

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY,

Respondent.

DOCKETS UE-180532 and  
UG-180533 (*Consolidated*)

ORDER 03

GRANTING MOTION TO  
WITHDRAW

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On June 15, 2018, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-60, Tariff G, Electric Service, the effect of which would increase rates and charges for electric service provided to customers in the state of Washington. Also on June 15, 2018, PSE filed revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-2, Natural Gas, the effect of which would increase rates and charges for natural gas service provided to customers in the state of Washington. PSE's filing also included revisions to its electric and natural gas Schedule 142, Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Mechanisms. PSE described its filing as an Expedited Rate Filing (ERF) and requested that the Commission set a procedural schedule that would allow rates to become effective on October 13, 2018.
- 2 On June 19, 2018, the Commission entered Order 01, Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions; Order of Consolidation; and Order 02, Standard Protective Order. On June 20, 2018, the Commission issued a Notice of Prehearing Conference, set for June 28, 2018, at 2 p.m.
- 3 On June 27, 2018, Commission staff (Staff) filed a Notice of Intent to File Motion to Dismiss. Staff alleges that PSE's initial filing: 1) fails to discharge its threshold burden of establishing that its current rates are not fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient, thus preventing the Commission from granting the Company the rate relief it seeks; (2) does not comply with the terms of the Multiparty Settlement Agreement in PSE's 2017 general

rate case, or with Commission rules concerning Commission Basis Reports; and (3) lacks evidence to support the prudence of its proposed rate base additions. Staff argues that the public interest would be better served by the Company withdrawing — or the Commission rejecting — the ERF, without prejudice, so that the Company may refile, if these deficiencies can be overcome.

4 Also on June 27, 2018, PSE filed a Notice of Intent to Withdraw the Expedited Rate Filing. Although PSE disagrees with Staff's anticipated motion to dismiss, the Company expressed concern that a lengthy briefing process would disrupt the 120-day period the Company proposed for processing the ERF and result in a prolonged procedural schedule. As such, PSE intends to move to withdraw the ERF, and stated that it will reevaluate its options in light of Staff's position in this case.

5 On June 28, 2018, the Commission convened a status conference to address PSE's intent to withdraw its filing and discuss other procedural issues. No party objected to PSE's intent to withdraw its ERF. The presiding administrative law judge sought the parties' input regarding the possibility of consolidating any revised ERF with PSE's Petitions in Dockets UE-171225 and UE-171226 for orders authorizing the accounting treatment of the deferred accounting associated with the Federal Tax Act on PSE's cost of service (Accounting Petitions). PSE objected to consolidating these matters, arguing instead that the Accounting Petitions should be dealt with separately or in the context of a general rate proceeding. No other party objected to consolidating the Accounting Petitions with a revised ERF, and several expressed support for such treatment.

6 On June 29, 2018, PSE filed a Motion to Withdraw the Expedited Rate Filing. While PSE disagrees with Commission Staff's letter, the Company believes it is in the best interest of all parties to withdraw its ERF now to allow the Company to further evaluate the appropriate mechanism to update its rates.

### DISCUSSION

7 Based on a review of the record in this proceeding, including Staff's Letter and PSE's Motion, the Commission finds the Motion states good cause to withdraw the Expedited Rate Filing. The Commission therefore grants the Motion and closes this proceeding.

**ORDER**

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 8 (1) Puget Sound Energy's Motion to Withdraw the Expedited Rate Filing is granted,  
and the Company's Expedited Rate Filing is deemed withdrawn.
- 9 (2) Dockets UE-180532 and UG-180533 are closed.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective July 2, 2018.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

RAYNE PEARSON  
Administrative Law Judge