

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, Complainant, v. PUGET SOUND ENERGY, Respondent.	DOCKETS UE-220066 and UG- 220067 (<i>Consolidated</i>) ORDER 14
In the Matter of the Petition of PUGET SOUND ENERGY For an Order Authorizing Deferred Accounting Treatment for Puget Sound Energy's Share of Costs Associated with the Tacoma LNG Facility	DOCKET UG-210918 ORDER 01 GRANTING MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE

BACKGROUND

- 1 On November 24, 2021, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a Petition for an Order Authorizing Deferred Accounting Treatment for PSE's Share of Costs Associated with the Tacoma LNG Facility (Petition) in Docket UG-210918. PSE requests that the Commission issue an order authorizing deferred accounting treatment effective as of the date of commercial operation of its liquified natural gas (LNG) facility. This docket has not yet been set for an adjudication or an open meeting.

- 2 On January 31, 2022, PSE filed revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-60, Tariff G, Electric Service, and its currently effective Tariff WN U-2, Natural Gas. The Company characterizes this filing as a general rate case (GRC). The Commission consolidated Dockets UE-220066 and UG-220067 and commenced an adjudication.
- 3 On April 27, 2022, Commission staff (Staff) filed a Motion to Consolidate Proceedings (Motion). Staff submits that the Company seeks a finding in its general rate case that it prudently incurred costs associated with the Tacoma LNG facility, including amounts that are the subject of its Petition in Docket UG-210918. Staff submits that the two proceedings involve overlapping facts and that consolidation would allow the parties to address the issues related to the deferral of these costs in one proceeding. Staff notes that it shared its Motion with the other parties, but Staff is not making any specific representations regarding the other parties' positions on the Motion.

DISCUSSION

- 4 We grant Staff's Motion. The Commission has discretion to "consolidate two or more proceedings in which the facts or principles of law are related."¹ In determining whether to exercise such discretion, the Commission considers not just the extent to which the factual and legal issues are related but whether consolidation would promote judicial economy and would not unduly delay the resolution of one or all of the proceedings.²
- 5 We agree with Staff that it is appropriate to consolidate the Company's pending general rate case in Dockets UE-220066 and UG-220067 with the Company's Petition in Docket UG-210918. As Staff notes, both proceedings are concerned with the treatment of costs associated with PSE's share of the Tacoma LNG plant. Consolidation of these proceedings would allow the parties to address both the prudence and the deferral of these costs in a single proceeding, which would serve judicial economy. No party has objected to Staff's motion.

ORDER

- 6 **THE COMMISSION ORDERS That Commission staff's Motion is GRANTED.**

¹ WAC 480-07-320.

² *E.g., Qwest Corp. v. Level 3 Comm.*, Docket UT-063038, Order 09, ¶ 13 (February 15, 2008).

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective May 12, 2022.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

/s/ Michael S. Howard
MICHAEL HOWARD
Administrative Law Judge

**NOTICE TO PARTIES: This is an Interlocutory Order of the Commission.
Administrative review may be available through a petition for review, filed within
10 days of the service of this Order pursuant to WAC 480-07-810.**