

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY,

Respondent.

DOCKET UE-240087

ORDER 01

ORDER SUSPENDING PREHEARING  
CONFERENCE AND ANSWER DATE

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) opened this proceeding with the filing of a complaint on March 5, 2024, against Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) alleging the Company had violated Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 80.28.080(1)(a), RCW 80.28.050, RCW 80.28.060(1), and Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-100-28. The matter is scheduled for a prehearing conference on April 1, 2024.
- 2 On March 25, 2024, counsel for Commission staff (Staff) and PSE contacted the presiding officer on behalf of the parties to inform the Commission that the parties (Settling Parties), with the exception of the Public Counsel Unit of the Attorney General’s Office (Public Counsel), have reached a settlement in principle and intend to file a settlement agreement and testimony in support thereof by April 19, 2024. Counsel for Staff noted that Public Counsel was considering whether to join the settlement. The Settling Parties request that the Commission cancel the Prehearing Conference as well as suspend PSE’s date to answer complaint of March 25, 2024.<sup>1</sup> No party expressed an objection to suspending the proceedings.

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<sup>1</sup> Commission staff requested cancellation of the Prehearing Conference, and PSE requested suspension of its date to answer complaint.

## DISCUSSION

3 Pursuant to WAC 480-07-385(2)(b), the Commission will grant a request for suspension  
unless it is inconsistent with the public interest or the Commission's administrative  
needs. No party is objecting to the suspension. The suspension is to allow the parties to  
prepare and file a potential settlement agreement and therefore it is in the public interest  
to suspend proceedings to allow the parties time to discuss and file an agreement with the  
Commission.

## FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4 (1) The Commission is an agency of the state of Washington vested by statute with  
the authority to regulate the rates, regulations, practices, accounts, and affiliated  
interests of public service companies.
- 5 (2) After review of the correspondence received on March 25, 2024, and giving due  
consideration, the Commission finds good cause to suspend the prehearing  
conference scheduled for April 1, 2024, pending further Commission action, and  
the Settling Parties shall file a settlement agreement by April 19, 2024.
- 6 (3) If no settlement agreement is filed by April 19, 2024, Puget Sound Energy shall  
have until April 26, 2024, to file an answer in response to the complaint.

## ORDER

### THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 7 (1) Staff's motion for suspension of the prehearing conference is granted.
- 8 (2) Puget Sound Energy's request for suspension of its answer date is granted.
- 9 (2) The parties shall have until April 19, 2024, to file a settlement agreement in this  
proceeding.
- 10 (3) If no settlement agreement is filed by April 19, 2024, then Puget Sound Energy  
shall file its answer to complaint by April 26, 2024.

- 11 (4) The prehearing conference in Docket UE-240087 is suspended pending further Commission action.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective March 26, 2024.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

*/s/ Conner Thompson*  
CONNOR THOMPSON  
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.**