

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND	)	DOCKET NO. UE-031725
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,	)	
	)	ORDER NO. 01
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	
	)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.,	)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS;
	)	INSTITUTING INVESTIGATION;
Respondent.	)	AUTHORIZING DISCOVERY
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1     On October 24, 2003, Puget Sound Energy, Inc., (“PSE” or the Company) filed with the Commission revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-60, designated as Twenty Fifth Revised Sheet No. 95, and Original Sheet Nos. 95-a through 95-e. The stated effective date is November 24, 2003. This filing is a proposal to change PSE's rates recovering the cost of power, as a result of its decision to purchase a new generating resource. The filing is authorized by the Settlement Stipulation approved by the Commission in Docket Nos. UE-011570 and UG-011571.
- 2     The filing would increase charges and rates for service provided by PSE. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and PSE has not demonstrated that the increases would result in rates that are fair, just and reasonable, the Commission suspends the tariff filing and will hold public hearings if necessary to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just and reasonable.
- 3     The parties to the referenced Settlement Stipulation contemplated expedited review of the request, and the matter is significant. Based on the nature of the

filing, the information in the filing and the information presented at the open meeting at which suspension was discussed, the Commission finds that this matter is one appropriate for the use of discovery as identified and permitted by WAC 480-09-480.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including electric companies. *RCW 80.01.040; Chapter 80.04 RCW; and Chapter 80.28 RCW.*
- 5 (2) PSE is an electric company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 6 (3) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 29, 2003.
- 7 (4) The tariff revisions filed by PSE on October 24, 2003, would increase charges and rates for service provided by PSE, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 8 (5) PSE has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just and reasonable.
- 9 (6) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 80.04.130, the Commission believes it is necessary to investigate PSE's books, accounts, practices and activities; to

make a valuation or appraisal of PSE's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of PSE's operations.

- 10 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130(2), PSE bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just and reasonable.
- 11 (8) PSE may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 80.20 RCW.
- 12 (9) The Commission invokes the discovery rule, WAC 480-09-480, in this proceeding.

## ORDER

### THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 (1) The tariff revisions filed on October 24, 2003, are suspended.
- 14 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 15 (3) Puget Sound Energy, Inc., must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 16 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Puget Sound Energy, Inc.'s, books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as described above.

- 17 (5) Puget Sound Energy, Inc., shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 80.20 RCW.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner