission rule, but in this case, the Commission
6	MR. KUZMA: So that's why I'm raising it, is	6	is going to also require the filing of an original and
7	that that's getting us probably perilously close to the	7	three paper copies for internal distributions. If the
8	end of the year.	8	filings include any information designated as
9	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. So what I hear you	9	confidential or highly confidential, please file the
10	say is that an order would need to be issued prior to	10	original and three copies of the fully unredacted
11	November 30th for to for the 30 days to pass after	11	version. No paper copy is necessary for the partly
12	that before the end of the year? Is there some lag time	12	redacted or fully redacted versions. Those can just be
13	that needs to happen after the issuance of the order?	13	filed electronically.
14	MR. KUZMA: Yeah, I would say that it would	14	Also, the Commission's rules provide for
15	need to be probably more like November 13th is the very	15	electronic service of documents. The Commission will
16	latest we could have an order and still be able to close	16	serve the parties electronically and the parties will
17	the deal, because the 30 days plus the period that it	17	serve each other electronically.
18	would need to take to close the deal with Northwestern.	18	If any party has not yet designated a lead
19	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Let me	19	representative for service, please do so immediately via
20	MR. KUZMA: Yeah, I believe that you	20	an email to me. And also if you would like to add
21	know, we have communicated this with Commission Staff.	21	anyone else from your support staff, names and email
22	They had put together a proposed schedule that that	22	addresses of those representatives or support staff
23	would have at at the very extreme allowed us to do	23	should be sent to me as well. My email is
24	that under those those circumstances as the worst	24	andrew.j.oconnell@utc.wa.gov.
25	case scenario.	25	MR. KUMAR: Your Honor, this is Ajay Kumar
	Dago 14		
	Page 14		Page 16
1	JUDGE O'CONNELL: I understand. So the	1	
1 2		1	Page 16 on behalf of PacifiCorp. I just have a quick question about the paper filing requirement, and I just would
	JUDGE O'CONNELL: I understand. So the		on behalf of PacifiCorp. I just have a quick question
2	JUDGE O'CONNELL: I understand. So the Commission's concern is our our availability. I	2	on behalf of PacifiCorp. I just have a quick question about the paper filing requirement, and I just would
2 3	JUDGE O'CONNELL: I understand. So the Commission's concern is our our availability. I will when we take our recess, I will confirm dates of	2 3	on behalf of PacifiCorp. I just have a quick question about the paper filing requirement, and I just would like to request that maybe the paper filing requirements
2 3 4	JUDGE O'CONNELL: I understand. So the Commission's concern is our our availability. I will when we take our recess, I will confirm dates of our availability and see if there is any wiggle room for	2 3 4	on behalf of PacifiCorp. I just have a quick question about the paper filing requirement, and I just would like to request that maybe the paper filing requirements be waived for the next 30 days. We may have some if
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	JUDGE O'CONNELL: I understand. So the Commission's concern is our our availability. I will when we take our recess, I will confirm dates of our availability and see if there is any wiggle room for that. I'm unaware of any flexibility at this point, but I understand the the details that you're bringing up and I'm will check and see if we can make any additional availability. So I was going to say that the timing for the rebuttal and cross-answering in this case, if there was a hearing date of October 14th, would be that we wanted rebuttal and cross-answering filed no later than September 2nd. That's approximately five weeks before the hearing. If that hearing date is moved to some other time, we would expect the the time between the filing of final testimony, rebuttal and cross-answering, there would be five weeks from that time, at least five weeks from that time, until the hearing date. And like I said, I expect that we will take a recess later on to allow discussion of a procedural schedule. During that recess, I will confirm the flexibility, or lack thereof, of the hearing date.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	on behalf of PacifiCorp. I just have a quick question about the paper filing requirement, and I just would like to request that maybe the paper filing requirements be waived for the next 30 days. We may have some if a lot of the folks in our office are working from home, it may make it more operationally difficult for us to file paper copies. JUDGE O'CONNELL: And, Mr it's a that's a reasonable request. Mr. Kumar, what are you expecting to file within the next 30 days? MR. KUMAR: I don't think we are expecting to file much in the next 30 days, I just wanted to raise the issue. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Let me think on that for a little bit. I think that's a very reasonable request given the circumstances, and let me think on it, and I will return to the the parties with more information on it. My initial reaction is it's very reasonable. Last thing before we get to the petitions to intervene, during proceedings at the Commission, parties often request that any data requests and responses are shared with every other party with the typical me too data requests. I intend to include this as a

4 (Pages 13 to 16)

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	Page 17	Page 19
1	requirement in the order?	1 at the outset that I'm currently doubtful of the
2	MS. GAFKEN: No objection from Public	2 substantial interests shown in your petition to
3	Counsel, and we would support that being in the	3 intervene or the value to the public interest that your
4	prehearing conference order.	4 intervention might provide, and I'm going to offer you
5	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.	5 the opportunity to provide more information to explain
6	So I'm not hearing any objection. Hearing	6 your substantial interest and the value to the public
7	that there are no objections, I will include that in the	7 interest of your intervention.
8	prehearing conference order.	8 The Commission evaluates petitions to
9	Okay. Now that brings us to the petitions	9 intervene on the standard of whether you have a
10	to intervene. I have received several written petitions	10 substantial interest in the proceeding or whether your
11	for intervention and some written oppositions. Are	11 participation would be in the public interest.
12	there any petitions to intervene other than the ones	12 So I'd first like to hear from Renewable
13	that have been filed in writing with the Commission?	13 Northwest. After having read PSE's objection that they
14	Okay. Hearing none, let's proceed.	14 filed in writing and your reply, the Commission doesn't
15	I have petitions to intervene from the	15 advance other commercial interests, and we would be
16	Alliance of Western Energy Consumers, Sierra Club,	16 concerned about including you as a party to the extent
17	Northwest Energy Coalition, Renewable Northwest, Natural	17 you're representing commercial interests competitive
18	Resources Defense Council, Avista, PacifiCorp, and	18 with PSE. My question for Renewable Northwest,
19	Portland General Electric.	19 Ms. Barlow, is who are you representing and what is your
20	I've received from sorry, the Commission	20 interest in this matter?
21	has received from PSE written objections to the	21 MS. BARLOW: So I thank you, Judge. I
22	interventions of Renewable Northwest and Portland	2.2 I won't reiterate everything from our written reply, but
23	General Electric. I have also received a reply to PSE's	23 I think Renewable Northwest has primarily been engaged
24	written objection from Renewable Northwest.	24 in the Northwest to to for the expansion of
25	So let me ask of PSE, are there any other	25 renewables. They envision a Northwest powered by clean,
	Page 18	Page 20
1	objections to petitions to intervene in this case?	1 affordable, reliable, and renewable energy, and they've
2	MR. STEELE: No, Your Honor.	
		2 primarily not been advocating for private commercial
3	II IDGE O'CONNELL: Are there any other	2 primarily not been advocating for private commercial 3 interest, but for the advancement of renewables, whether
3 4	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Are there any other objections from anyone else as to petitions to	3 interest, but for the advancement of renewables, whether
4	objections from anyone else as to petitions to	interest, but for the advancement of renewables, whetherthose are owned by a utility or an independent third
4 5	objections from anyone else as to petitions to intervene? And I'm looking at Staff and then I will	 interest, but for the advancement of renewables, whether those are owned by a utility or an independent third party, they've they've generally kept that position
4 5 6	objections from anyone else as to petitions to intervene? And I'm looking at Staff and then I will hear from Public Counsel.	 interest, but for the advancement of renewables, whether those are owned by a utility or an independent third party, they've they've generally kept that position consistent.
4 5	objections from anyone else as to petitions to intervene? And I'm looking at Staff and then I will hear from Public Counsel. MR. DALLAS: No, Your Honor.	 interest, but for the advancement of renewables, whether those are owned by a utility or an independent third party, they've they've generally kept that position consistent. And they've had a long history
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5 (Pages 17 to 20)

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	Page 21		Page 23
1	In addition, it would be in the public	1	each of the petitions to intervene.
2	interest because they have unique experience working on	2	But right now, as it applies to Renewable
3	the Colstrip transmission system and and Montana	3	Northwest, PSE, I'd like to hear from you in your
4	Renewable Development Action Plan that has been going on	4	response to Renewable Northwest.
5	at Bonneville, but they can help assist the Commission	5	MR. STEELE: Thank you, Your Honor. So this
6	to understand whether the the proposed transmission	6	is the substantial interest test, it's it's really
7	sale also is is a necessary step. And, you know,	7	· · · ·
8	Puget has said that that won't have any effect on	8	a statutory test. It asks the question as to whether or not the intervenor has a statutory right to be a part of
9		9	
10	transmission availability in the region, but that it we can't just accept that. It's why Renewable	10	the case. And it's almost a standing question, what is their statutory or legal basis for being in the case?
11	Northwest wants to be able to intervene so that they can	11	
12	-	12	Having an organizational interest, having organizational interests by its members, those are not those do not
13	investigate those issues and provide input on that point.	13	meet the requirements of a substantial interest in this
14	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. So I I have a	14	-
14	couple of follow-up questions. First of all, I'm I'm	15	Case.
16	not sure that this is the right forum for promoting the	16	The Commission's purpose and the purpose of
17	interests of the entities represented by Renewable	17	this proceeding here is to determine whether or not the
18	Northwest; however, your point about the experience and	18	proposed transactions are consistent with the public
19	expertise of the group is noted. I am curious,	19	interest for for residents in Washington, for for PSE's customers in Washington. Having organizational
20	Renewable Northwest is a nonprofit and and an	20	interests about environmental issues or carbonization
20	advocacy group, but how should we interpret Renewable	21	
21	Northwest also representing entities that are in a	22	issues or those types of things are are noteworthy,
23	competitive renewable energy industry?	23	but there are many nonprofit organizations in the region that that that have those types of interests.
24	MS. BARLOW: Well, and I think that goes to	24	Those don't grant a party a statutory substantial basis
25	the the case that we cited in our reply comments,	25	for being a part of this proceeding. And so I so
20	the the case that we cited in our reply comments,	25	to being a part of this proceeding. And so I so
	Page 22		
	rage 22		Page 24
1	which had to do with the Northwest & Intermountain Power	1	
1 2	which had to do with the Northwest & Intermountain Power	1 2	we we don't believe that they've met the test for
	which had to do with the Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition, which is a trade association that		
2	which had to do with the Northwest & Intermountain Power	2	we we don't believe that they've met the test for showing a substantial interest in this proceeding.
2 3	which had to do with the Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition, which is a trade association that represents solely those who are commercial interests.	2 3	we we don't believe that they've met the test for showing a substantial interest in this proceeding. As far as the public interest goes
2 3 4	which had to do with the Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition, which is a trade association that represents solely those who are commercial interests. And there, the the Commission allowed that	2 3 4	we we don't believe that they've met the test for showing a substantial interest in this proceeding. As far as the public interest goes JUDGE O'CONNELL: Well, can I stop you right
2 3 4 5	which had to do with the Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition, which is a trade association that represents solely those who are commercial interests. And there, the the Commission allowed that intervention despite the fact that they would	2 3 4 5	we we don't believe that they've met the test for showing a substantial interest in this proceeding. As far as the public interest goes JUDGE O'CONNELL: Well, can I stop you right there
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	Page 25		Page 27
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1	And so there's there's a lot of		careful to avoid duplication and burdening this
2	nonprofits in the state or in the region that might have		proceeding with with issues that frankly should not
3	interests in this that that are not participating in		be a part of this case.
4	this case. Having an interest does not give you a	4	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.
5	substantial interest by law, and and I think that's	5	Ms. Barlow, let me hear from you one more
6	an important distinction, and and I'm not sure		time.
7	Renewable Northwest has shown that here. They've shown	7	MS. BARLOW: Sure. On on the substantial
8	that their members have an interest, but but to the		interest piece, I think the the recently passed
9	extent they have Washington nonprofits whose members are		legislation in Washington making it a goal to get a
10	PSE customers, you know, that's pretty far down the		hundred percent clean energy makes it an interest in
11	chain when when you've got Public Counsel in the case		in the in the public interest for for there to be,
12	and you've got Staff who are here to represent the		you know, considerations of whether this proposed
13	interests of PSE ratepayers.		transaction is actually necessary to to meet those
14	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you. I I		goals. You know, Renewable Northwest hasn't developed a
15	interrupted you. Please, you wanted to say something		position on whether it is or isn't at this point, but
16	else about public interests.		the the claim that PSE has made that it is, I think
17	MR. STEELE: Well, I I think it's		Renewable Northwest can you know, they have they
18	important to to talk about that because I think I		have a role to play in the Northwest to advocate for
19	think in in reviewing the reply, I think there is		for the interests of the people in in Washington
20	concern about scope here and about what their intentions		who who want to meet these renewable energy goals.
21	are. And and they do talk about commercial interests	21	JUDGE O'CONNELL: So
22	and expanding the marketplace, and they list a host of	22	MS. BARLOW: And
23	different nonprofits with with a varying you know,	23	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Ms. Barlow, I'm going to
24	a broad range of interests. And so I think there is		let you continue in a moment. I I understand the
25	concern about how what what types of issues do	25	point that you're making. I think that the question I
	Page 26		Page 28
1		1	have is, why is Renewable Northwest's intervention
1 2	they want to explore in this case. I think there's	⊥	
∠ 3		l -	-
	concerns about duplication with some of the other		necessary in order to have those interests represented
	parties in this case. They've already talked about	3	necessary in order to have those interests represented for renewable energy and compliance with statutory
4	parties in this case. They've already talked about sharing resources, sharing briefing, I mean, is are	3 4	necessary in order to have those interests represented for renewable energy and compliance with statutory legislative direction? We do have Public Counsel and
4 5	parties in this case. They've already talked about sharing resources, sharing briefing, I mean, is are they really needed? Are they necessary to advance the	3 4 5	necessary in order to have those interests represented for renewable energy and compliance with statutory legislative direction? We do have Public Counsel and Staff already in this case, so what I want to hear is
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4 5 6 7	parties in this case. They've already talked about sharing resources, sharing briefing, I mean, is are they really needed? Are they necessary to advance the purposes of this proceeding? And so I think I think there is real	3 4 5 6 7	necessary in order to have those interests represented for renewable energy and compliance with statutory legislative direction? We do have Public Counsel and Staff already in this case, so what I want to hear is more about what Renewable Northwest as a party would be bringing to the case to help the decision.
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7 (Pages 25 to 28)

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	5 00		2 21
	Page 29		Page 31
1	Electric. Ms. Mabinton, I want to understand better	1	MS. MABINTON: Your Honor, we agree that
2	what PGE's interest in PSE's sale in this these	2	the the Oregon Commission will be looking out for
3	transactions that are the subject of this proceeding,	3	PGE's customers and PGE. So we we have interest in
4	what is Portland General Electric's interest in this	4	this proceeding as a a counterparty to PSE and a
5	case?	5	contract that PSE has listed as one of the assets that
6	MS. MABINTON: Your Honor, our position	6	they are selling and is seeking their approval to sell.
7	should Portland General is a coowner in the Colstrip	7	PSE's PSE's is not setting PGE has no interest in
8	Unit 4 plant. We're owners with owner interest in	8	PSE's 35 percent interest in the plant, but our interest
9	undivided ownership, so we are joined at the hip of the	9	in the plant is undivided. And more importantly, the
10	space. But in this application, PSE essentially said	10	material contract that PSE has put in front of the
11	that they're asking the Commission's approval to try to	11	Commission for approval, are contracts that we are all
12	sell the transferred asset. The transferred assets	12	signatories to.
13	include the Colstrip plants and the material contract.	13	JUDGE O'CONNELL: So are you saying that PSE
14	PSE has put the material contract before the	14	needs the approval of the other co-owners so sell its
15	Commission. PGE is a counterparty to the material	15 16	interest?
16 17	contract, and as a party to the contract that PSE has		MS. MABINTON: Well, we we
17	put in front of the Commission, we have a substantial	17	haven't we don't fully understand what PSE is
18 19	interest in the subject matter of this proceeding. JUDGE O'CONNELL: What jurisdiction does the	18 19	proposing to do in connection with this transaction, and that is why our participation in this proceeding is
20	Commission have over PGE?	20	is necessary so that we the agreement that the
20	MS. MABINTON: Your Your Honor, the	20	Commission is asked to approve the assignment on, the
22	Commission has jurisdiction over us because we will	22	Commission wants to be sure that it actually is not
23	remain in your proceeding.	23	going to do anything to the utilities. If it approves
24	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. How will your	24	the assignment, that it will actually be effective.
25	participation as a party benefit the disposition of this	25	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.
20			
		1	
	Page 30		Page 32
1	Page 30	1	Page 32
1	proceeding?	1	Let me turn to PSE now. Mr. Steele, go
2	proceeding? MS. MABINTON: Our participation in this	2	Let me turn to PSE now. Mr. Steele, go ahead.
2 3	proceeding? MS. MABINTON: Our participation in this proceeding is because of our interest in the subject	2 3	Let me turn to PSE now. Mr. Steele, go ahead. MR. STEELE: Thank you, Your Honor. Your
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2 3 4	proceeding? MS. MABINTON: Our participation in this proceeding is because of our interest in the subject matter of the proceeding, and with owner interest in Colstrip 4 since the plant was constructed, and we have	2 3 4 5	Let me turn to PSE now. Mr. Steele, go ahead. MR. STEELE: Thank you, Your Honor. Your Honor, from from PSE's perspective, this is a relatively simple intervention. Portland General is an
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8 (Pages 29 to 32)

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	Page 33	Page 35
1	can explain the question. Hearing what PGE is saying,	1 The way we understand Washington law, a political
2	their interest is that they are a co-owner and it's an	2 position is an alternative test the sooner we have
3	undivided interest in the plant and that they should be	3 official interest our participation will be in the
4	able to see the transaction and weigh in on it. What	4 public interest. And what we have shown here is that we
5	what is your response to that?	5 have a substantial interest in in the subject matter
6	MR. STEELE: Can I have a moment, Your	6 of this proceeding.
7	Honor?	7 Washington public policy also favors the
8	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Yes.	8 inclusion of individual owner positions in
9	And while we have a break, I know that there	9 administrative [inaudible] affected their interest. PSE
10	is a prehearing conference that's currently scheduled	10 has listed a contract to which we have a party at some
11	for 10:30 a.m. Right now, it is 10:15 a.m. The	11 of actually multiple contracts to which we are a
12	parties or the the interested parties in that next	12 party as the asset that they are selling. And for PSE
13	prehearing conference, a lot of them are shared with	13 to then say that a counterparty to a contract does not
14	this proceeding, and I I just wanted to make those	14 have a substantial interest in that contract is baffling
15	parties that are at least here now aware that this	15 to us.
16	prehearing conference will delay the start of that	16 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Ms. Mabinton,
17	prehearing conference most likely.	17 that's not exactly what I'm hearing from PSE. What I'm
18	MR. STEELE: Apologies, Your Honor. Just	18 hearing from them is that that's a contractual matter
19	trying get the mic back on.	19 that the PGE is involved with PSE in, but they are
20	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Sure. All right,	20 going to but that doesn't there is another forum
21	Mr. Steele, go ahead.	21 where any dispute between parties who are signatories to
22	MR. STEELE: I'll reiterate. Those are	that contract would have a different forum other than
23	still all private contractual matters as far as between	23 this one.
24	the parties themselves. Those those their	24 MS MABINTON: And we and we agree that
25	their contractual interests and their concerns over the	25 that that the Commission the Commission is not
	Dage 24	
		Page 36
1	Page 34	Page 36
1	ownership shares, those are private contractual matters	1 adhered to adjudicate a dispute between the co-owners
2	ownership shares, those are private contractual matters that the parties worked out between themselves, and that	 adhered to adjudicate a dispute between the co-owners and we're not raising we we don't have any dispute
2 3	ownership shares, those are private contractual matters that the parties worked out between themselves, and that includes selling selling each other's interests, how	 adhered to adjudicate a dispute between the co-owners and we're not raising we we don't have any dispute with PSE on that contract. And if we did, the contract
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	ownership shares, those are private contractual matters that the parties worked out between themselves, and that includes selling selling each other's interests, how those interests would be resolved, issues like right of first refusal, those are all private contractual issues that are not before the Commission in this case. To the extent Portland General would like information about the proceeding or about PSE's sale, I mean, that information is is largely available publicly as part of the filing. And so, again, this is not the forum for Portland General to be trying to protect the interest of itself or its customers who are out of state. And from a public interest standpoint, they've provided no information as to how their participation will benefit the public interest, how it will benefit PSE customers, or even the state of Washington. There's they said nothing in their petition about about how that will their participation will advance public interest in any way. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.	adhered to adjudicate a dispute between the co-owners and we're not raising we we don't have any dispute with PSE on that contract. And if we did, the contract provides a mechanism to do that. Our interest in this provides a mechanism to do that. Our interest in this provides a mechanism to do that. Our interest in this provides a mechanism to do that. Our interest in this provides a mechanism to do that. Our interest in this provides a mechanism to do that. Our interest in this provides a mechanism to do that. Our interest in this provides a mechanism to do that. Our interest in this generating assets the material contract to which we are the co we are the co-parties to the contract. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. MR. STEELE: Your Honor, if I may? JUDGE O'CONNELL: Briefly, Mr. Steele. MR. STEELE: Any Commission decision in this case is not going to affect PGE's interest in the agreements that they're concerned about. Those are private contracts that that this proceeding won't be impacting. Their their interest in Colstrip Unit 4 with the transmission system are not going to be impacted by this proceeding. And to the extent they feel that they are, those are contractual issues where
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9 (Pages 33 to 36)

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1	like would also like to be heard on the issue of	1	the transaction may affect the cost borne by PacifiCorp
2	PGE's intervention. We have some thoughts that may be	2	and its customers, that means that your intervention
3	helpful to the Commission.	3	is you know, you have a substantial interest and it
4	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. One moment.	4	would be in the public interest to include you; did I
5	PGE, Ms. Mabinton, do you have any final	5	understand you correctly?
6	reply to PSE and Mr. Steele?	6	MR. KUMAR: Yes, and I think it goes maybe
7	MS. MABINTON: Well, Mr. Steele's contention	7	slightly beyond that, Your Honor. I think by allowing
8	is that if the proceeded, [inaudible] proceeded impact	8	PacifiCorp and the other co-owners, including PGE, to
9	PGE's interest, then PGE can go state a contractual	9	participate in this proceeding, they probably bring a
10	position to that. So talking about the perspective	10	unique perspective and sort of additional information
11	issues that may arise, and we have said that we are not	11	and additional issues on how this proposed transaction
12	seeking to resolve any contractual disputes in this	12	could affect the operation of Colstrip, which is well
13	forum. We are only seeking a position in this	13	within the Commission's jurisdiction.
14	proceeding because we have a substantial interest in it.	14	And so we do would like we would like
15	We we are also seeking a position that we	15	to be able to present that perspective to the Washington
16	do not intend to expand the scope of this proceeding,	16	Commission and allow you to consider as you determine
17	and we believe that, because of our interests in the	17	whether this transaction is in the public interest.
18	Colstrip contract and Colstrip, that the Commission	18	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Well, I I would agree
19	should grant PGE's petition to intervene in this	19	with you that the operations of Colstrip are within the
20	proceeding.	20	jurisdiction of the Commission by the fact that a number
21	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.	21	of Washington regulated utilities are co-owners of
22	I want to turn to PacifiCorp now. I have	22	Colstrip. I'm I'm not sure that I'm convinced
23	some questions, and I'm also going to afford you the	23	that that is the topic of this proceeding, the
24	opportunity to speak on PGE's intervention as well	24	operations of Colstrip. I think that the subject of
25	briefly. So, PacifiCorp, your petition to intervene	25	this proceeding are the the transactions between PSE
	Page 38		Page 40
1	says basically you're a co-owner of Colstrip and that	1	and Northwestern to to settle PSE's interest. I'm
1 2	gives you a substantial interest, and that is pretty	1 2	not sure that this has anything to do with the
3	much the extent of your petition to intervene. Why is	3	operations of Colstrip.
4	the fact that you're you happen to be a co-owner of	4	MR. KUMAR: Well, Your Honor, if if I
5	Colstrip give you a substantial interest in this case?	5	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Go head.
6	MR. KUMAR: Well, Your Honor, maybe I can	6	MR. KUMAR: Apologize, Your Honor. If I
7	elaborate on sort of what was included in our petition	7	may, I I might be able to provide maybe a little bit
8	to intervene. I think PacifiCorp has a substantial	8	more detail. I think that, you know, to the extent that
9	interest in this case because specifically this this	9	I think there are certain co-owners that may have some
10	transaction has the the potential to significantly	10	very specific interests and very specific questions
11	affect the costs that are borne by PacifiCorp and	11	regarding how this transaction will affect ongoing
12	PacifiCorp's customers, which includes customers in	12	capital additions at at Colstrip and how this
13	Washington.	13	transaction will affect sort of the the voting rights
14	As a result, I think that PacifiCorp has a	14	around those ongoing capital additions.
15	substantial interest in this case and a substantial	15	I think those specific issues, while they
16	interest in the outcome of these proceedings at the	16	are in the sort of realm of the operation of Colstrip,
17	Commission, as do our Washington customers. So I think	17	they're also deeply related to this transaction and how
18	when the Commission under four eight Administrative	18	this transaction is affected by sort of the voting
19	Code 480-143-170 has to determine whether or not this	19	rights and vote sharing agreement that is part of this
20	transaction is in the public interest, it should have	20	transaction.
21	the unique perspective that is offered by PacifiCorp as	21	As a result, I do think that the co some
22	a co-owner and as a utility that has to prudently manage	22	of the co-owners of Colstrip have unique perspectives to
23	Colstrip and advocate on behalf of its customers.	23	bring to bear improve Washington Commission upon this
24	JUDGE O'CONNELL: So you're saying that by	24	issue. And to the extent that this transaction could
25	fact of PacifiCorp having Washington ratepayers, that	25	raise costs on Washington customers for all the

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1	utilities, I think that is an issue that's squarely in	1	as your comments for PacifiCorp?
2	front of the Commission on this transaction.	2	MR. STEELE: Yes, Your Honor.
3	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you. I	3	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Mr. Kumar,
4	understand. Did you I I heard you mention PGE and	4	PacifiCorp, is there anything you'd like to add or in
5	its intervention, did is that all that you intended	5	response or in addition to what Mr. Steele has said?
6	to say and comment upon PGE's intervention?	6	MR. KUMAR: Nothing excuse me. No, Your
7	MR. KUMAR: Your Honor, I think that for	7	Honor. I think I've addressed my point.
8	many of the reasons that I articulated before, PGE is	8	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.
9	also a co-owner in Colstrip, and PacifiCorp supports	9	Then I'd like to turn to Avista.
10	their intervention because they do bring, again, that	10	Mr. Andrea, your petition to intervene has a lot of the
11	perspective on how on how this transaction could	11	same wording or similar wording as PacifiCorp's, that
12	affect those issues at Colstrip. And so I think that is	12	you're co-owner of Colstrip and that gives you a
13	an important perspective for the Commission to hear.	13	substantial interest. And why by the fact of you just
14	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.	14	being a co-owner does that give you a substantial
15	I will turn to PSE. Mr. Steele, there was	15	interest in this case?
16	no objection to allowing PacifiCorp in as a party, but	16	MR. ANDREA: Yes, Your Honor. This is
17	there was an objection to PGE. I'm curious, what makes	17	Michael Andrea for Avista. I I appreciate Puget's
18	PacifiCorp different from PSE's perspective?	18	candor about our interest. I would agree with that and
19	MR. STEELE: Thank you, Your Honor. Yeah,	19	I would also agree with the comments made by Mr. Kumar
20	from from PSE's perspective, we we agree that	20	from PacifiCorp. And just to build on that a little
21	that they are a regulated utility here in the state,	21	bit, obviously we are a co-owner of both the generation
22	they have Washington customers, and that we appreciate	22	and the transmission that is at issue in this
23	that they could have an interest and and precedent	23	transaction. We're parties to both the ownership and
24	set in this case that could affect them. And so for	24	operation agreement before Colstrip Units 3 and 4 as
25	those reasons, PSE determined that that it could	25	well as the transmission.
	Page 42		Page 44
1	understand why they'd want to be a part of the case.	1	I recognize that there is a lot of
2	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. But PacifiCorp	2	contractual issues involved, but there's also a
3	doesn't represent any of your ratepayers, and a lot of	3	significant amount of ambiguity in our view, in Avista's
4	the argument that I read in your opposition to Renewable	4	view, in the documents that have so far been filed by
5	Northwest and PGE being in the case was revolved	5	Puget about how the the plant is going to be operated
6	around them not representing customers of PSE so	6	and the control over the operation of the plant going
7	MR. STEELE: Right. We I P PSE	7	forward. We think that those issues will have a
8	agrees with those points and is concerned about those	8	substantial impact on Avista's customers, and we have a
9	issues, but from PSE's perspective in this proceeding	9	substantial interest in the outcome of those issues as
10	determine that that as a Washington utility with	10	they've clarified through this process.
11	Washington customers, that that would be much more	11	Clearly Avista has Washington customers and
12	directly impacted potentially by Commission decision.	12	has a substantial interest in ensuring that the
13	Felt like for those reasons, it decided not to oppose	13	transaction does not negatively impact our ratepayers,
14	their intervention.	14	and for purposes of this proceeding, our ratepayers in
15	But the Company is concerned with those	15	Washington in particular.
16	issues and and and certainly agree that to the	16	It's worth noting, you know, to that point
17	extent there are contractual questions, you know,	17	that Northwestern Energy and its public disclosures thus
18	about about the ownership and operation agreement,	18	far has indicated that this transaction could
19	that that again, those are contractual issues that	19	substantially increase its influence over the operations
20	should also not be a part of the case.	20	of the project going forward. Again, that's a
21	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. And I'm jumping	21	significant concern. So we need to be involved so that
22	ahead a little bit. I'm we're going to address	22	we can make sure that the record is fully developed,
23	Avista in a moment. I'm going to give Mr. Andrea a	23	bring the unique perspective of a co-owner and another
24	chance to speak, but are is PSE your thoughts on	24	Washington utility, as Mr. Kumar noted, to the
25	the intervention of Avista, is this going to be the same	25	proceeding.

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1	So obviously, it's our position and we	1	that involve the public interest of Washington
2	appreciate Puget's comments in this regard. We have a	2	ratepayers in this larger sense?
3	substantial interest and it is in the public interest	3	MR. STEELE: Well, I think the I think
4	for Avista to be granted intervenor status and be a	4	the concern is, is if the parties are trying to dispute
5	party to this proceeding.	5	the terms of of those agreements in this proceeding,
6	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.	6	I think that's not that's not the purpose of this
7	I've already heard from PSE. Briefly, is	7	case. It's it's, again, is is is the sale
8	there anything you'd like to add as far as Avista's	8	consistent with the public interest. But if if
9	intervention? Because, again, this is one of the	9	the parties are trying to dispute the terms of private
10	petitions to intervene that you did not oppose, and I	10	contracts and feel like they've been aggrieved somehow
11	know we already addressed the your comments would be	11	as a result of those contracts, we we believe that's
12	the same as with PacifiCorp, but I want to give you an	12	beyond the scope of this case.
13	opportunity if there's anything else.	13	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. So I I feel like
14	MR. STEELE: Thank you, Your Honor. You	14	I need to
15	know, the the only thing I'd add is is PSE does	15	MR. KUMAR: Your Your Honor?
16	object and and and and does not agree with any	16	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Hold on one moment.
17	interventions that would get into sort of the	17	I feel like I need to turn back to
18	operational agreements of Colstrip and, you know,	18	PacifiCorp and Avista for a moment considering the
19	operational questions of Colstrip. We believe those are	19	the issues that were just raised by PSE. Right now
20	beyond the scope of this proceeding.	20	we're on Avista. I'm going to turn to Avista first and
21	And so I I think that would concern us if	21	then I want to hear from PacifiCorp again.
22	that's the intention of Avista and PacifiCorp if it's	22	Mr. Andrea, why don't you go ahead.
23	getting into those types of operational-type issues. We	23	MR. ANDREA: Yeah, thank you, Your Honor.
24	think those are beyond the scope of this of this	24	So in response to your question about what operation
25	proceeding.	25	impacts we think are at issue, it really is about over
	Daga 16		
	Page 46		Page 48
1	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Do you mean the operations	1	decision-making, not the actual operations of the unit.
1 2	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Do you mean the operations at the plant or the the ownership control and what	1 2	decision-making, not the actual operations of the unit. And we are not looking to dispute or make at issue that
	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Do you mean the operations at the plant or the the ownership control and what would be decision-making of the plant?	2 3	decision-making, not the actual operations of the unit. And we are not looking to dispute or make at issue that we've been aggrieved by our current agreements. We are
2	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Do you mean the operations at the plant or the the ownership control and what would be decision-making of the plant? MR. STEELE: Frankly I think it I think	2 3 4	decision-making, not the actual operations of the unit. And we are not looking to dispute or make at issue that we've been aggrieved by our current agreements. We are concerned about how this transaction may modify our
2 3	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Do you mean the operations at the plant or the the ownership control and what would be decision-making of the plant? MR. STEELE: Frankly I think it I think it's both, because both are still contractual issues	2 3 4 5	decision-making, not the actual operations of the unit. And we are not looking to dispute or make at issue that we've been aggrieved by our current agreements. We are concerned about how this transaction may modify our influence and control over the decision-making going
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1	transaction affects the public interest of Washington.	1	brings interesting perspective given CETA where one
2	And I can be very specific about that. You know, as	2	owner may want to invest in Colstrip, whereas the others
3	part of this transaction, there includes a vote sharing	3	do not.
4	agreement. I believe Mr. Roberts of Puget Sound Energy	4	In general, Staff supports intervention of
5	has even provided testimony on how this vote sharing	5	all the Colstrip owners and believes it's in the public
6	agreement will work.	6	interest and each owner has a substantial interest.
7	We have very serious concerns about, you	7	Thank you.
8	know, the decision-making that results from that vote	8	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Okay. Thank you.
9	sharing agreement that could affect the public interest	9	Ms. Gafken for Public Counsel?
10	of Washington, and those are the specific concerns that	10	MS. GAFKEN: Yes, thank you. I'm not going
11	we would like the opportunity to raise in front of the	11	to repeat everything that's been said already except to
12	Commission.	12	note that Public Counsel also does not have any
13	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. I understand.	13	opposition to any of the petitions for intervention, but
14	Okay. Next I'd like to turn to Staff and	14	with respect to the specific ones that we're discussing
15	Public Counsel. We've heard from intervenors and PSE as	15	right now, I'll start with Renewable Northwest.
16	to four petitions to intervene for Renewable Northwest,	16	I I think the question of whether they
17	for Portland sorry, for PGE, for Avista, and for	17	have a substantial interest may be a little squishier,
18	PacifiCorp. I want to hear from Staff first. If we	18	but they don't necessarily need a substantial interest
19	could hear what Staff's thoughts are on the petitions to	19	in the proceeding in order to be allowed as an
20	intervene. Go ahead.	20	intervenor. If their intervention is in the public
21	MR. DALLAS: Thank you, Your Honor. Staff	21	interest, then this is kind of a two-prong test
22 23	doesn't oppose any petition to intervene. In general, Staff believes that the Commission would benefit from	22 23	intervention whether a party has a substantial interest
23 24	the testimony of each one of these intervenors, and I'll	23	or whether their petition participation would be in the public interest.
24	start with Renewable Northwest.	25	And while I'm not certain that they have a
23		25	And while fift for certain that they have a
	Page 50		Page 52
1	It is Staff's understanding that Renewable	1	substantial interest directly, I do think that their
2	Northwest's primary interest in this docket relates to	2	participation could be or is in the public interest.
3	the sale of the portion of Colstrip transmission and its	3	They do have expertise that other parties don't
4	impact on renewable development in Eastern Montana.	4	necessarily have, and the Commission would benefit
5	Staff shares this concern and believes that it's in the	5	from from hearing from their testimony.
6	public interest to have Renewable Northwest's	6	With respect to the co-owners and
7	perspective and expertise, and this expertise could help	7	particularly PGE, there's been a lot of discussion about
8	the Commission in rendering its order.	8	whether this Commission has jurisdiction over PGE and
9	Switching to PG&E, Staff believes that PG&E	9	their operations, and I I'm not sure that that's the
10	has an interest because the sale would give Northwestern	10	correct focus. Public Counsel does believe that PGE and
11	a majority share in Colstrip Unit 4. In particular,	11	the other co-owners have a substantial interest in this
12	PSE's sale would give Northwestern a 55 percent interest	12	case because the sale that Puget is proposing has a
13	in Unit 4. Staff is also aware of vote share agreements	13	direct effect on them, and that is one basis for having
14 15	that are part of this sale. Therefore, PG&E would be	14 15	a substantial interest.
15	similarly situated with Avista and Pacific Power whose ratepayers could be impacted by Northwestern being a	16	As far as the impact on the co-owners and the ownership of Colstrip and and how that might look
17	majority owner. Staff believes that the public interest	17	after the sale, they bring a very specific and unique
18	includes all Washington ratepayers and not just PSE	18	perspective to that discussion that the other parties
19	ratepayers.	19	won't have. I, for example, represent residential and
20	In particular, votes at Colstrip on cost	20	small business customers, but I don't have a lot of
21	would have to be approved by the Commission. And	21	insight into how the ownership structure will how the
22	Pacific Power talked about capital addition, so a	22	change in the ownership structure will impact operations
23	capital addition approved under this new voting regime	23	and management of Colstrip, but these co-owners do.
24	could impact Pacific Power who's seeking recovery of	24	And, you know, I I can theorize about
25	those costs and also Pacific Power's ratepayers. This	25	what the voting rights proposal will do and and those

13 (Pages 49 to 52)

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	Page 53		Page 55
1	sorts of things that they they will have a much	1	interested parties their thoughts on what is an
2	closer and more robust understanding of the impact of	2	appropriate amount of time and if it is appropriate that
3	those things, and I think it is important for the	3	the requirement for filing paper copies be postponed or
4	Commission to hear those perspectives because those	4	suspended for the time being.
5	things feed into whether this transaction in is the	5	Let me hear from Staff.
6	-	6	MR. DALLAS: Staff believes that Pacific
7	public interest. And, you know, while all of the	7	
	traditional parties will bring their cases and will		Power's request is reasonable and would have no
8	will work the case to the best of our ability, that's a	8	objection to that.
9	perspective that none of us can really bring.	9	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Public Counsel,
10	I want to take a quick look at my notes to	10	Ms. Gafken, do you have an opinion?
11	make sure that I'm getting everything in that I wanted	11	MS. GAFKEN: I also agree that Mr. Kumar's
12	to say.	12	request is reasonable. In terms of time frame, I think
13	Oh, I guess one other point. In terms of	13	that's a fluid question and the Coronavirus issue is
14	other forums where the co-owners could bring up issues,	14	evolving. And so I guess I would if the Commission
15	this is really the forum in which parties can address	15	is inclined to grant the request, I I would urge the
16	whether the sale should go forward or not. So that's	16	Commission to be open to flexibility with it. I think
17	that's another reason why I think that the co-owners	17	in the prehearing conference order, you probably need to
18	should be a part of this proceeding.	18	put in a time frame, but if if situations change such
19	The sale doesn't operate in a vacuum. You	19	that a time frame longer than 30 days would be useful,
20	know, we're not looking at the sale in theory without	20	then then I I hope that there would be some
21	considering the other impacts or or what what	21	flexibility for that.
22	impacts the sale might have, and part of that impact is	22	I'm not sure that any of us really can
23	how Colstrip will be operated in the future, what	23	telegraph or predict what's going to happen in the next
24	potential costs might there be to ratepayers as a result	24	couple of months, but I do think that the underlying
25	of this transaction.	25	request of suspending paper copies would be extremely
1	Page 54 All of those things are relevant in this	1	Page 56 useful. I think most of our Staff are teleworking at
1 2		1 2	Page 56 useful. I think most of our Staff are teleworking at this point and producing paper copies does pose a
	All of those things are relevant in this		useful. I think most of our Staff are teleworking at
2	All of those things are relevant in this proceeding, and so for the for that for these	2	useful. I think most of our Staff are teleworking at this point and producing paper copies does pose a
2 3	All of those things are relevant in this proceeding, and so for the for that for these reasons, Public Counsel would not object to any of the	2 3	useful. I think most of our Staff are teleworking at this point and producing paper copies does pose a logistics issue. So we do support the request.
2 3 4	All of those things are relevant in this proceeding, and so for the for that for these reasons, Public Counsel would not object to any of the intervenors being a party.	2 3 4	useful. I think most of our Staff are teleworking at this point and producing paper copies does pose a logistics issue. So we do support the request. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.
2 3 4 5	All of those things are relevant in this proceeding, and so for the for that for these reasons, Public Counsel would not object to any of the intervenors being a party. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you,	2 3 4 5	useful. I think most of our Staff are teleworking at this point and producing paper copies does pose a logistics issue. So we do support the request. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you. PSE?
2 3 4 5 6	All of those things are relevant in this proceeding, and so for the for that for these reasons, Public Counsel would not object to any of the intervenors being a party. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Gafken.	2 3 4 5 6	useful. I think most of our Staff are teleworking at this point and producing paper copies does pose a logistics issue. So we do support the request. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you. PSE? MR. KUZMA: PSE understands and appreciates
2 3 4 5 6 7	All of those things are relevant in this proceeding, and so for the for that for these reasons, Public Counsel would not object to any of the intervenors being a party. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Gafken. At this point, I'm going to after hearing the reasons for and against intervention at this	2 3 4 5 6 7	useful. I think most of our Staff are teleworking at this point and producing paper copies does pose a logistics issue. So we do support the request. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you. PSE? MR. KUZMA: PSE understands and appreciates the the need for the the request and would agree with PacifiCorp, Staff, and Public Counsel that that
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14 (Pages 53 to 56)

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	Page 57		Page 59
1	necessary.	1	MR. COLEMAN: September. Can you tell me
2	Okay. I want to return to the procedural	2	or can you repeat the the then potential rebuttal
3	schedule and the dates for hearing and for filing of the	3	testimony date? Are you still looking at a five-week
4	testimony, the filing of the rebuttal, and	4	window?
5	cross-answering testimony. There is some flexibility	5	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Yes.
6	for the hearing date. In addition to October 14th,	6	MR. COLEMAN: Okay.
7	September 29th or September 30 would work for the	7	JUDGE O'CONNELL: It's about so the
8	Commission. We do have that availability. That would	8	rebuttal date I looked at was August 26th if there's a
9	require the rebuttal and cross-answering be due sometime	9	hearing on the September 29th or September 30th. So
10	around August 26th.	10	that's just over four weeks. That is about as tight as
11	And hearing from PSE and PSE's concerns, I	11	we can go as far as the time between rebuttal testimony
12	think that if the parties could turn around briefs in	12	and hearing. Okay.
13	three weeks after the hearing, so by about October 20th	13	MR. COLEMAN: Thank you. That just helps me
14	or so, the Commission could likely get out an order	14	be more informed as I as you as we start this
15	by you know, before the beginning of December. I	15	conversation without you. Thank you. I apologize for
16	understand that puts us pretty close to the timeline	16	missing it.
17	that PSE has indicated. They're you know, the the	17	JUDGE O'CONNELL: That's fine. Let's be off
18	considerations we have to make for the Commission's	18	the record.
19	resources and availability may require the timeline to	19	(A break was taken from
20	get pretty tight.	20	10:52 a.m. to 11:14 a.m.)
21	So at at this point, I'd like to ask if	21	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Let's be back on the
22	the parties have had discussions about procedural	22	record. Okay. We just came back from recess allowing
23	schedule, and in addition, I'm inclined to go off the	23	the parties some time to discuss the procedural schedule
24	record, allow the parties to confer.	24	with the parameters the Commission explained.
25	Mr. Dallas?	25	Mr. Dallas, have the parties been able to
	Page 58		Page 60
1	MR. DALLAS: The parties have discussed the	1	discuss and possibly reach an agreement on a procedural
2	procedural schedule, but in light of these new dates, I	2	schedule?
3	think we would need some time to confer to propose a	3	MR. DALLAS: It is my understanding that we
4	schedule to the Commission.	4	do.
5	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. So currently, it is	5	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Why don't you I
6	ten minutes to 11:00 in the morning. I'm going to step	6	don't have a copy of it, but why don't you go ahead and
7	off the bench and give the parties the room and the	7	briefly give me the dates and significant well, the
8	bridge line to discuss. I don't want this to the	8	details of what each date has.
9	recess to drag out very long. I'd like to set a time	9	MR. DALLAS: Sure. And I'll make sure to
10	when I will come back and we'll proceed one way or	10	read this slowly for the record. So just starting at
11	another hearing what complications there are. So is 20	11	the very top, the applicant's initial filing was
12	minutes, do you think that would be a sufficient amount	12	February 19th, 2020, and we have scheduled a first
13	of time to have discussion amongst the parties,	13	settlement conference for July 1st, 2020. And then we
14	Mr. Dallas and Mr. Steele?	14	have Staff, Public Counsel, and intervenors' testimony
15	MR. DALLAS: That sounds reasonable.	15	and exhibits due July 17th, 2020. And then we have a
16	MR. STEELE: Yes, Your Honor.	16	second settlement conference scheduled for
17	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. So I will return	17	August 13th, 2020. Then we have the applicant's
18	we'll be off the record and I will return at ten after	18	rebuttal testimony and exhibits, Staff, Public Counsel,
19	11:00. If the discussions are over earlier, Staff, if	19	and intervenors' cross-answering testimony and exhibits
20	you could just call me or come get me.	20	on August 26th, 2020.
21	MR. COLEMAN: Your Honor? I'm sorry. This	21	Next we have the last day for discovery
0.0	is Brent Coleman for AWEC, and I apologize, I was trying	22	being September 11th, 2020. Next we have
22			
23	to get my calendar back up when you when you	23	cross-examination, exhibits, witness list, and time
23 24	to get my calendar back up when you when you identified those two new possible dates at the end of	24	estimates due on September 23rd, 2020. Next we have the
23	to get my calendar back up when you when you		

15 (Pages 57 to 60)

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	Page 61		Page 63
1	the post-hearing briefs due October 21st, 2020. And the	1	is that there from Public Counsel there's a
2	statutory deadline for the Commission to issue an order	2	preference that we at least attempt to have more than
3	would be January 19th, 2021.	3	one, but to leave that up to the Commission's discretion
4	I would also like to discuss having a public	4	as far as availability; is that correct?
5	comment hearing as well, which we have not provided a	5	MS. GAFKEN: Right.
6	date for. And we also discussed discovery timelines,	6	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.
7	and we believe that there should be ten days initial	7	MS. GAFKEN: Yes, and I I I suppose if
8	response followed by seven days after response testimony	8	the Commission wanted to do more than two, I would not
9	is filed and five days after rebuttal.	9	object to that, but I'm not asking for that either.
10	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.	10	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Understood.
11	So I'd like to at this point ask if there	11	Okay. Well, I think we have we've
12	are any parties in the room or on the bridge line that	12	covered everything that I have intended to cover at this
13	would like to explain or provide any objection to the	13	prehearing conference. Is there anything else from the
14	dates and the DR response times that Staff has just	14	parties that we should discuss?
15	indicated?	15	MR. KUZMA: Your Honor, this is Jason Kuzma
16	MR. COLEMAN: This is Brent Coleman for	16	on behalf of Puget Sound Energy. I just do want to
17	AWEC. And I apologize, this is partly due to my sort of	17	mention that for purposes of data requests and service
18	newness to the to the jurisdiction, but can you	18	that Puget will be sending out a distribution list
19	can it be clarified with respect to the DR turnaround	19	that's PSEDRS@perkinscoie.com that we'd request
20	time? Days or the calendar days or business days?	20	everybody send, you know, service of pleadings and also
21	Thank you.	21	data requests and data request responses.
22	MS GAFKEN: Business days. This is Lisa	22	JUDGE O'CONNELL: And is that in your
23	Gafken. The idea was I'd proposed the shortened time	23	MR. KUZMA: If it's not, I will send you an
24	was being just sort of structure and and	24	email with that listed.
25	adjudications and the the DR turnaround time would be	25	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you. I'd
	Page 62		Page 64
1			
	based on business days.	1	like to include that in the prehearing conference order.
2	based on business days. MR. COLEMAN: Thanks for the clarification.	1 2	like to include that in the prehearing conference order. At the end of the prehearing conference
2 3	-		
	MR. COLEMAN: Thanks for the clarification. MR. DALLAS: And that's Staff's understanding as well.	2	At the end of the prehearing conference
3	MR. COLEMAN: Thanks for the clarification. MR. DALLAS: And that's Staff's	2 3	At the end of the prehearing conference order as an appendix, I will include all of the
3 4	MR. COLEMAN: Thanks for the clarification. MR. DALLAS: And that's Staff's understanding as well.	2 3 4	At the end of the prehearing conference order as an appendix, I will include all of the attorneys who have made a notice of appearance for any
3 4 5	MR. COLEMAN: Thanks for the clarification. MR. DALLAS: And that's Staff's understanding as well. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. I think these dates	2 3 4 5	At the end of the prehearing conference order as an appendix, I will include all of the attorneys who have made a notice of appearance for any parties that are granted intervention as well as contact
3 4 5 6	MR. COLEMAN: Thanks for the clarification. MR. DALLAS: And that's Staff's understanding as well. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. I think these dates are all reasonable, and I know from our discussion earlier that the Commission will be available for a hearing on that date. So if there are no objections,	2 3 4 5 6	At the end of the prehearing conference order as an appendix, I will include all of the attorneys who have made a notice of appearance for any parties that are granted intervention as well as contact information for anyone designated by the parties granted
3 4 5 6 7	MR. COLEMAN: Thanks for the clarification. MR. DALLAS: And that's Staff's understanding as well. JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. I think these dates are all reasonable, and I know from our discussion earlier that the Commission will be available for a	2 3 4 5 6 7	At the end of the prehearing conference order as an appendix, I will include all of the attorneys who have made a notice of appearance for any parties that are granted intervention as well as contact information for anyone designated by the parties granted intervention who you know, the support staff who
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	Page 65		Page 67
1	raise that the flag just in case something does come	1	CERTIFICATE
2	up during the proceeding as kind of a preservation issue	2	02111110/112
3	if you will.	3	STATE OF WASHINGTON
4	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. I understand.	4	COUNTY OF THURSTON
5	PSE, Mr. Kuzma, Mr. Steele, do you have	5	
6	thoughts on how we might resolve if anything comes up?	6	I, Tayler Garlinghouse, a Certified Shorthand
7	MR. KUZMA: Your Honor, I mean, Puget's	7	Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do hereby
8	going to respond to the data requests to the best of its	8	certify that the foregoing transcript is true and
9	ability. Northwestern is not a party to the proceeding.	9	accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.
10	The Commission doesn't have jurisdiction over them. I	10	
11	can't speak on behalf of Northwestern and what	11	
12	activities they would take. Quite frankly, you know, I	12	Jayles goodinghouse_
13	don't think we know everything Northwestern knows or	13	Joyler Grantinghouse Tayler Garlinghouse, CCR 3350
14	or what the plans are either. So we we can't we	14	
15	can't make any commitments on behalf of Northwestern	15	
16	Energy. We can try to see if they can provide some	16	
17	information, but that's the best we can do.	17	
18	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Well, that I'll just	18	
19	say that I assume that by by the fact that they've	19	
20	entered into this transaction with PSE, that they have	20	
21	an interest in wanting to see it move forward. So I	21	
22	hope that they at least pay close attention to the	22	
23	proceeding, and if something arises where they're	23	
24	needed, I hope that they're willing to help resolve	24	
25	questions.	25	
	Page 66		
1	MR. KUZMA: Understood and we would agree.		
2	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. And okay.		
3	Ms. Gafken, is there anything else that Public Counsel		
4	thinks that we should address before we adjourn?		
5	MS. GAFKEN: I have nothing else. Thank		
6	you.		
7	JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Is there anyone		
8	else who has something that we should address before we		
9	adjourn?		
10	Okay. Hearing nothing, thank you all for		
11	your participation today. Thank you to those who are in		
12	the room, but also thank you to those who are on the		
13	bridge line. Before we adjourn, if you could give me		
14	one moment.		
15	So as I mentioned before, there is another		
16 17	prehearing conference after this one. That prehearing		
17 18	conference, a number of the parties here are also going to be in attendance at that prehearing conference. That		
18	next prehearing conference will begin at approximately		
20	11:35 a.m. So with that, we will be off the record.		
20	Thank you.		
21	(Adjourned at 11:25 a.m.)		
23			
24			
25			

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