

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

PUGET SOUND ENERGY,

Petitioner,

Seeking Exemption from the Provisions
of WAC 480-100-198 Relating to Notice
Verification and Assistance

DOCKET UE-190902

ORDER 01

GRANTING
EXEMPTION FROM RULE

BACKGROUND

- 1 On October 31, 2019, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its Tariff Schedule 95A, Federal Incentive Tracker. The purpose of the filing is to true-up rates to reflect the Company's disbursal of \$37.8 million in Treasury Grant credits. The Schedule 95A credit is increased for all customers except for those on Schedule 5 and 7. For a residential customer on Schedule 7 using 900 kWh per month, the decrease in the Schedule 95A credit increases their monthly bill by two cents, or 0.02 percent.
- 2 For company filings that necessitate posting, publication, or customer notice under WAC 480-100-194, WAC 480-100-195, or WAC 480-100-197, as is the case in this filing, the Company must file a statement with the Commission that the required customer notice has been posted, published, and/or mailed. This statement must be filed within ten days of the original filing.
- 3 With its proposed tariff revision, PSE filed with the Commission a request for exemption from the requirement in WAC 480-100-198 that the Company file with the Commission a copy of its notice within 10 days of its tariff filing to enable the Company to issue a single customer notice for this and a number of other rate filings that will also become effective on January 1, 2020. On December 1, 2019, PSE filed with the Commission its consolidated customer notice.
- 4 Staff recommends the Commission grant the Company's request for an exemption from the filing requirements in WAC 480-100-198 and allow PSE to delay filing its customer

notice statement in this docket for the purpose of consolidating such notice with other notices the Company is required to issue.

DISCUSSION

5 We grant PSE's request for an exemption from WAC 480-100-198. Pursuant to WAC 480-100-008, the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in WAC 480-100 if doing so is consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying the rule, and any applicable statutes. Here, the Company requested to issue one customer notice explaining multiple rate changes in lieu of issuing multiple notices over a period of two months, which is likely to create customer confusion. We find in this instance that the benefit of providing a copy of PSE's proposed customer notice to the Commission within 10 days of its initial filing is outweighed by the benefit customers will receive from a consolidated notice presented in a more comprehensive and accessible format. Accordingly, we conclude that issuing one notice to address multiple, concurrent rate changes better protects consumers, which is both consistent with the purpose of the rule and in the public interest.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including electric companies.
- 7 (2) PSE is engaged in the business of providing electric services within the state of Washington and is a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 8 (3) PSE is subject to WAC 480-100-198, which requires electric companies to file a statement with the Commission commensurate with the requirements specified in WAC 480-100-198 within ten days of the original filing.
- 9 (4) Under WAC 480-100-008, the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in WAC 480-100 if doing so is consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes. See also WAC 480-07-110.

- 10 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 19, 2019.
- 11 (6) After reviewing the petition filed in Docket UE-190902 by PSE on October 31, 2019, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that granting the exemption is in the public interest, and is consistent with the purposes underlying the regulation and applicable statutes.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) Puget Sound Energy's petition for exemption from WAC 480-100-198 is granted.
- 13 (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 Lacey, Washington, and effective December 19, 2019.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK L. JOHNSON
Executive Director and Secretary