

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Joint Application
of

PUGET HOLDINGS LLC

and

PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.

For an Order Authorizing Proposed
Transaction.

DOCKET NO. U-072375

MOTION TO INCREASE THE
NUMBER OF PAGES ALLOWED IN
WRITTEN BRIEF

I. MOTION

Pursuant to WAC 480-07-395(b), the Public Counsel Section of the Washington State Attorney General’s Office (Public Counsel) hereby moves for an increase in the allowed length of written briefs for parties in this matter—from sixty (60) to seventy-five (75) pages.¹ The number and complexity of the issues justifies such an extension.²

Public Counsel has inquired of the other parties as to their position on the request. At the time of filing the following stated they do not object to the motion: The Energy Project, the Northwest Energy Coalition, the Federal Executive Agencies, the Northwest Industrial Gas Users, and the Industrial Customer of NW Utilities. Staff and the Joint Applicants have authorized Public Counsel to say that they do not oppose the additional page request, but do not necessarily agree with the reasons stated, having not seen the motion in advance.

¹ WAC 480-07-395(b) provides:

Pleadings, motions, and briefs must not exceed sixty pages (exclusive of exhibits, appended authorities, supporting affidavits and other documents). The presiding officer may alter the page limit, either shortening or lengthening the number of pages allowed, considering the number and complexity of the issues.

² Public Counsel will also file a Motion to Reopen Record to seek leave to file additional information regarding developments in the international financial markets. The motions are independent and Public Counsel believes there is a need for the page limit extension whether or not the record is reopened.

II. MEMORANDUM

After evaluating the scope of briefing requirements in the period since the hearing, Public Counsel believes that the substantial number and complexity of issues in this case realistically require an extension of the page limit to allow for adequate briefing. Issues we and other parties may wish to address include the nature and scope of the commitments, terms of the debt and equity offering memoranda, the financial model provided to investors, analysis of the financing of the transaction, rating agency issues, post-acquisition corporate organization, and developments in international financial markets.

The record is extensive. In addition to the prefiled direct, response and rebuttal testimony, it includes the live examination of a panel and eight witnesses, additional rounds of written testimony related to the proposed settlement, numerous bench requests, and a detailed set of proposed conditions (63 commitments). Public Counsel also wishes to address the public comment received. Extending the page limit by 15 pages would provide a reasonable opportunity to address these matters.

As mentioned above, Public Counsel has conferred with the other parties regarding allowing additional pages for written briefs. No party expressed opposition to this request.

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III. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Public Counsel respectfully requests that the Commission extend the allowed length of written briefs (to be filed in this case on or before September 24, 2008) from sixty (60) to seventy-five (75) pages.

DATED this 16th day of September, 2008.

ROBERT M. McKENNA
Attorney General

Simon J. ffitch
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Public Counsel