



STATE OF WASHINGTON

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

621 Woodland Square Loop S.E. • Lacey, Washington 98503

P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

(360) 664-1160 • TTY 1-800-833-6384 or 711

July 9, 2020

NOTICE SUSPENDING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

RE: *In the Matter of the 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*
Docket UE-200115

TO ALL PARTIES:

On February 19, 2020, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) an Application for an Order Authorizing the Sale of All of PSE's Interests in Colstrip Unit 4 and Certain of PSE's Interests in the Colstrip Transmission System (Application).

On March 23, 2020, the Commission entered Order 02, Prehearing Conference Order, which, among other things, established a procedural schedule in this matter.

On May 28, 2020, PSE filed with the Commission a notice that it intends to file a supplemental application and supporting testimony as a result of an anticipated change in the terms of the proposed transactions pursuant to Talen Montana, LLC, (Talen) exercising its right of first refusal under the Ownership and Operation Agreement for Colstrip Units 3 & 4.

On July 1, 2020, Commission staff (Staff) contacted the presiding administrative law judge to request that the Commission convene a status conference to discuss PSE's intended, but not yet filed, supplemental application and whether any changes should be made to the current procedural schedule. No party objected to convening a status conference for these purposes.

On July 6, 2020, the Commission convened a status conference to discuss PSE's intended filing of a supplemental application and whether any changes to the procedural schedule were warranted. During the status conference, PSE explained that the filing of its

supplemental application had been delayed by ongoing negotiations between Talen and NorthWestern Corporation (NorthWestern Energy), which are outside its control. Nevertheless, PSE anticipates being able to file its supplemental application soon.

On July 7, 2020, the parties submitted to Judge O’Connell a proposal for modifying the procedural schedule. The parties proposed a filing date for PSE’s supplemental application of July 22, 2020 (with data request responses due within 5 business days henceforth); a new filing date for responsive testimony of August 31, 2020; a new filing date for rebuttal and cross-answering testimony of September 21, 2020; and a new discovery deadline of September 29, 2020. The parties proposed maintaining the hearing date of October 14, 2020.

We cannot adopt the parties’ proposed modifications. The proposal significantly shortens the time the Commission has to prepare for the hearing after the filing of the final round of testimony. Additionally, because the delay to PSE’s supplemental application is outside PSE’s control, we find it is more appropriate to wait until after PSE files its supplemental application before continuing with any procedural schedule.

Accordingly, we conclude that it is appropriate under the circumstances to suspend the procedural schedule until such time that PSE files its supplemental application. If PSE files its supplemental application by July 22, 2020, we may readily adopt the parties’ proposed subsequent filing deadlines and expedited discovery when we set a new procedural schedule. We will continue to hold the October 14, 2020, hearing date on the Commission’s calendar with the caveat that it may be rescheduled if we later determine that it will not afford the Commission adequate time to prepare for hearing.

THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That the procedural schedule in this matter is suspended.

/s/ *Andrew J. O’Connell*

ANDREW J. O’CONNELL
Administrative Law Judge