

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, Complainant, v. PUGET SOUND ENERGY, Respondent.	DOCKETS UE-260005 & UG-260006 (<i>Consolidated</i>) ORDER 03
In the Matter of the Petition of PUGET SOUND ENERGY For an Accounting Order Authorizing the Deferred Accounting Treatment for FERC Interest Associated with Mandatory Transmission Network Upgrades	UE-260113 ORDER 01 PREHEARING CONFERENCE ORDER; NOTICE OF HYBRID EVIDENTIARY HEARING; NOTICE OF CONSOLIDATION

- 1 **NATURE OF PROCEEDING.** On February 27, 2026, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions in Docket UE-260005 to its currently effective electric service tariff, Tariff WN U-60 Tariff G, and in Docket UG-260006 to its natural gas service tariff, Tariff WN U-2. The purpose of these filings is to increase rates and charges for electric and natural gas service provided to customers in the state of Washington. In this filing, PSE proposes a Three-Year Rate Plan, which would begin with new base rates effective in 2027 (Rate Year 1), 2028 (Rate Year 2), and 2029 (Rate Year 3).¹
- 2 For Rate Year 1, PSE proposes an electric revenue requirement increase of \$625,340,657, or 15.15 percent, and a natural gas revenue requirement increase of \$191,766,706, or 14.16 percent. For Rate Year 2, PSE proposes an electric revenue requirement increase of

¹ We note at the outset that AI was used to populate portions of this order, prior to further review and issuance.

\$178,702,222, or 3.74 percent, and a natural gas revenue requirement increase of \$48,824,367, or 3.16 percent. For Rate Year 3, PSE proposes an electric revenue requirement increase of \$431,853,006, or 8.70 percent, and a natural gas revenue requirement increase of \$57,819,645, or 3.64 percent.

3 **CONFERENCE.** The Commission convened a virtual prehearing conference on April 3, 2026, before Administrative Law Judges Harry Fukano and Bijan Hughes.

4 **APPEARANCES.** Birud D. Jhaveri, Sheree Strom Carson, Donna L. Barnett, David S. Steele, and Byron C. Starkey appeared on behalf of Puget Sound Energy. Jeff Roberson, Nash Callaghan, Cassandra Jones, and Sydney Goldberg appeared on behalf of Commission staff (Staff). Tad Robinson O’Neill, Alexandra Kory, Robert Sykes, and Rachel Breslin appeared on behalf of the Public Counsel Unit of the Washington Attorney General’s Office (Public Counsel). Sommer J. Moser, Corinne O. Olson, Amanda Safford, and Lance D. Kaufman appeared on behalf of the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (AWEC). Seth Goldman and Yochanan Zakai appeared on behalf of The Energy Project (TEP). Tyler C. Pepple appeared on behalf of Microsoft Corporation (Microsoft). Damon E. Xenopoulos, Laura W. Baker, and Joseph R. Briscar appeared on behalf of Nucor Steel Seattle, Inc. (Nucor). Kurt J. Boehm, Jody Kyler Cohn, and Justin Bieber appeared on behalf of Fred Meyer Stores Inc. and Quality Food Centers, divisions of The Kroger Co. (Kroger). Jan Hasselman, Jaimini Parekh, and Victor Zertuche appeared on behalf of the Joint Environmental Advocates (NW Energy Coalition, Front and Centered, Sierra Club, Washington Conservation Action, and Climate Solutions) (JEA); Jim Dennison and Joya Manjur appeared for Sierra Club. Contact information for the representatives of those granted party status is attached as Appendix A to this Order.

5 **PETITION FOR INTERVENTION.** The Commission received petitions to intervene in this matter from AWEC, Microsoft, Nucor, TEP, Kroger, and JEA. No party objected to the intervention of any of the petitioners and no additional parties sought intervention at the prehearing conference. Based on a review of the petitions to intervene and the lack of objection, the presiding officers granted intervention to all of the petitioners at the prehearing conference.

6 Under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-07-355, a person may intervene in an adjudicative proceeding if the person has a substantial interest in the proceeding, and the intervention is in the public interest. The Commission considers whether the petitioner’s participation will assist in developing a complete record without unduly broadening the issues or delaying the proceeding.

- 7 JEA demonstrates that it has a substantial interest in this proceeding. JEA is a coalition consisting of NW Energy Coalition, Front and Centered, Sierra Club, Washington Conservation Action, and Climate Solutions. These organizations represent a broad range of environmental, community, and customer interests that may be affected by the Company's proposed rates and policies. JEA asserts that it will address issues related to clean energy transition, rate impacts, and compliance with Washington's energy and climate statutes. These are matters within the scope of this proceeding and are relevant to the Commission's determination.
- 8 JEA also demonstrates that its participation will be in the public interest. The Commission has recognized that participation by organizations representing environmental and community interests can assist in developing a more complete record. JEA indicates that it intends to provide testimony and analysis on issues affecting both electric and natural gas customers, including impacts on highly impacted and vulnerable populations. This perspective may assist the Commission in evaluating the Company's proposals.
- 9 The Commission further finds that JEA's participation will not unduly broaden the issues or delay the proceeding. JEA represents that it will coordinate its participation, and that it has experience in Commission proceedings. There is no indication in the record that JEA's intervention will prejudice any party.
- 10 Finally, the Commission finds that JEA's interests are not adequately represented by any existing party. While other intervenors represent customer and industry interests, JEA represents a distinct set of environmental and community-focused perspectives that may not otherwise be fully presented.
- 11 Accordingly, the Commission grants JEA's petition to intervene and confers full party status in this proceeding.
- 12 Contact information for the parties' representatives is attached as Appendix A to this Order.
- 13 **CONSOLIDATION.** On March 24, 2026, PSE filed a Motion to Consolidate these dockets with Docket UE-260113 regarding its Petition for Deferred Accounting (Petition). PSE's Petition requests deferred accounting treatment for the interest expense PSE is required to accrue and pay transmission network interconnection customers on deposits received for network upgrades pursuant to PSE's FERC-jurisdiction Open Access Transmission Tariff, until rates to recover this interest are addressed as part of this GRC. At the prehearing conference, no party objected to the Motion to Consolidate.

Based upon review of the Motion to Consolidate and the lack of objection by any party, the presiding officers granted PSE's Motion to Consolidate these dockets with Docket UE-260113 at the prehearing conference.

- 14 **CASE CERTIFICATION AND INTERVENOR FUNDING.** The Commission received requests for case certification and notices of intent to request a fund grant from AWEC, TEP, and JEA. At the prehearing conference, no party objected to the Commission granting case certification status to AWEC and TEP but requested additional time to examine JEA's request for case certification, which was filed April 2, 2026. Based on the review of the requests for case certification and the lack of objection from the parties, the presiding officers granted case certifications status to AWEC and TEP, and set a deadline of April 8, 2026, for parties to respond to JEA's request for case certification.
- 15 Under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 80.28.430 and the Commission's Policy Statement on Participatory Funding,² the Commission may certify an organization for eligibility to receive funding if the organization represents broad customer interests and its participation will assist the Commission in developing a complete record.
- 16 JEA represents a coalition of organizations, including NW Energy Coalition, Front and Centered, Sierra Club, Washington Conservation Action, and Climate Solutions. These organizations collectively represent environmental, community, and customer interests that may be affected by the Company's proposals. The Commission finds that JEA represents broad customer interests within the meaning of the funding framework.
- 17 The Commission further finds that JEA's participation is likely to assist in developing a complete record. JEA indicates that it intends to provide testimony and analysis on issues related to energy policy, rate impacts, and compliance with state law, including impacts on highly impacted and vulnerable populations. This perspective may assist the Commission in evaluating the Company's proposals.
- 18 The Commission also considers whether JEA's participation would be duplicative of other parties receiving participatory funding. While other intervenors may address related issues, JEA represents a distinct coalition and perspective. The Commission finds that its participation is not unduly duplicative for purposes of case certification.

² *In the Matter of the Commission's Examination of Participatory Funding Provisions for Regulatory Proceedings*, Docket U-210595, Policy Statement on Participatory Funding for Regulatory Proceedings (Nov. 19, 2021).

- 19 Finally, the Commission finds that providing access to participatory funding for JEA is in the public interest because it supports the participation of organizations representing broad customer interests.
- 20 Accordingly, the Commission grants JEA's request for case certification.
- 21 Furthermore, as the parties had previously requested additional time to review JEA's request for case certification, the presiding officers set a deadline for proposed budgets 30 days after the issuance of this Order, May 17, 2026.
- 22 **DISCOVERY.** Order 01 in this Docket authorized discovery in this matter pursuant to the Commission's discovery rules, WAC 480-07-400 – 425. The Commission urges the parties to work cooperatively together to avoid having to bring discovery matters forward for formal resolution. Prior to bringing a discovery matter to the presiding officer's attention, the parties are required to first consult with one another. Response times to data requests are adjusted as set forth in Appendix B, below.
- 23 Additionally, the Commission believes it will aid discovery in this case if all responses to data requests are shared with all parties. No party objected to the Commission making the exchange of data request responses with all parties a requirement for discovery in this proceeding. Accordingly, the Commission requires the parties to share every data request response with all parties, subject to any confidentiality limitations contained in Commission rule. To clarify, data requests and responses are not shared with the presiding officer unless those responses are offered as exhibits to be admitted into the record.
- 24 **REQUEST FOR WORKSHOP.** At the prehearing conference, Staff requested that the Commission set a workshop in Docket U-210590 to discuss externally-indexed revenue caps and to issue notices of potential ex parte communications in this Docket and Dockets UE-260007 and UG-260008. Staff states that the purpose of the workshop would be to provide a foundational understanding of the concept of an externally indexed revenue cap. Staff further explains that while Staff and some of the parties are likely to support some form of an externally-indexed revenue cap in this matter, the workshop is not intended to discuss or present any particular party's proposal regarding an externally-indexed revenue cap.
- 25 The Commission declines Staff's request to order a workshop in Docket U-210590. While the Commission appreciates Staff's intent, the Commission remains concerned that hosting a workshop on a subject that the parties have already expressed that they intend to argue in favor of as part of this proceeding could be interpreted as going beyond

facilitating neutral discussions. Additionally, insofar as the intent of the workshop is to provide a common understanding of the concepts related to an externally-indexed revenue cap, there is nothing that prevents the non-Company parties from coordinating their respective presentations prior to submitting testimony in this matter. To the extent that Staff would like to present information from a retained consultant, they are free to sponsor testimony from that consultant and include any supporting materials as exhibits as part of its testimony filings. To that extent, there is nothing prohibiting the parties from holding their own workshop to discuss the topic and to the extent any parties wish to propose joint testimony on the topic, they are free to do so, but the Commission does not find it would be suitable for the Commission to host these workshops at this time.

26 **PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE.** Following the prehearing conference, the parties submitted several proposed procedural schedules. We adopt a modified version of the schedule proposed by Staff; the procedural schedule is attached to this Order as Appendix B. The parties may reschedule the settlement conference without seeking to modify the schedule if the parties agree, but the parties must provide notice to the presiding officer of the rescheduled date.³

27 **DOCUMENT FILING AND SERVICE REQUIREMENTS.** Parties must file and serve all pleadings, motions, briefs, and other pre-filed materials in compliance with all of the following requirements:

- (a) Parties must submit electronic copies of all documents by 5 p.m. on the filing deadline established in the procedural schedule (or other deadline as applicable) unless the Commission orders otherwise. Parties must comply with WAC 480-07-140(6) in formatting, organizing, and identifying electronic files. Documents that include information designated as confidential must comply with the requirements in WAC 480-07-160 and the Protective Order in this docket. Documents filed with the Commission must conform to the formatting and other requirements in WAC 480-07-395 and WAC 480-07-460.
- (b) Parties must submit documents electronically through the Commission's web portal (www.utc.wa.gov/e-filing). If a party is unable to use the web portal to submit documents for filing, the Commission will accept a submission via email to records@utc.wa.gov provided the email: (1) explains the reason the documents are not being submitted via the web portal and (2) complies with the requirements in WAC 480-07-140(5)(b).

³ WAC 480-07-700(5)(a).

- (c) If any of the exhibits contain information designated as confidential, parties must file an electronic copy of the redacted version in searchable PDF (Adobe Acrobat or comparable software) of each such exhibit.
- (d) The Commission suspends any requirements for paper copies in this Docket. However, the Commission retains the discretion to modify this suspension at a later date should the Commission determine that paper copies are necessary. WAC 480-07-460.
- (e) Parties must electronically serve the other parties and provide courtesy electronic copies of filings to the presiding administrative law judge (harry.o.fukano@utc.wa.gov) by 5 p.m. on the filing deadline unless the Commission orders otherwise. Pursuant to WAC 480-07-365(2)(c), all electronic documents submitted to the Commission must also be delivered to all parties and the presiding administrative law judge “at the same time” that the documents are submitted to the Commission or shortly thereafter. Please note as well that failing to provide a courtesy copy to the presiding administrative law judge may result in a delayed ruling on a motion or other filing. If parties are unable to email copies, they may furnish electronic copies by delivering them on a flash drive only.

28 **EXHIBITS FOR CROSS-EXAMINATION.** Parties are required to file with the Commission and serve all proposed cross-examination exhibits by **5 p.m. on October 22, 2026.** The Commission requires electronic copies in searchable PDF (Adobe Acrobat or comparable software). If any of the exhibits contain information designated as confidential, parties must file an electronic copy of the redacted version in searchable PDF (Adobe Acrobat or comparable software) of each such exhibit. The exhibits must be grouped according to the witness the party intends to cross-examine with the exhibits.

29 **EXHIBIT LISTS.** With each submission of pre-filed testimony and exhibits, the party making the submission must include a preliminary exhibit list that identifies each submitted exhibit in the format the Commission uses for exhibit lists it prepares for evidentiary hearings. Staff will prepare its preliminary exhibit list and circulate it to the parties. Each party must file and serve a final list of all exhibits the party intends to introduce into the evidentiary record, including all pre-filed testimony and exhibits, as well as cross-examination exhibits by **5 p.m., October 22, 2026.**

30 **CROSS-EXAMINATION TIME ESTIMATES.** Each party must provide a list of witnesses the party intends to cross-examine at the evidentiary hearing and an estimate of the time that party anticipates the cross-examination of that witness will take. Parties should not file witness lists or cross-examination time estimates but must provide them to

the administrative law judges (harry.o.fukano@utc.wa.gov and bijan.hughes@utc.wa.gov) and the other parties via email by **5 p.m., October 22, 2026**.

- 31 **PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING.** Following the prehearing conference, the parties submitted procedural schedules that include a public comment hearing. The parties note that the exact date of the public comment hearing is to be determined. This Commission agrees that conducting a public comment hearing is in the public interest and will thus convene such a hearing on a date to be determined. PSE ratepayers must receive notice of the date, time, and the methods for participating in the public comment hearing, as well as other information required under WAC 480-100-197, at least 30 days prior to the date of the public comment hearing.
- 32 **NOTICE OF HEARING.** The Commission will hold a hybrid evidentiary hearing in this matter on **Wednesday-Thursday, November 4-5, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.** The hearing will be held in the Commission's Hearing Room, 621 Woodland Square Loop SE, Lacey, Washington and via Zoom. To participate in the hearing by phone, call (253) 215-8782 and enter the **Meeting ID: 817 6761 1771# and Passcode: 985452#**. To participate via Zoom, [click here to join meeting](#).⁴
- 33 **ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** The Commission supports the informal settlement of matters before it. Parties are encouraged to consider means of resolving disputes informally. The Commission has limited ability to provide dispute resolution services. If you wish to explore those services, please contact Connor Thompson, Director, Administrative Law Division (360-664-1346).
- 34 **NOTICE TO PARTIES: A party who objects to any portion of this Order must file a written objection within ten (10) calendar days after the service date of this Order, pursuant to WAC 480-07-430 and WAC 480-07-810. The service date appears on the first page of this Order in the upper right-hand corner. Absent such objection, this Order will control further proceedings in this docket, subject to Commission review.**

⁴ <https://utc-wa-gov.zoom.us/j/81767611771?pwd=kWcFeg6vovpbOIGC1aGpA93YuWu1Y2.1>.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective April 20, 2026.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

/s/ Harry Fukano
HARRY FUKANO
Administrative Law Judge

/s/ Bijan Hughes
BIJAN HUGHES
Administrative Law Judge

APPENDIX A
PARTIES' REPRESENTATIVES
DOCKET UE-260005, UG-260006, & UE-260113 (Consolidated)

PARTY	REPRESENTATIVE	PHONE	E-MAIL
Puget Sound Energy	Birud D. Jhaveri Sheree Strom Carson Donna L. Barnett David S. Steele Byron C. Starkey Puget Sound Energy P.O. Box 97034 BEL-10W Bellevue, WA 98009-9734	425-635-1400	birud.jhaveri@pse.com scarson@perkinscoie.com dbarnett@perkinscoie.com dsteele@perkinscoie.com byronstarkey@perkinscoie.com
Commission Staff	Jeff Roberson Nash Callaghan Cassandra Jones Sydney Goldberg Office of the Attorney General, Utilities and Transportation Division Office of the Attorney General Utilities and Transportation Division P.O. Box 40128 Olympia, WA 98504-0128	360-810-0509 360-915-4521 360-890-0480 360-570-3400	jeff.roberson@atg.wa.gov nash.callaghan@atg.wa.gov cassandra.jones@atg.wa.gov sydney.goldberg@atg.wa.gov
Public Counsel	Tad Robinson O'Neill Alexandra Kory Robert Sykes Rachel Breslin Washington Attorney General's Office, Public Counsel Unit Washington Attorney General's Office Public Counsel Unit 800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000 Seattle, WA 98104-3188	206-254-0570 206-516-2997 206-389-2055 206-521-3211	Tad.ONeill@ATG.WA.GOV Alexandra.Kory@ATG.WA.GOV Robert.Sykes@ATG.WA.GOV Rachel.Breslin@ATG.WA.GOV
Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (AWEC)	Sommer J. Moser Corinne O. Olson Amanda Safford Lance D. Kaufman Pepple Moser, P.C. 201 Ferry Street SE, Suite 200 Salem, OR 97301	503-883-8696 503-883-8676 775-622-2402 541-515-0380	sommer@pepplemoser.com corinne@pepplemoser.com amandasafford@gmail.com lance@westernecon.com
The Energy Project (TEP)	Seth Goldman Yochanan Zakai Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP 550 California Street, Suite	415-552-7272	sgoldman@smwlaw.com yzakai@smwlaw.com

	1200 San Francisco, California 94104		
Microsoft Corporation	Tyler C. Pepple Pepple Moser, P.C. Microsoft Corporation Microsoft Real Estate & Facilities One Microsoft Way Redmond, WA 98052	503-883-8689	tyler@pepplemoser.com
Nucor Steel Seattle, Inc.	Damon E. Xenopoulos Laura W. Baker Joseph R. Briscar Stone Mattheis Xenopoulos & Brew, PC Nucor Steel Seattle, Inc. 2424 SW Andover Seattle, WA 98106-1100	202-342-0800	dex@smxblaw.com lwb@smxblaw.com jrb@smxblaw.com
Fred Meyer Stores Inc. and Quality Food Centers, divisions of The Kroger Co. (Kroger)	Kurt J. Boehm Jody Kyler Cohn Justin Bieber Boehm, Kurtz & Lowry The Kroger Co. 1014 Vine Street, G-07 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202	513-421-2255 801-355-4365	kboehm@BKLawfirm.com jkylercohn@BKLawfirm.com jbieber@energystrat.com
Joint Environmental Advocates (JEA or NW Energy Coalition, Front and Centered, Sierra Club, Washington Conservation Action, and Climate Solutions)	Jan Hasselman Jaimini Parekh Victor Zertuche Earthjustice 810 Third Avenue, Suite 610 Seattle, WA 98104 Jim Dennison Joya Manjur Sierra Club 1650 38th St. Suite 103W Boulder, CO 80301	206-343-7340 435-232-5784	jhasselman@earthjustice.org jparekh@earthjustice.org vzertuche@earthjustice.org jim.dennison@sierraclub.org joya.manjur@sierraclub.org

APPENDIX B
PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
DOCKET UE-260005, UG-260006, & UE-260113 (Consolidated)

EVENT	DATE
Prehearing Conference	April 3, 2026
Revenue Requirement Workshop	TBD
Intervenor Funding Proposed Budget	May 17, 2026
First Settlement Conference	Friday, June 24, 2026⁵
Staff, Public Counsel and Intervenor Responsive Testimony Filing	Tuesday, July 28, 2026⁶
Notice Issued for Public Comment Hearing	30 Days Prior to Public Comment Hearing
Public Comment Hearing	TBD
Rebuttal & Cross-Answering Testimony	Tuesday, September 15, 2026⁷
Second Settlement Conference	Friday, September 25, 2026
Discovery Deadline - Last Day to Issue Data Requests	October 8, 2026
Cross Exhibits, Cross-Examination Time Estimates, Exhibit Lists, and Errata	October 22, 2026
Evidentiary Hearing	November 4-5, 2026
Initial Post-Hearing Briefs and Updated Joint Issues Matrix	December 15, 2026
Reply Briefs	January 2, 2026

⁵ Per WAC 480-07-700(5)(a), parties may reschedule a settlement conference included in the procedural schedule without seeking to modify the schedule if all parties agree, but the parties must provide notice to the presiding officer of the rescheduled date.

⁶ Response times to data requests are reduced to 7 business days as of this date.

⁷ Response times to data requests are reduced to 5 business days as of this date.

Suspension Date	Wednesday, January 27, 2027
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