

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	DOCKET NOS. UE-011570 and UG-011571 (consolidated)
	)	
v.	)	
	)	EIGHTH SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER: GRANTING LATE-FILED PETITIONS TO INTERVENE, SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
.....	)	

- 1     **PROCEEDINGS:** This proceeding concerns a general rate case filing by Puget Sound Energy, Inc. (PSE or the Company) by which the Company seeks permanent increases in both electric and gas rates. PSE’s filing also requests an interim rate increase, subject to refund, for its electric rates. The Commission convened a prehearing conference in Olympia, Washington, on December 20, 2001, before Chairwoman Marilyn Showalter, Commissioner Richard Hemstad, Commissioner Patrick J. Oshie, and Administrative Law Judge Dennis J. Moss.
- 2     The Commission conducted evidentiary hearings and held a public comment hearing during the week of February 18, 2002, to consider PSE’s request for interim rates. We refer to this as Phase One of these proceedings. Simultaneous briefs were scheduled to be filed in Phase One on March 1, 2002. However, the parties that were active in Phase One have been engaged in settlement negotiations and have requested several continuances of the briefing schedule. The Commission has granted these requests to permit additional time for the parties to negotiate.
- 3     **LATE-FILED PETITIONS TO INTERVENE:** WorldCom, Inc. filed its Petition for Intervention on February 22, 2002. WorldCom states that its interest in this proceeding stems from the fact that its Special Contract tariff with PSE, which was approved in the context of Docket No. UE-010525, will expire at the end of the general rate proceedings in this docket. WorldCom cites as “good cause” for its late filing that it “was unable to complete its internal management processes regarding the consideration of intervening into this matter until very recently.” WorldCom notes in its Petition that it alerted the Commission during the prehearing conference on

December 20, 2002, that it might seek late intervention. WorldCom now states that it is “interested in participating in the general rate phase of this matter that is not scheduled to begin until April, 2002.”

4 The Cities of Bellevue and Maple Valley filed their Petition To Intervene and Protest on February 27, 2002. These cities state that they “wish to join the Cities of Auburn, Des Moines, Federal Way, Redmond, Renton, SeaTac, and Tukwila as Intervenor in this proceeding.” The cities cite as good cause for their late filing that they “were unable to analyze and determine their interests in this proceeding prior to the Prehearing Conference.” We note that the interests of the cities that already are intervenors in these dockets are limited to issues concerning tariff schedules that concern rates, terms, and conditions of service related to the underground placement of PSE’s facilities. Those issues were not addressed in Phase One of these proceedings.

5 **COMMISSION DETERMINATION:** The Commission grants these late-filed petitions to intervene, subject to conditions. Participation by these Parties is limited to the issues that remain contested following the conclusion, by Commission order, of Phase One of these proceedings, which included evidentiary hearings conducted during the week of February 18, 2002.

6 We note above that the parties who actively participated in Phase One have been engaged in settlement negotiations and have asked for several continuances to allow those discussions to proceed. If the ongoing settlement negotiations are fruitful, and the Commission is asked to consider a proposed settlement agreement, WorldCom, and the Cities of Bellevue and Maple Valley, will not be permitted to participate actively in any proceedings related to the proposed settlement. This condition is consistent with WorldCom’s and the Cities’ asserted interests and is necessary to ensure that our granting these interventions will not unreasonably delay, or otherwise disrupt the ongoing proceedings. WorldCom and the Cities will take the record as they find it following the conclusion, by Commission order, of Phase One of these proceedings.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DENNIS J. MOSS,  
Administrative Law Judge