



Controller's Manual

SUBJECT
CORPORATE AND AFFILIATED INTEREST COST ALLOCATION
METHODOLOGY

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references

key words

approvals

Vice President and Controller

Assistant Controller

BACKGROUND

On January 16, 2009 pursuant to the First Condition of Order No. 08 issued by the Commission on December 30, 2008 in Docket No. U-072375, Puget Holdings LLC ("Puget Holdings") and Puget Sound Energy, Inc. ("PSE") accepted each of the conditions set forth in Attachment B to Order No. 08 as to the purchase of PSE by Puget Holdings. Puget Holdings closed on the purchase of the outstanding common stock of Puget Energy, Inc. (Puget Energy) on February 6, 2009 and in doing so accepted the terms of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission's order.

In Order No. 08 the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, approved and adopted subject to conditions a Settlement Stipulation proposed by all parties except Public Counsel, authorizing Puget Holdings to acquire Puget Energy, and its wholly-owned subsidiary PSE. As part of the requirements in Docket No. UE-072375 PSE must adhere to the following commitments¹ from the Settlement Stipulation regarding allocation of costs:

- 9. PSE will (i) maintain separate books and records; (ii) agree to prohibitions against loans or pledges of utility assets to Puget Energy or Public Holdings without Commission approval; and (iii) generally hold PSE customers harmless from any business and financial risk exposures associated with Puget Energy, Puget Holdings, or any of their subsidiaries or affiliates, without Commission approval.
- 19. Puget Holdings and PSE will make reasonable commitments, consistent with recent Commission merger orders, to provide access to PSE's books and records; access to financial information and filings; audit rights with respect to the documents supporting any costs that may be allocable to PSE; and access to PSE's board

¹ Please see Attachment B to Order No. 08, Docket No. U-072375 for further Commission clarification regarding several of the listed commitments.



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minutes, audit reports, and information provided to credit rating agencies pertaining to PSE.

20. **Affiliate Transactions, Cross-Subsidization:** PSE agrees (i) to file cost allocation methodologies used to allocate Puget Energy or Puget Holdings-related costs to PSE; (ii) to propose methods and standards for treatment of affiliate transactions; and (iii) that there will be no cross-subsidization by PSE customers of unregulated activities.
21. **Transaction Costs:** PSE and Puget Holdings agree that there will be no recovery of legal and financial advisory fees associated with the Proposed Transaction in rates and no recovery of the acquisition premium in rates.
26. **In furtherance of Commitment 9:**
 - (a) Puget Holdings and PSE commit that PSE's customers will be held harmless from the liabilities of any non-regulated activity of PSE or Puget Holdings. In any proceeding before the Commission involving rates of PSE, the fair rate of return for PSE will be determined without regard to any adverse consequences that are demonstrated to be attributable to the non-regulated activities. Any new non-regulated subsidiary will be established as a subsidiary of either Puget Holdings, Puget Intermediate Holdings Inc., or Puget Energy rather than as a subsidiary of PSE. Measures providing for separate financial and accounting treatment will be established for each non-regulated activity.
 - (b) Puget Holdings and PSE will notify the Commission subsequent to Puget Holdings' board approval and as soon as practicable following any public announcement of: (1) any acquisition of a regulated or unregulated business representing 5 percent or more of the capitalization of Puget Holdings; or (2) the change in effective control or acquisition of any material part of PSE by any other firm, whether by merger, combination, transfer of stock or assets.
 - (c) Neither PSE nor Puget Holdings will assert in any future proceedings, that, by virtue of the Proposed Transaction and the



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resulting corporate structure, the Commission is without jurisdiction over any transaction that results in a change of control of PSE.

27. In furtherance of Commitment 19:
- (a) PSE and Puget Holdings will maintain the necessary books and records so as to provide an audit trail for all corporate, affiliate, or subsidiary transactions with PSE, or that result in costs that may be allocable to PSE.
 - (b) PSE will provide Commission Staff and Public Counsel access to books and records (including those of Puget Holdings or any affiliate or subsidiary companies) required to be accessed to verify or examine transactions with PSE, or that result in costs that may be allocable to PSE. The Proposed Transaction will not result in reduced access to the necessary books and records that relate to transactions with PSE, or that result in costs that may be allocable to PSE, and the Proposed Transaction and resulting corporate structure will not be used by PSE as a basis to oppose requests for such books and records made by the Commission or by Commission Staff or Public Counsel.
 - (c) Nothing in the Proposed Transaction will limit or affect the Commission's rights with respect to inspection of accounts, books, papers and documents of PSE pursuant to RCW 80.04.070 or RCW 80.16.030. Nothing in the Proposed Transaction will limit or affect the Commission's rights with respect to inspection of accounts, books, papers and documents of Puget Holdings pursuant to RCW 80.16.030; provided, that such right to inspection shall be limited to those accounts, books, papers and documents of Puget Holdings that pertain to transactions affecting PSE's regulated utility operations.
 - (d) Puget Holdings and PSE will provide the Commission with access to written information provided by and to credit rating agencies that pertains to PSE. Puget Holdings and each of its members will also provide the Commission with access to written information provided by and to credit rating agencies that pertains to Puget Holdings' subsidiaries to the extent such information may potentially affect PSE.



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28. In furtherance of Commitment 20:
- (a) If and when any subsidiary of PSE becomes a subsidiary of Puget Holdings, Puget Intermediate Holdings Inc., or Puget Energy, PSE will so advise the Commission within thirty (30) days and will submit to the Commission a written document setting forth PSE's proposed corporate and affiliate cost allocation methodologies.
 - (b) PSE will notify the Commission of any change in corporate structure that affects PSE's corporate and affiliate cost allocation methodologies. PSE will propose revisions to such cost allocation methodologies to accommodate such changes. PSE will not argue that compliance with this provision constitutes approval by the Commission of a particular methodology for corporate and affiliate cost allocation.
 - (c) PSE and Puget Holdings will comply with all applicable provisions of Title 80 RCW, including those pertaining to transfers of property under Chapter 80.12 RCW, affiliated interests under Chapter 80.16 RCW, and securities and the assumption of obligations and liabilities under Chapter 80.08 RCW.
 - (d) With respect to the ratemaking treatment of affiliate transactions, PSE and Puget Holdings will comply with the Commission's then-existing practice; provided, however, that nothing in this Commitment limits PSE from also proposing a different ratemaking treatment for the Commission's consideration or limit the positions any other party may take with respect to ratemaking treatment.
 - (e) PSE will bear the burden of proof in any general rate case that any corporate and affiliate cost allocation methodology it proposes is reasonable for ratemaking purposes. Neither PSE nor Puget Holdings will contest the Commission's authority to disallow, for retail ratemaking purposes in a general rate case, unsupported, unreasonable, or misallocated costs from non-regulated or affiliate businesses to PSE's regulated utility operations.
29. PSE and Puget Holdings acknowledge that all existing orders issued by the Commission with respect to PSE or its predecessors, Puget Sound Power & Light Company and Washington Natural Gas



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Company, will remain in effect, and are not modified or otherwise affected by the Proposed Transaction or any order of the Commission approving the Proposed Transaction. Notwithstanding the immediately preceding sentence, the Commission's *Order Accepting Stipulation and Approving Corporate Reorganization to Create a Holding Company, With Conditions*, dated August 15, 2000, in Docket No. UE-991779 will be superseded and replaced in its entirety by any order of the Commission approving the Proposed Transaction.

As part of the merger proceeding in Docket No. UE-960195, the Commission reviewed and approved the cost allocation methodology presented by PSE. In the Commission order on page 48, it states:

h. The method for allocating costs between electric and gas operations and for accounting for intra-company transfers of natural gas set forth in the Stipulation shall be implemented.

In Exhibit T-21 of Docket UE-960195, Merger Application, the direct testimony proposes cost allocation methodology for electric, gas, common and non-regulated business. The cost allocation factors were:

1. *direct charging;*
2. *allocation using causal relationship; and*
3. *allocation using a general allocation factor.*

In the direct testimony, direct charging and allocation using causal relationships are defined as:

Direct charging - Direct charging will be the preferred method for assignment of costs. When a cost can be uniquely identified to one service or the other, the costs will be charged to an account for that specific service.

Allocation using causal relationships – Costs that cannot be directly charged to one service or the other. Costs will be allocated based upon a common cause of the cost.



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In addition, the direct testimony addresses nonregulated subsidiary companies. In the testimony, when utility personnel provide services to nonregulated subsidiaries, the subsidiary would be billed for the salary, employee benefits and facility costs associated with the supporting the utility employee. This methodology as discussed in the Docket No. UE-960195 is consistent with previous cost allocations of Puget Sound Power & Light Company. Below is an excerpt from this testimony:

Where practical, nonregulated subsidiaries will maintain separate facilities for staff and operations. The cost for these facilities and personnel will be charged to nonoperating expenses using the FERC system of accounts. When utility personnel provide service to the nonregulated subsidiary, the subsidiary will be billed for the salary, employee benefits and facility costs associated with supporting the utility employee. Facility costs will include an allocation for building rental, telephone service, purchasing support, payroll support, human resource and administrative support. Charges by subsidiary to the regulated company would have a similar overhead applied to its labor costs.

GUIDELINE

The purpose of this guideline is that PSE customers must be held harmless from the liabilities of any non-regulatory activities of PSE, Puget Holdings or other Puget Holdings' affiliated entities. The following guidelines are intended to establish procedures for allocating costs that are corporate in nature among and between PSE, Puget Holdings and its affiliates. Allocations will be based upon direct charging or an allocation using causal relationship. Any related transactions will be charged on a monthly basis to the appropriate company.

When utility personnel provide service to Puget Holdings, affiliates or subsidiaries, utility personnel will directly charge their time. In addition to their direct labor, labor overheads will be applied along with a facility overhead. Labor overheads will include the following overhead rates that are applied on direct labor: benefits, payroll tax, PTO, and incentives. Facility overhead includes an allocation for building rental, telephone service, purchasing support, payroll support, and accounting support that is applied on direct labor.



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For cost allocation purposes herein, factors used for causal relationships will be determined as of December 31 of each year. Below are general guidelines for determining cost allocation of corporate related costs:

Salaries/Employee Expenses	Direct charging
PSE independent Directors' Fees/Expenses	Direct charging
Reimbursements of expenses of non-independent directors of PSE	Puget Holdings
Directors' & Officers Liability Insurance	Direct or Causal
SEC and Other Regulatory Filing Fees	Direct or Causal
Audit Fees	Direct charging
Consultants and contract labor costs	Direct charging
Line of Credit Fees and interest payments	Direct charging
Legal Fees	Direct charging
Impacts related to FAS-141R business combination accounting requirements	Direct charging
Rating Agency Fees	Direct charging