

January 11, 2002

Carole Washburn  
Executive Secretary  
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
1400 So. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: Puget Sound Energy  
Docket Nos. UE-011570 & UG-011571

Dear Ms. Washburn:

Attached for filing with the Commission please find an original plus nineteen (19) copies of the NW Energy Coalition's and Natural Resources Defense Council's request for reconsideration of the Commission's Fifth Supplemental Order in the above-referenced proceeding. Because the Coalition operates on a Macintosh platform using MS Word, I e-mailed a copy of this request to the Records Department rather than submitting a potentially unreadable disk copy.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Danielle Dixon  
Policy Associate  
NW Energy Coalition

Encl.  
cc: Service List

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.,

Respondent.

DOCKET NOS. UE-011570 and  
UG-011571 (consolidated)

NW Energy Coalition and Natural Resources  
Defense Council Request for Reconsideration of  
Fifth Supplemental Order: Amending Procedural  
Schedule

The NW Energy Coalition and Natural Resources Defense Council respectfully request the Commission reconsider its Fifth Supplemental Order in this proceeding, pursuant to WAC 480-09-460(2). The Fifth Order establishes two dates in April for public comment hearings on general rates. Those dates are insufficient to solicit public input.

First, if public hearings occur on April 11 and April 18, individuals providing comments will be able to respond only to Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) direct testimony. They will not have the benefit of knowing the comparative positions and perspectives of staff and intervenors on the multiple issues in this case. Scheduling public hearings following evidentiary hearings in August would enable interested individuals to be more knowledgeable about the issues and base their comments on a more complete record. Ultimately, the Commission's decision-making process will be better served by well-informed customer comments. We request the Commission amend the procedural schedule to set public hearings in September rather than April.

Second, while we appreciate the Commission's full calendar of cases in 2002, scheduling only two public hearings in the general rate case minimizes the potential impacts of this case on PSE's

customers. PSE serves approximately 1.2 million electric and/or gas accounts and many more individuals through an extensive service territory. PSE's general rate case filing proposes significant and substantial changes to the utility's rates and rate structure. PSE's customers are interested in the ramifications of these proposals for their electric and gas bills. Recognizing these facts, at the first prehearing conference, we requested public hearings in Bellingham, Bellevue, Tukwila, Olympia, and Bremerton. The Fifth Supplemental Order includes general rate case hearings only in Bellingham and Federal Way, making it difficult for PSE's customers on the peninsula and in the southern portion of the utility's territory to participate. We modify our initial request to recommend at least four public hearings in Bellingham, Tukwila/Federal Way, Olympia, and Bremerton.

We appreciate the Commission's inclusion of a public hearing on interim rates and prudence set for the evening of February 21, as well as reservation of evening hours for the other two hearings. In addition to the interim hearing, we urge the Commission re-examine its schedule and replace the two April hearings with four public hearings following the evidentiary hearings in August to elicit comments on general rates. Although evening hours are ideal to encourage public participation, we note that the hearing in Olympia could be conducted during regular work hours as is the Commission's practice with its open meetings.

DATED \_\_\_\_\_ at Seattle, Washington.

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Danielle Dixon for  
NW Energy Coalition &

Natural Resources Defense Council

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this day, January 11, 2002, I served a copy of the foregoing Request for Reconsideration of Fifth Supplemental Order of the NW Energy Coalition and Natural Resources Defense Council by first class, U.S. Mail on the following persons:

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