



**Bob Ferguson**  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON**

Utilities and Transportation Division  
PO Box 40128 • Olympia WA 98504-0128 • (360) 664-1183

*Via Electronic Mail*

January 18, 2019

Mark L. Johnson, Executive Director and Secretary  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W.  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

RE: *WUTC v. Puget Sound Energy (PSE 2018 ERF)*  
Dockets UE-180899 and UG-180900

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I write to inform you that a multiparty settlement in principle has been reached in the above-captioned matter between PSE, Commission Staff, AWEC, The Energy Project, the Federal Executive Agencies, and Nucor Steel (the “Settling Parties”). The Settling Parties have also been informed by Public Counsel that it may join the settlement but does not yet have the approval to do so. Public Counsel expects to confirm whether it will join, not oppose, or oppose the settlement by next week. The Settling Parties will file their settlement agreement and all supporting documentation, or provide a status report to the Commission, by January 30, 2019.

All Parties agree that this proceeding is not a general rate case and request that review proceeds on a timetable for less complex matters, as provided in WAC 480-07-740(2)(b). The Settling Parties’ agreement in principle includes a proposed rate effective date of March 1, 2019, which is less than the 120 days agreed to in the Multiparty Settlement Stipulation and Agreement in Dockets UE-170033 and UG-170034 that the Commission approved in Order 08. To facilitate a rate effective date of March 1, 2019, the Settling Parties agree that a formal settlement hearing is not necessary in this case and request a streamlined review of the proposed settlement on a paper record so long as the settlement remains unopposed.<sup>1</sup>

The Settling Parties, with Public Counsel’s support, also request that the Commission reschedule the public comment hearing for February 5, 2019, to ensure that the Commission has reasonable opportunity to consider any public comments received in these dockets. Because there is

---

<sup>1</sup> If it turns out that Public Counsel opposes the settlement, the Parties will notify the Commission and propose an alternate procedure for Commission review of the multiparty settlement.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

Mark L. Johnson  
January 18, 2019  
Page 2

insufficient time for PSE to provide its customers with notice of the public comment hearing by bill inserts or a separate mailing, PSE has worked with Staff and Public Counsel to develop alternative methods of outreach to notify customers. PSE commits to providing notice of the February 5, 2019, date for the public comment hearing by publication in all major newspapers across its footprint on January 25, 2019,<sup>2</sup> a prominent post on the Company's website, email to all of its customers that accept electronic communications (approximately 750,000 customers), and repeated posts on its social media channels (Facebook, Twitter) over the next few weeks. The Commission can further assist these notice efforts by informing those on its open meeting list serve of the public comment hearing date of February 5, 2019. The Settling Parties request that the Commission confirm that these alternative best efforts are permitted methods of notice sufficient to satisfy applicable notice requirements in these dockets given the unique circumstance, limited rate impact, and expedited nature of this proceeding.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ CHRISTOPHER M. CASEY, WSBA No. 46733  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
Utilities and Transportation Division  
P.O. Box 40128, Olympia, WA 98504-0128  
(360) 664-1189  
[chris.casey@utc.wa.gov](mailto:chris.casey@utc.wa.gov)

CMC:emd  
cc: Parties

---

<sup>2</sup> The newspaper add references a TBD date for the public hearing, and advises customers to check PSE.com or the Commission's website for a specific date and time.