

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Request of	)	DOCKET UG-140602
	)	
PUGET SOUND ENERGY	)	ORDER 01
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	ORDER GRANTING LESS THAN
For Less Than Statutory Notice in	)	STATUTORY NOTICE; ALLOWING
Connection with Tariff Revisions	)	TARIFF REVISIONS
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1      On April 11, 2014, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-2, designated as: 1<sup>st</sup> Revision of Sheet No. 1140 Canceling Original of Sheet No. 1140; 1<sup>st</sup> Revision of Sheet No. 1140-A Canceling Original of Sheet No. 1140-A; and 1<sup>st</sup> Revision of Sheet No. 1140-B Canceling Original of Sheet No. 1140-B.
- 2      The primary purpose of this filing is to implement changes to rates under the established Property Tax Tracker, as provided in the Commission’s Order 07 (Final Order Granting Petition) in Docket Nos. UE-121697 and UG-121705 (consolidated which was combined with the Commission’s Order 07 (Final Order Authorizing Rates) in Docket Nos. UE-130137 and UG-130138 (consolidated) (“Order 07”).
- 3      RCW 80.28.060 and WAC 480-80-121 require thirty days’ notice to customers prior to the effective date of the tariff. The tariff sheets bear an effective date of May 11, 2014. This date recognizes the required 30-day statutory notice. The Company requests, however, less than statutory notice as permitted by WAC 480-80-122, and that the revisions become effective May 1, 2014. PSE requests less than statutory notice because the currently effective Property Tax Tracker tariff describes “...on or prior to April 15 for rates effective on May 1 each year,” which the tariff language was approved in Order 07.
- 4      WAC 480-90-194 requires notice to customers or publication of the increase sought in this filing. Granting PSE’s less than statutory notice request also requires an exemption from WAC 480-90-194. For the same reasons PSE identified for seeking less than statutory notice, the Company seeks an exemption from the notice requirements. PSE

proposes to notify customers by published notices and through the Company's website.

5 Schedule 140 is a mechanism for adjusting rates, both up and down, to pass through the cost of property taxes that PSE actually pays. This filing also includes minor clarifying changes in the tariff sheets.

6 Overall, this proposal represents an average increase of 0.57 percent in overall bills for all customers. A typical residential customer using 68 therms per month will experience an increase of \$0.42 per month.

7 Since the proposed tariff revisions appear to be fair, just, reasonable and sufficient, and less than statutory notice is consistent with the public interest, it is appropriate that the Commission grant PSE's request with an effective date of May 1, 2014.

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

8 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including gas companies. RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04, RCW 80.08, RCW 80.12, RCW 80.16 and RCW 80.28.

9 (2) PSE is a gas company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.

10 (3) PSE is subject to RCW 80.28.060 and WAC 480-80-121, which require gas companies to file changes in any rate or charges with thirty days' notice. For good cause shown, however, the Commission may allow changes without requiring thirty days' notice by order specifying the changes to be made and the time when it shall take effect. RCW 80.28.060 and WAC 480-80-122.

11 (4) Staff has reviewed PSE's request in Docket UG-140602 and recommends the Commission grant the Company's request for less than statutory notice. Staff further recommends the Commission grant an exemption from WAC 480-90-194 and require the Company to notify customers by published notices and through the Company's website.

- 12 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 24, 2014.
- 13 (6) After reviewing PSE's proposed tariff revisions filed on April 11, 2014 and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission finds the proposed tariff revisions should become effective May 1, 2014.
- 14 (7) The Commission also finds PSE should be granted an exemption from the customer notice requirements in WAC 480-90-194.

**O R D E R**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 15 (1) Puget Sound Energy's request for less than statutory notice is granted.
- 16 (2) After the effective date of this Order, Puget Sound Energy is granted an exemption from WAC 480-90-194, which requires a 30-day notice to customers of proposed changes to increase charges or restrict access in service. Puget Sound Energy must provide notice to customers by published notices and through the Company's website.
- 17 (3) The tariff revisions Puget Sound Energy filed on April 11, 2014 will be effective on May 1, 2014.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective April 24, 2014.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, Executive Director and Secretary