

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

In the Matter of the Petition of	)	DOCKETS UG-141169
	)	UE-141170
PUGET SOUND ENERGY,	)	
	)	ORDER 01
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
Seeking Temporary Exemption from	)	ORDER GRANTING
the Provisions of WAC 480-90-238(4)	)	TEMPORARY
and WAC 480-100-238(4) Relating to	)	EXEMPTION FROM RULE AND
and Permanent Modificiation of the	)	GRANTING PERMANENT
Timing of Integrated Resource Plan	)	MODIFICATION OF THE TIMING
Filings	)	OF INTEGRATED RESOURCE
	)	PLAN FILINGS
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On July 16, 2014, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition requesting an exemption from WAC 480-90-238(4) and WAC 480-100-238(4). The petition requests a one-time extension of the filing date for the 2015 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) from May 30, 2015, to September 30, 2015. The petition further requests a permanent modification of the filing date to July 15, starting in 2017.
- 2 WAC 480-90-238(4) and WAC 480-100-238(4) require natural gas and electric companies, respectively, to submit an IRP within two years of the date of its previous filing.
- 3 In its petition, PSE explains that shifting the filing date will allow the Company to use a more current load forecast for the 2015 IRP and future IRPs. PSE contends that the time extension will allow the Company to provide an IRP that is more relevant at the time of filing, thereby serving the public interest. The delay in filing the 2015 IRP was discussed with the Commission’s regulatory staff (Staff) and PSE’s IRP Advisory Group.
- 4 The Company consulted with its Conservation Resources Advisory Group to ensure that the later filing date would not negatively impact the development of PSE’s biennial conservation targets, which rely on analysis contained within the IRP.

- 5 The Company also requested a permanent modification of its IRP filing date to July 15, in 2017. For future IRPs, PSE has committed to complete its load forecast to accommodate a July 15 filing date. This request was included to address Staff's desire to maintain the spacing of IRPs filed with the Commission throughout the year.
- 6 Staff believes that the development of a plan to acquire the lowest reasonable cost mix of resources is strongly impacted by load forecasting. The current IRP filing schedule would require PSE to rely on the load forecast from 2013, which would be approximately two years old by the filing of the 2015 IRP. Therefore, Staff views granting an exemption as serving the public interest and the underlying purpose of the IRP rule. Staff also believe that the permanent modification of the filing date will introduce minimal disruption to the Commission's schedule for reviewing IRPs.
- 7 PSE has committed to filing an updated 2015 IRP Work Plan by August 20, 2014, reflecting time needed to reschedule meetings and to providing the draft IRP by July 31, 2015, if the Commission grants the exemption. This would provide two months for public review of, and comment on, the draft before the final IRP is filed.
- 8 Staff recommends granting PSE's request for a temporary exemption from WAC 480-90-238(4), thereby allowing the Company to file its 2015 IRP by September 30, 2015, and change to a July 15 IRP filing date starting in 2017.

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 9 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including gas and electric companies. RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04, RCW 80.08, RCW 80.12, RCW 80.16 and RCW 80.28.
- 10 (2) Puget Sound Energy is engaged in the business of providing natural gas and electric services within the state of Washington and is a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 11 (3) Puget Sound Energy is subject to WAC 480-90-238(4) and WAC 480-100-238(4), which require natural gas and electric companies, respectively, to submit

an IRP within two years after the date on which the previous plan was filed with the Commission.

- 12 (4) Puget Sound Energy requests an exemption from WAC 480-90-238(4) and WAC 480-100-238(4) to change the filing date of its 2015 IRP from May 30, 2015 to September 30, 2015, and to permanently modify the IRP filing date to July 15, starting in 2017.
- 13 (5) Under WAC 480-90-008 and WAC 480-100-008, the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in WAC 480-90 and WAC 480-100, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes.
- 14 (6) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 14, 2014.
- 15 (7) After reviewing Puget Sound Energy's petition filed in Dockets UG-141169 and UE-141170 on July 16, 2014, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the exemption is reasonable, in the public interest, and therefore should be granted.

## **O R D E R**

### **THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 16 (1) After the effective date of this Order, Puget Sound Energy's request for a temporary exemption from WAC 480-90-238(4) and WAC 480-100-238(4) is granted, allowing Puget Sound Energy to file its 2015 Integrated Resource Plan on or before September 30, 2015, and allowing Puget Sound Energy to modify its filing date to July 15, beginning in 2017.
- 17 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Puget Sound Energy to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

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 August 14, 2014.

WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, Executive Director and Secretary