

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

PUGET SOUND ENERGY and  
NW ENERGY COALITION

For an Order Authorizing PSE to  
Implement Electric and Natural Gas  
Decoupling Mechanisms and to Record  
Accounting Entries Associated with the  
Mechanisms

DOCKETS UE-121697  
and UG-121705  
(consolidated)<sup>1</sup>

ORDER 16

GRANTING JOINT MOTION FOR  
MINISTERIAL AMENDMENT

**MEMORANDUM**

- 1 On September 16, 2016, Commission Staff filed on behalf of itself, Puget Sound Energy (PSE), the Public Counsel Unit of the Office of the Washington Attorney General (Public Counsel), Northwest Energy Coalition (NVEC), Federal Executive Agencies (FEA), and the Energy Project, a “Joint Motion for Ministerial Amendment” to Order 07 entered in the above-captioned dockets and, jointly, in Dockets UE-130137 and UG-130138 (consolidated).
- 2 The Movants observe that in Order 07, the Commission approved a decoupling mechanism proposed by the Company and the NVEC.<sup>2</sup> The approved decoupling mechanism includes a commitment that the Company will “achieve electric conservation five percent above the biennial targets set by the Commission, and [the Company] will agree to voluntarily submit to financial penalties for failing to meet this higher level of conservation achievement.”<sup>3</sup> Because of the direct link between

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<sup>1</sup> These consolidated dockets concerning the Joint Petition of PSE and NVEC for approval of decoupling mechanisms for PSE (Decoupling dockets) were heard jointly, but not consolidated, with Dockets UE-130137 and UG-130138, an Expedited Rate Filing (ERF dockets). The ERF dockets are not implicated by the Joint Motion and, hence, are not reflected in the caption of this Order. The next order number in either the Decoupling or ERF dockets, however, will be Order 17 to maintain consistency in the numbering of subsequent joint orders.

<sup>2</sup> Order 07, ¶ 136.

<sup>3</sup> Amended Decoupling Petition at 17; see Order 07 ¶ 108.

these decoupling conservation commitments and the Company's biennial conservation target, Movants argue that issues related to the Company's compliance with both the target and the decoupling conservation commitment should be considered by the Commission in the same dockets, going forward.<sup>4</sup>

3 Movants discuss that

A utility's biennial conservation plan, target, and report are filed in the same docket. The biennial conservation target is included in a utility's biennial conservation plan.<sup>5</sup> The biennial conservation report must be filed in the same docket as the biennial conservation plan.<sup>6</sup> It shows a utility's progress towards complying with its target.<sup>7</sup> Issues related to compliance with a biennial conservation target are then addressed in this same docket.<sup>8</sup>

Granting the parties' joint motion would direct the Company, and other parties, to make filings on issues related to the Company's decoupling conservation commitments in the same dockets, going forward, as the Company's biennial conservation plan and report. This would include any filings about the use of excess conservation towards compliance with a decoupling conservation commitment. Order 07 would remain the authoritative document establishing the Company's decoupling conservation commitments.<sup>9</sup>

4 The parties proposal present in their joint motion will promote administrative efficiency and optimize the use of the parties' and the Commission's resources. It therefore appears to be in the public interest. Consistent with WAC 480-109-120 and

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<sup>4</sup> The current biennial conservation docket for PSE is Docket UE-152058.

<sup>5</sup> WAC 480-109-120(1). The biennial conservation plan must be filed with the Commission on or before November 1 of each odd-numbered year. WAC 480-109-120(1).

<sup>6</sup> WAC 480-109-120(4). The biennial conservation report must be filed on or before June 1 of each even-numbered year. WAC 480-109-120(4).

<sup>7</sup> WAC 480-109-120(4).

<sup>8</sup> Joint Motion ¶ 4 (citing) WAC 480-109-120(5).

<sup>9</sup> Joint Motion ¶ 5.

Order 07 in Dockets UE-121697 and UG-121705 (consolidated), the Commission determines that issues related to the Company's decoupling conservation commitments, including compliance with the decoupling conservation commitments, should be considered in the same dockets, going forward, as the Company's biennial conservation plan and report.

**ORDER**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

- 5 (1) Order 07, entered on June 25, 2013, in Dockets UE-121697 and UG-121705, is amended by adding new Ordering Paragraph 7, as follows:

Prospectively from the date the Commission enters Order 16 in these dockets (*i.e.*, October 14, 2016), issues related to the Company's decoupling conservation commitments, including compliance with the decoupling conservation commitments approved in this Order 07, will be considered in the same dockets as the Company's biennial conservation plan and report.

- 6 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction to effectuate the provisions of Order 07 and this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective October 14, 2016.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner

**NOTICE TO PARTIES: This is a Commission Final Order. In addition to judicial review, administrative relief may be available through a petition for reconsideration, filed within 10 days of the service of this order pursuant to RCW 34.05.470 and WAC 480-07-850, or a petition for rehearing pursuant to RCW 80.04.200 and WAC 480-07-870.**