

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of	DOCKET UE-220216
PUGET SOUND ENERGY	ORDER 05
For Penalty Mitigation Associated with Service Quality Index No. 11 – Electric Safety Response Time Annual Performance for Period Ending December 31, 2021	GRANTING CLARIFICATION

BACKGROUND

- 1 On October 26, 2023, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) entered Order 04, Denying Mitigation (Initial Order). The Initial Order declined to mitigate a \$613,636 penalty assessed against Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) for violating the SQI-11 benchmark in 2021.
- 2 On October 31, 2023, PSE filed a Motion for Clarification (Motion). PSE requests that the Commission clarify its instructions in paragraphs 146 and 147 of the Initial Order regarding the manner of payment of the penalty. PSE notes that pursuant to the Service Quality Program Mechanics, the penalty should be allocated instead to the Company’s low income bill assistance program.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

- 3 We grant PSE’s Motion. Pursuant to WAC 480-07-825(3), “[a]ny party that does not seek to change the substantive outcome or reasoning of an initial order may file a motion for clarification of that order within five days after the commission serves the order.”
- 4 Pursuant to the Service Quality Program Mechanics, set forth in Exhibit PRM-4, “when annual penalty dollars are less than the equivalent of \$12 per customer, the annual penalty will be allocated to PSE’s low income bill assistance program, the Home Energy

Lifeline Program (“HELP”).”¹ When the annual penalty dollars are more than the equivalent of \$12 per customers, the Company will place an SQI credit on each customer’s bill.² The Service Quality Program Mechanics provide the correct instructions for the manner of payment of the penalty at issue. Any language in paragraphs 146 and 147 of the Initial Order indicating that the penalty amount should be paid to the Commission does not reflect the correct manner of payment in this context.

- 5 We therefore amend paragraph 147 of the Initial Order to read as follows: “Puget Sound Energy must allocate the penalty amount to Puget Sound Energy’s low income bill assistance program pursuant to the requirements of the Service Quality Program Mechanics set forth in Exhibit PRM-4.”

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS That:

- 6 (1) Puget Sound Energy’s Motion is GRANTED.
- 7 (2) Paragraph 147 of the Initial Order is amended as set forth in paragraph 5 of this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective November 2, 2023.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

/s/ Michael Howard
MICHAEL S. HOWARD
Director, Administrative Law Division

¹ Murphy, Exh. PRM-4 at 17 (Updated APPENDIX 2 to Exhibit J of Docket Nos. UE-011570 and UG-011571) (Service Quality Program Mechanics). *See also* Murphy, Exh. PRM-1T at 3:12-14 (discussing Exhibit PRM-4).

² *Id.*

/s/ James Brown II
JAMES BROWN II
Administrative Law Judge