

**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-220794

ORDER 01

GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM
RULE

BACKGROUND

- 1 On October 31, 2022, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition requesting an exemption from WAC 480-100-198 (Petition).
- 2 WAC 480-100-198 requires that within 10 days of making a filing requiring posting, publication, or customer notice, electric companies must file a statement with the Commission's records center that the required notice has been posted, published, and/or mailed.
- 3 PSE stated that it would provide notice to customers in accordance with WAC 480-100-194(2) at least 30 days prior to the effective date. The Company stated that the date it expected to provide notice in compliance with WAC 480-100-194(2) is approximately December 1, 2022, so that the impacts of other rate changes proposed to become effective on January 1, 2023, can be included. PSE claimed that providing notice on December 1, 2022, would not allow them to provide the Commission a copy of the notice within 10 days of providing notice to customers as required by WAC 480-100-198.
- 4 Commission staff (Staff) reviewed the Petition and recommends granting PSE's request for exemption. Staff believes that PSE's request is reasonable to ensure that the Company provides notices to customers that includes impacts of other rate changes proposed to become effective on January 1, 2023.

DISCUSSION

- 1 We grant PSE's request for an exemption from WAC 480-90-198, which requires the Company to file a statement with the Commission's records center that the required notice has been posted, published, and/or mailed within 10 days of making a filing requiring posting, publication, or customer notice under WAC 480-100-194, 480-100-195, or 480-100-197.
- 2 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. We agree with Staff that PSE's request is reasonable to ensure that the Company provides notices to customers that includes impacts of other rate changes proposed to become effective on January 1, 2023. Accordingly, we find that granting the Company's request for an exemption is in the public interest and consistent with both the purposes underlying the rule and applicable statutes.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 3 (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.
- 4 (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.
- 5 (3) PSE is subject to WAC 480-100-198, which requires electric companies to file a statement with the Commission's records center that the required notice has been posted, published, and/or mailed within 10 days of making a filing requiring posting, publication, or customer notice under WAC 480-100-194, 480-100-195, or 480-100-197.
- 6 (4) Under WAC 480-100-008, the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in WAC 480-100 if doings so is consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes. *See also* WAC 480-07-110.

- 7 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 22, 2022.
- 8 (6) After reviewing the Petition filed in Docket UE-220794 by PSE on October 31, 2022, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the exemption is consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying the regulation, and applicable statutes, and that it should be granted.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 9 (1) Puget Sound Energy is granted an exemption from WAC 480-100-198 for its December 2022 notice to customers.
- 10 (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 22, 2022.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

AMANDA MAXWELL
Executive Director and Secretary