

Agenda Date: September 30, 2010
Item Numbers: A1 and A2

Dockets: UE-101468 and UG-101467
Company: Puget Sound Energy

Staff: Ryan Dyer, Regulatory Analyst
Roger Kouchi, Consumer Protection Staff

Recommendation

Take no action, thereby allowing Puget Sound Energy's low income program tariff filings in Dockets UE-101468 and UG-101467 to become effective October 1, 2010, by operation of law.

Discussion

On August 30, 2010, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) filed revisions to its electric and natural gas low income programs that collect monies used to help low income customers pay their bills. The revisions to the low income bill assistance program charges coincide with the most recent general rate increases in 2009.¹ Specifically, the increases to the electric and natural gas low income program revenue requirements correspond directly to the percentage increases of the electric and natural gas residential rates approved in the 2009 general rate case.² The proposed revisions also include adjustments and true-ups to the low income bill assistance program as specified and agreed to in Exhibit G to the Settlement Stipulation Agreement approved by the Commission on August 28, 2002, in Dockets UE-011570 and UG-011571, and amended by the Partial Settlement Agreement approved by the Commission on January 5, 2007, in Dockets UE-060266 and UG-060267.

PSE serves approximately 1,075,000 electric customers in Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Pierce, Skagit, Thurston and Whatcom counties, and approximately 750,000 natural gas customers in King, Kittitas, Lewis, Pierce, Snohomish and Thurston counties. Public notice of the proposed tariff changes was published August 30, 2010, in accordance with commission rule.³ All customers within PSE's service territories are affected by these rate changes.

Electric Low Income Program Rate Changes

The proposed electric low income program revisions will result in an increase to electric rates by an overall average of 0.01 percent. For the twelve months ending September 2011 the increased rates are estimated to result in \$90,023 of additional revenues. An average residential customer,

¹ Dockets UE-090704 and UG-090705 consolidated.

² Effective Residential Rate Increases were approximately 3.8% and 1.0% for electric and natural gas customers respectively.

³ WAC 480-90-193, Posting of Tariffs for Public Inspection and Review, methods are outlined in Subsection (1), Web, Telephone, and Mail Access.

using 1000 kilowatt-hours each month, would be charged an additional 4 cents per month. The following table illustrates the proposed electric rate changes for each customer class.

Electric Service	Schedule	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
Residential Service	Schedule 7	\$0.000553	\$0.000587
Commercial Service	Schedules 24, 25, 26, 29	\$0.000530	\$0.000511
Primary Service	Schedules 31, 35, 43, 449	\$0.000500	\$0.000436
Campus Service	Schedule 40	\$0.000394	\$0.000389
High Voltage Services	Schedules 46, 49, 449, 459	\$0.000101	\$0.000093
Outdoor Lighting	Schedules 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 57, 58	\$0.001112	\$0.001167

Natural Gas Low Income Program Rate Changes

The proposed natural gas low income program revisions will result in an increase to natural gas rates by an overall average of 0.03 percent. An average residential customer, using 68 therms of natural gas per month, would be charged an additional 3 cents per month. The following table illustrates the proposed natural gas rate changes for each customer class.

Natural Gas Service	Schedule	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
Residential Service	Schedule 23, 53	\$0.00452	\$0.00499
Commercial Service	Schedules 31, 36, 50, 51	\$0.00365	\$0.00402
Large Volume Service	Schedule 41	\$0.00207	\$0.00227
Interruptible Sales Service	Schedules 85, 86, 87	Varies	From \$0.00002 to \$0.00017 increase

Conclusion

Take no action, thereby allowing Puget Sound Energy's low income program tariff filings in Dockets UE-101468 and UG-101467 to become effective October 1, 2010, by operation of law.