

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)

MULTI-SERVICE CENTER, THE
OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL, AND
THE ENERGY PROJECT'S MOTION
FOR RECONSIDERATION OF
FIFTH SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER

With all due respect, the Multi-Service Center, The Opportunity Council, and The Energy Project request that the Commission reconsider both the dates for the public hearings and the number of hearings as set forth in its Fifth Supplemental Order in Dockets Nos. UE-011570 and UG-011571. The proposed schedule does not provide adequate opportunity for the public to comment, nor does it give the public the benefit of any point of view other than the utility's .

PSE is proposing a number of changes that depart markedly from the way service has been provided to well over 1,000,000 customers in a service territory that covers thousands of square miles in ten counties. Recognizing the Commission's charge to represent the public interest, we believe it is only fair to provide the public with at least four opportunities to express themselves about the impact the proposed changes will have in their homes or businesses. Because PSE has such a far-reaching territory, the hearings should be well distributed as well. We concur with the Commission's choice of Bellingham, but believe Bremerton, Olympia, and a fourth, centrally located venue should be included.

The PSE general rate case involves a number of complex issues that are either recently introduced to the general public, such as variable time of day rates, or essentially unheard of, e.g., the purchase cost adjustment mechanism for electric customers. The scheduled timing for the public hearing dates is such that the utility will have a public evidentiary hearing in which to extol the virtues of their proposed changes. UTC staff, Public Counsel, and other intervenors' points of view will not be given that benefit. Because of the complexity of the issues involved, it is quite likely that the latter parties will bring forth points of view or information of which many members of the public would otherwise be unaware. What may look like a good idea from the company's perspective could appear otherwise when other perspectives are drawn out. Furthermore, the media is likely to be the general public's primary source of information about the proposed changes, other than the pro-company perspective PSE provides in its mailings. Without the benefit of the evidentiary hearing on the staff and intervenor testimony, it will be more difficult for the media to capture the full picture. It is only fair that the general public have the benefit of the full picture before being asked its opinion. This argues for hearing dates much later in the schedule, preferably later in August or in September.

Therefore, we respectfully request the Commission to reconsider its Fifth Supplemental Order by changing the timing of the public hearings until after the intervenors have their evidentiary hearing and by adding two additional locations for the hearings themselves.

Dated _____, 2002 at Bellingham, WA

Charles M. Eberdt for
The Energy Project
The Opportunity Council
The Multi-Service Center