

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY,

Respondent.

DOCKET PG-160924

PUBLIC COUNSEL'S RESPONSE
TO PUGET SOUND ENERGY'S
MOTION FOR STANDARD
PROTECTIVE ORDER

1. Public Counsel files this response to Puget Sound Energy's (Puget) Motion for Standard Protective Order. Public Counsel has no objection to Puget's Motion, but provides clarification regarding provision of documents to Public Counsel's consultant.
2. Public Counsel issued a data request to Puget on November 22, 2016, requesting copies of responses to any informal data requests made by any party in Docket PG-160924. Upon reviewing responses to that request, and responses to other data requests, it became apparent that Puget had marked certain documents as confidential even though Puget declined issuance of a protective order in this docket at the prehearing conference. Because the confidential designations were made prior to the prehearing conference, the undersigned contacted attorneys for Puget to inquire whether Puget intended to waive the confidential designation. Attorneys for Puget informed the undersigned that the Company did not intend to make such a waiver and that Puget would seek a protective order. Public Counsel does not object to Puget's request, but takes no position with respect to whether documents designated as confidential is appropriately designated as such.

3. Parties participated in a settlement conference at the Commission's offices on December 14, 2016. The undersigned asked if Puget objected to Public Counsel forwarding copies of the data request response received to date to Public Counsel's outside consultant, subject to a commitment to sign the protective order once a protective order is entered in this docket. Puget consented to Public Counsel forwarding the data request response to its outside consultant. Without Puget's consent, and without our consultant's commitment to sign the protective order once entered in this docket, Public Counsel would not forward documents to its consultant.

4. DATED this 21st day of December 2016.

ROBERT W. FERGUSON
Attorney General



LISA W. GAFKEN
Assistant Attorney General
Public Counsel Unit Chief