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**BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL**

IN RE APPLICATION NO. 96-1)
)
OLYMPIC PIPELINE COMPANY)
)
CROSS CASCADE PIPELINE PROJECT)
)
)

PREFILED TESTIMONY

GARY HAJEK, GENERAL MANAGER, CROSS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

ISSUE: Importance of Sole Source Aquifer to Cross Valley Water District.

The Olympic Pipeline Company (OPL) proposes to construct the Cross Cascade Pipe Line through the Cross Valley Water District (CVWD) Sole Source Aquifer recharge area. A pipeline carrying contaminants across the recharge area will pose a threat to the aquifer. This prefiled testimony is written to explain the importance of the aquifer to the District's customers.

1 **SPONSOR:** Cross Valley Water District
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4 **EXHIBIT REFERENCE:**
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6 GH-1: Cost of Replacement Water
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8 GH-2: Cross Valley Water District Sole Source Aquifer and Existing Well Locations
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10 GH-3: Cross Valley Water District Planning Area, Vicinity Map, and District Boundary
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13 **CREDENTIALS:**
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15 Gary Hajek has been the General Manager for Cross Valley Water District for 20 years,
16 Chairman of the Snohomish County Groundwater Advisory Committee for 6 years, Trustee of
17 the Northwest Section of the American Water Works Association for 3 years, Board Member for
18 the Underground Utilities Location Center for 7 years, Appeals Subcommittee Chairman for the
19 North Snohomish County Water Utility Coordinating Committee for 5 years, Member of the
20 Everett Water Utility Coordinating Committee for 10 years, Administrator for the Sno-King Water
21 District Coalition for 5 years, Member of the American Water Works Association, and Member of
22 the Washington State Association of Sewer and Water Districts.
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DISCUSSION:

- A. The Cross Valley Water District aquifer has been listed as a Sole Source Aquifer by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the authority of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. CVWD owns 11 water supply wells that withdraw groundwater from the aquifer, which is continuous throughout the region, and are shown on Exhibit GH-2. In addition to the CVWD wells, there are hundreds of domestic wells tapped into the CVWD Sole Source Aquifer.

1 Presently, the District's water demand for the area served by the wells is approximately
2 3.7 MGD, which is equal to the existing pump capacity of the wells over a 16 hour
3 period. Presently, no excess supply is available from the District's wells.
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8 B. The CVWD Sole Source Aquifer is important for public health reasons. The
9 aquifer provides the sole source of potable water supply for domestic purposes,
10 serving an area of approximately 40 square miles. CVWD presently provides
11 supply from the aquifer to approximately 5,000 connections with an estimated
12 population of 15,000 people. See Exhibit GH-3 for the District service area.
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18 C. The CVWD Sole Source Aquifer is important for commercial reasons. CVWD
19 presently provides water supply from the aquifer to approximately 150
20 commercial and industrial businesses, 10 farms and dairies, and four schools.
21 The aquifer also provides water supply for fire protection. Approximately
22 1,500,000 gallons of water are reserved for the expressed purpose of fighting
23 fires. Fire insurance premiums for residential construction and industrial
24 complexes are based on the availability of water from the aquifer.
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D. The CVWD Sole Source Aquifer supply represents the sole source of revenue for
the District, pledged against existing District debt and earmarked for future
revenue-backed bond issues and loans.

E. The aquifer represents a source of inexpensive water compared to other
potential sources. Presently, the District's well water is approximately 30% less
expensive than City of Everett water, which is a significant benefit to the District's

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ratepayers. See Exhibit GH-1 for a cost comparison of the aquifer water to the City of Everett's water.

F. CVWD's Board of Commissioner's will not condone construction of the proposed pipeline until all technical concerns are addressed and a stand-by source of replacement supply is in place, or at least funded by OPL.