

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,  Complainant,  v.  PUGET SOUND ENERGY,  Respondent.	DOCKETS UE-190529 and UG-190530 ( <i>consolidated</i> )  ORDER 04
In the Matter of the Petition of  PUGET SOUND ENERGY  For an Order Authorizing Deferral Accounting and Ratemaking Treatment for Short-life UT/Technology Investment	DOCKETS UE-190274 and UG-190275 ( <i>consolidated</i> )  ORDER 01  GRANTING MOTION FOR CONSOLIDATION

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On April 9, 2019, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition for an order authorizing deferral of certain expenses related to the Company's investments in short-lived technology assets as part of its Get to Zero (GTZ) program. PSE requested that the Commission approve the deferred accounting and ratemaking treatment for the depreciation expense associated with GTZ program investments, asking for recovery of the deferred costs in future regulatory proceedings.
- 2 On June 20, 2019, PSE filed with the Commission revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-60, Tariff G, Electric Service, and Tariff WN U-2, Natural Gas. The effect of this filing is to increase rates and charges for electric and natural gas service provided to customers in the state of Washington. PSE requests an increase in its annual electric revenue requirement of approximately \$140 million (6.9 percent), and an increase to its annual natural gas revenue requirement of approximately \$65 million (7.9 percent). On July 3, 2019, the Commission suspended the tariff revisions and consolidated Dockets

UE-190529 and UG-190530, in which the tariff revisions were filed, initiating PSE's general rate case (GRC).

3 On October 23, 2019, Commission staff (Staff) filed an unopposed motion (Motion) for consolidation of Dockets UE-190529 and UG-190530 with Docket UE-190274 and UG-190275, stating that PSE seeks to recover in the captioned GRC the balances that it petitioned to defer in its April 9 accounting petition. Staff explains that PSE's initial filing in the GRC proceeding includes the projects, both embedded in the test year and as proposed *pro forma* adjustments, for which PSE seeks deferred accounting treatment.

4 Staff states that no party to PSE's general rate case proceeding opposes its Motion.

### DISCUSSION

5 Under WAC 480-07-375(1)(b), parties may file procedural motions requesting that the Commission modify the process in a proceeding. Parties may request consolidation under WAC 480-07-320, and the Commission, in its discretion, may consolidate two or more proceedings in which the facts or principles of law are related.

6 Staff has demonstrated that PSE's proposed tariff revisions in Dockets UE-190529 and UG-190530 and accounting petition in Dockets UE-190274 and UG-190275 involve common issues of fact and law, *i.e.*, recovery of costs relating to specific projects. Because the captioned dockets involve common issues of fact and law, all parties to the proceeding are in agreement on the proposed consolidation, and the consolidation does not modify the procedural schedule established in Docket UE-190529 and UG-190530, the Commission grants Staff's Motion.

### ORDER

7 **THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT** the October 23, 2019, Unopposed Motion for Consolidation of the Staff of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is GRANTED.

Dated at Lacey, Washington, and effective October 28, 2019.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

*/s/ Nelli Doroshkin*  
NELLI DOROSHKIN  
Administrative Law Judge